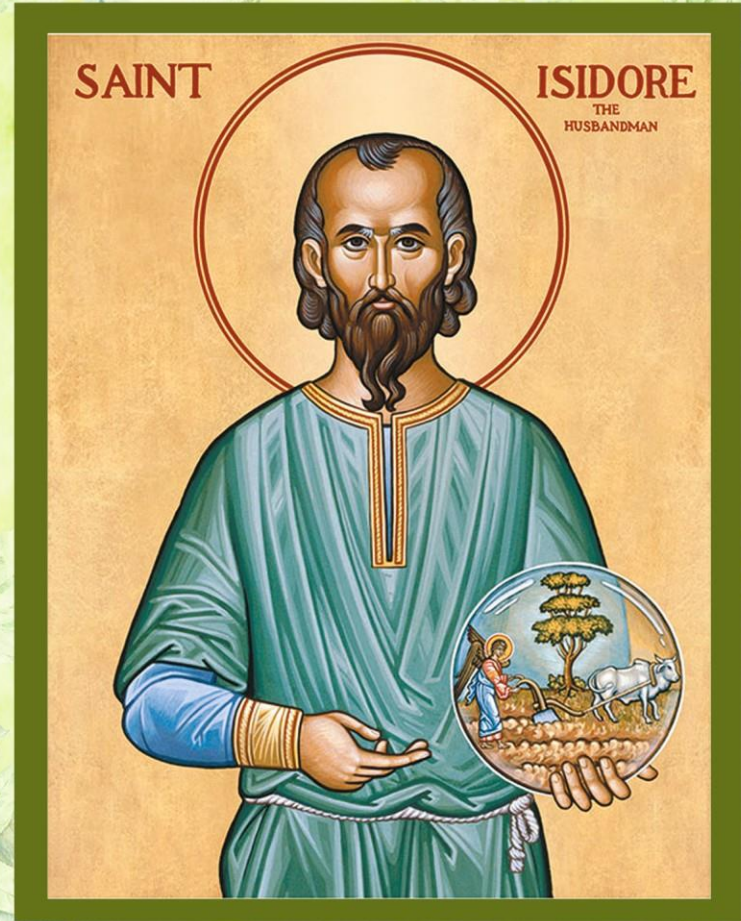


1. Prayer hall & Campus Office
2. Multipurpose hall
3. Residential huts
4. Kitchen complex & workers' quarters
5. Poly farming
6. Dairy farm / Animal Husbandry
7. Fish pond
8. Poultry
9. Well
10. Grotto

11. Main gate
12. Children's park
13. Fruit trees
14. Health garden
15. Inter faith Mandhir
16. Nature Mandhir
17. Rain water harvest
18. Bore well
19. Water Drainage
20. Paddy Field

21. Tree plantation
22. Vegetable garden
23. Parking
24. Flower Garden
25. Herbal Garden
26. Agro Nursery



**St. Isidore, the Patron of Farmers
Pray for us!**





Congratulations

Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli
new Apostolic Nuncio to India



Jubilee Celebration, Wardha
30-01-2021



Grotto Blessing, Lahan Wani
29-01-2021



School Blessing Thalodhi
13-02-2021



Grotto Feast, Warur 11-02-2021



Holy Muron Qurbana
30-3-2021

Tree Saplings Distribution, Chellewada
14-03-2021



Diaconate of Bro. Bernad Kujur
25-03-2021



Obituary

Bp. Joseph Pastor Neelankavil CMI
Bishop Emeritus of Sagar Diocese



Fr. Antony Munjanattu
Department of Communication
(09404387627)

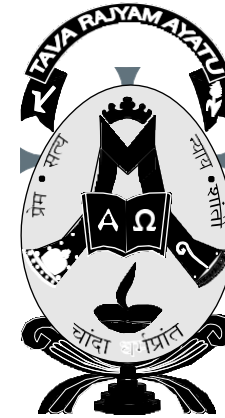
Chancery, Bishop's Home
Chandrapur Dt. (M.S) - 442701
bishopchanda@gmail.com
07172 - 24729

Fr. Vigil Parassery
Editor
(09545641645)

The

Chanda Samachar

CHANDA DIOCESAN BULLETIN



Thy Kingdom Come (Mt. 6:10)

**Bishop's Home (Balharshah), Ballarpur-442701
Dist. Chandrapur, Maharashtra, India**



Vol. XLV

MAY - AUGUST 2021

No. 3 & 4

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Serve Nature...



Save Future...

I. SHEPHERD'S VOICE

SV. 2/2021

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and dear people & the well wishers of Chanda,

Thy Kingdom Come!

We are still in the menace of Pandemic Covid-19. Regrettably there has been a huge surge in the number of cases in India and half of them are in the State of Maharashtra. We shall continue to co-operate with all guidelines of the Government so as to keep the Pandemic under control. To a great extent we have learned to live with the pandemic. However each of us must do our best to control the spread of the pandemic. This is our moral obligation to protect our people and ourselves. I urge you to please continue to follow Covid-19 appropriate protocol: wearing mask, sanitizing and social distancing. I encourage everyone of you to get vaccinated as soon as you can. Please keep following the action plans for *Harith Varsh* and the Year of St. Joseph.

"Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:3-4).

Wishing everyone of you the Feast of Pentecost



Your Shepherd in the Lord

† Ephrem Nariculam

Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

PASTORAL LETTER I

PL 4/ May 2021

ON DISCERNMENT

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

'Discernment' simply means to judge well. To explain it further, it is the quality of being able to grasp and comprehend what is obscure so as to reach a better understanding/solution to the matter in discussion. The etymology of the English word discernment is from Greek word *aisthesis*, which means moral perception, insight, and the practical application of knowledge. The fundamental definition of Christian discernment is a decision making process in which an individual makes a discovery that can lead to future action. In the process of Christian spiritual discernment God guides the individual to help them arrive at the best decision. It is indeed the ability to see the truth.

God must shed light on the human mind to enable us to understand truth. It is impossible to attain wisdom without God. He gives discernment (Job 12:19-21). Spiritual discernment ultimately has to do with wisdom and the ability to distinguish truth from error. Every Christian must know the authentic so well that, when the false appears, we can recognize it. By knowing and obeying the word of God, we will be trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. We will know God's character and will. This is the heart of spiritual discernment - being able to distinguish the voice of the world from the voice of God, to have a sense that "this is right" or "this is wrong". Spiritual discernment finds off temptation and allows us to "hate what is evil, cling to what is good" (Rom, 12:9). Paul warns when this gift of discernment is not being exercised in the Church, distortion of the truth occurs (Rom. 12:10).

John exhorted believers: "not to believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 Jn. 4:1). I Tim. 4:1 tells us: "The spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Thus we are urged to "see to it no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than Christ (Col. 1:8). Paul asserts spiritual discernment as choosing the best from the depth of insight: "And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless" (Phil. 1:9-10).

Prayer, humility, truth, justice, love, faith, silence etc are intrinsically connected to our discernment process. They assist one to facilitate the process easy and with indwelling of the spirit. On the other hand emotion, pleasure, search for immediate results are the temptation that block the way in the discernment process. The gift of discernment of spirits is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:4-11). It is given by the Holy Spirit to profit God's kingdom. This rare gift will enable a believer to have better understanding of any matter beyond a literal sense. Jesus warns: "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Mt. 26:41).

Prayer as living in the presence of God and communicating with God matter utmost important element in the discernment process. Quiet, reflective prayer times are important for the deep listening that discernment requires. The practice of the virtue of humility forbears one to meet any situation with sobriety and serenity. Jesus says: "Truth will make you free" (Jn. 8:32). To speak the truth and stand firm for it, what may come, makes one to be free and transparent. Justice enable one to weigh the pros and

cons of the matter in discussion impartial and free of influences. Love and fraternity seek the good of everyone on all occasions. Faith is ultimately guides one to be connected to God and the situation around or circumstances in the right perception and perspective. Silence or stillness of heart is a pre-requisite for any mature human decision if silence haven't been part of our lives, the cacophony of thoughts and feelings can truly become overwhelming. Freedom from distraction so that we can listen deeply to the Lord is what we are looking for.

The following are a few practical tips for making a good discernment: (i). Take time: Think of your discernment as a journey in which you will grow personally and closer to God. The best discernment aren't rushed, but lived in openness and surrender to God. It gives one ample time to reflect, revive and refresh. (ii). Use recourses: Gather information and knowledge about what you are discerning. God wants you to use your head as well as your heart. Focus the balance between pros and cons and avail the counsel of experts/others. (iii). Focus the priority: Even after weighed the pros and cons intellectually you might need space and time to understand how your heart was moved. What should be the first and what should be the last need to be prioritized clearly with 'why' and how. (iv). Ask for guidance/insight: Guidance or insight of an experienced person or a professional is of great assistance. A good director will be understanding and helping you to discover a sense of freedom in your discernment. Ideally, a director or your superior/mentor, will encourage you to examine the many options you have to become more aware of your own motivations and bring your experiences to prayer. (v). Prayer: Ask Jesus the Divine master for the grace of listening to God in his word and in the Eucharist. And remember your vocation is not just God's invitation but your response. Without your "yes" there is no vocation.

Through discernment, we recognize the good and find

peace in the decision we make, progressing ourselves to the future that awaits us. The prophet Jeremiah exhorts: "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, not your woe" (29:11). Indeed spiritual discernment is the process of knowing that plan and doing it. God bless you all.

With Good Wishes
Yours devotedly in Jesus Christ,



Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

TEN RESOLUTIONS FOR *HARITH VARSH* 2021

1. I shall protect/preserve the NATURE in the best way possible. No pollution of air, soil, water etc.
2. I shall nurture the NATURE in whatever way that I can. Plant trees, start natural farming, share awareness with others etc.
3. I shall stand for optimum use of NATURE Abstain from overuse, abuse, misuse, underuse etc.
4. I shall not waste anything. Natural resources, food, energy etc.
5. I shall be a vegetarian; if at all I use non-veg, it shall be only of 'home-grown' whether meat, fish or egg.
6. I shall make and keep 'my' campus green by my daily and strenuous efforts.
7. I shall minimize the use of synthetic items that adversely affect my health and NATURE.
8. I shall live convincingly that the NATURE/world is for all and I shall take only my reasonable share.
9. I shall do my best to keep NATURE going in the same sanctity what intended.
10. I shall sincerely co-operate with Green diocese campaign 2021 of my diocese - Chanda.

PASTORAL LETTER II

PL 5/ June 2021

ON ST. ISIDORE, THE PATRON OF FARMERS

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom Come!

As we observe 2021 as Harith Varsh - the Year of *Go Green Diocese Campaign*, I thought it is befitting to write a pastoral letter on the life of St. Isidore (1080-1130), who is the patron of farmers and whose feast is celebrated on 15th May. St. Isidore was born in a poor farmer's family in Madrid, Spain. Even as a young boy he was a great devotee of Holy Eucharist. He grew marvellous in his Christian faith. He took his fathers' job and became a farmer and worked as a tenant in a rich man's farm. It was said that he stood two meters (6.5 feet) tall. Isidore married Maria Torribia, known as Santa María de la Cabeza in Spain; she has never been canonized, pending confirmation by Pope Francis. Isidore and Maria had one son. On one occasion, their son fell into a deep well and, at the prayers of his parents, the water of the well is said to have risen miraculously to the level of the ground, bringing the child with it. In thanksgiving Isidore and Maria then vowed sexual abstinence and lived in separate houses. Their son later died in his youth.

Isidore was beatified in Rome on May 2, 1619, by Pope Paul V. He was canonized nearly three years later by Pope Gregory XV, along with Saints Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Ávila and Philip Neri, on March 12, 1622. In 1696, his relics were moved to the Royal Alcazar of Madrid to intervene on behalf of the health of Charles II of Spain. While there, the King's locksmith pulled a tooth from the body and gave it to the monarch, who slept with it under his pillow until his death. This was not the first, nor the last time his body was allegedly mutilated out of religious fervour. For example, it was reported one of the ladies in

the court of Isabella I of Castile bit off one of his toes. In 1760, his body was brought to the Royal Palace of Madrid during the illness of Maria Amalia of Saxony. In 1769, Charles III of Spain had the remains of Saint Isidore and his wife Maria relocated to the San Isidro Church, Madrid. The sepulcher has nine locks and only the King of Spain has the master key. The opening of the sepulchre must be performed by the Archbishop of Madrid and authorized by the King himself. Consequently, it has not been opened since 1985.

Saint Isidore is often portrayed as a peasant holding a sickle and a sheaf of corn. He might also be shown with a sickle and staff; as an angel ploughs for him; or with an angel and white oxen near him. In Spanish art, his emblems are a spade or a plough.

Saint Isidore is widely venerated as the patron saint of farmers, peasants, day laborers and agriculture in general, as well as brick layers. His hometown of Madrid, the Spanish cities of Leon, Zaragoza, and Seville, and various locales in the former Spanish Empire honour him as their patron saint. The US National Catholic Rural Life Conference claims him as its patron. San Ysidro, California and San Ysidro, New Mexico were named after him.

Delightful legends about him include his employer seeing a second team of white oxen led by angels who ploughed alongside Isidore, who had been accused of arriving late for work. On another occasion, in deep mid-winter, Isidore saw a number of disconsolate hungry birds perching on a branch, while he was carrying a sack of corn. In spite of his companion's jeers he gave half the corn to the birds, while the remainder yielded a double amount of flour. (cf. *Oxford Dictionary of Saints*, 5th ed., para. 2, p.265.)

Miracles and a cult followed his death, and his body was translated in 1170. In 1211 he is said to have guided King Alphonsus of Castile in a vision to an unknown path, which

enabled him to make a successful surprise attack on the Moors. In about 1615 King Philip III of Spain was cured of a mortal fever through Isidore's relics being moved into the sick king's bedroom. This led to the Spanish king's petitioning the Holy See for Isidore's formal canonization. He is an interesting example of a lay saint of humble origin, who attained sanctity in life through humdrum occupations, but who posthumously became famous. His body is reputedly incorrupt.

The story of St. Isidore is a reminder of the dignity of work, and that ordinary life can lead to holiness. Legends about angel helpers and mysterious oxen indicate that his work was not neglected and his duties did not go unfulfilled. St. Isidore's life demonstrates that: If you have your spiritual self in order, your earthly commitments will fall into order also.

He was a saint who was faithful to his job and took pleasure in farming. He loved earth and nature as God's manifesting for humankind and seems to have responded to them generously in a splendid way. St. Isidore is a great example of farming and fidelity to one's own job. A legendary story connected to his life also expresses his love for the animal kingdom. He had great compassion for them. As we observe Harith Varsh in the diocese let us follow his example and become great in farming and to be compassionate towards animal kingdom. Let us resolve to keep the sanctity of the earth and nature saying 'No' to chemical fertilizers, pesticides etc. and turn to natural farming. Refrain from exploitation of nature, and contamination, so as to sustain nature as God wishes.

With warm wishes and prayers,
Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus



† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda

PASTORAL LETTER III

PL 6/ July 2021

ON ST. EPHREM, THE SYRIAN

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

I wish to write this pastoral letter on St. Ephrem not only that he is my patron saint but also because of his greatness, his importance in the Eastern Churches and also as he, being considered and revered a doctor of the Church both in the Eastern and the Western Church traditions. His poetical writings are greatly used in the liturgy of the Hours (*Yamaprarthanakal*) of the Syro-Malabar Church. Pope Benedict once said the following about St. Ephrem: “St. Ephrem's theology, deeply grounded in the Scriptures and profoundly orthodox in content, was expressed in poetic language marked by striking paradoxes and vivid imagery. Through his mastery of poetic symbolism, Ephrem sought to communicate, especially in his hymns, the mystery of the Trinitarian God, the incarnation of the eternal Son born of the Virgin Mary, and the spiritual treasures contained in the Eucharist... In his life-long service to the Church as a deacon, St. Ephrem was an example of fidelity to the liturgy, meditation on the mystery of Christ and charitable service to his brothers and sisters.”

St. Ephrem is a native of Nisibis (Mesopotamia). He was baptized in 324 and joined the cathedral school there, of which he later became the head. After the Persians captured Nisibis in 363, Ephrem became a monk, living in a cave near Edessa. There he wrote exegetical works and hymns which were later incorporated into the Liturgy and translated into several languages. In 370 he visited Basil whose brother, Gregory of Nyssa, wrote in his praise. In 372 he organized charity to victims of famine and died soon afterwards in his cave. His voluminous works earned him the title of Doctor of the Church in 1920.

As we know we have Church Fathers from three streams - Latin, Greek and Syrian - but their division was clear only from the time of 'great schism' (1054) indeed this division has a retrospective vision from 'great schism'. However St. Ephrem is considered even today by all these streams of Churches as a common root and his contributions are greatly appreciated by theologians and thinkers of all Churches in the world. It did not get much wider vision or leaning due to the language and style of writing. St. Ephrem used East Syriac and poetic style in his expounds which was not easily intelligible to the ordinary, besides his fabric of theology was mystery-bound. All the same it was very much recognized and used in liturgy and theology of the Syriac tradition.

Some of the titles attributed to him lucidly clarify the greatness of this saint. Popularly he is known as the harp of the Holy Spirit for his poetic style of presentation. The other titles used for him in the history are: the second Moses, the poet of the theologians, the theologian of the Poets, the great theologian, the river Euphrates of the Church, the Sun of the Eastern Church, the central pillar of the Church, the spectrum of Knowledge, the Lion of the Syrian Church, the Prophet of the East Syria, the flame of the East, the teacher of the World, the vine of God, the axer of heresies, the winnowing fork of the Church etc. Each attribute pertains to his ineffable quotes of his wisdom, commitment and fidelity to the Church, talents and deep sense of defence of the Church.

His writings are in volumes. He elaborately wrote on Incarnation, Trinity, Holy Spirit and the Eucharist. He wrote a wide variety of hymns, poems and sermons in verse as well as in prose exegesis. These were works of practical theology for the edification of the Church in troubled times. He has been called the most significant of all of the Fathers of the Syriac speaking Church tradition. Over four hundred hymns composed by St. Ephrem still exist. Granted that some have been lost his

productivity is not in doubt. The Church historian Sozomen credits Ephrem with having written over three million lines. Ephrem combines in his writings a threefold heritage: he draws on the models and methods of early Rabbinic Judaism, he engages skilfully with Greek science and Philosophy, and he delights in the Mesopotamian tradition of mystery symbolism.

The most important of his works are his lyrics, teaching hymns (*madrase*). These hymns are full of rich, poetic imagery drawn from biblical sources, folk tradition and other religions and philosophies. Particularly influential were his *Hymns Against Heresies*. He used these to warn his flock of the heresies that threatened to divide early Church. It employs colourful metaphors to describe the incarnation of Christ as fully human and divine. As Christologist, Ephrem has composed the history of the Patriarchs and kings from the creation to the crucifixion of Christ - *The Book of the Cause of Treasure*. His writings contain a rich variety of symbols and metaphors.

He served the Church by praising God by talents and skills he had received from God. He availed every talent for the greater glory of God. He was a missionary in the sense, that he was aware of his mission to involve himself fully and completely for the Church. He kept his fidelity to the Church intact and fought vigorously to defend Church from aberrations and wrong doctrines about Church's theology. He had great respect and love for Holy Eucharist. He could but attend Holy Eucharist, only with trembling and fear. So much so he refused to be ordained a priest though his bishop invited him to priesthood. But due to his great respect for priesthood and aware of his unworthiness he remained a deacon until death. He experienced prayer to the core in the caves of Mesopotamia. It enriched him, sharpened his mind and chiseled his thoughts to write lyrics honouring Triune God and spiritual riches of heavenly bliss. To quote his God-experience in prayer, in his own words: "To be alone in prayer is not loneliness, it is celebration with God. It penetrates into the hearts of the

world, it transforms every creatures". These are great examples that we can follow from the life of St. Ephrem to make our missionary endeavours faithful and successful!

A saint of great calibre of sanctity, simplicity and sincerity, let us follow his examples and keep our fidelity to the Church and defend our mother Church with our skills, talents and life.

May God bless you all
Yours devotedly in Christ



† Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Diocese of Chanda



**DOS & DONTs to start with Harith Varsh
To Protect NATURE
(Six basic principles)**



| Sl. No | DOS | DONTs |
|--------|--|--|
| 1 | Keep our surroundings clean and make it lovable and nature friendly. | At any cost do not waste water or pollute it; so also air and soil. |
| 2 | Use optimum of all natural resources. (Avoid misuse, over use and under use). | Do not leave our land barren and do not curtail its natural 'fertility' - keep it green. |
| 3 | Do natural/organic-farming. Live healthy and save life. Live & let live. | Avoid use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides - Preserve its natural 'sanctity'. |
| 4 | Focus on recycling - Re-fute (use & throw culture), Re-use, Re-make & Re-fill. | STOP burning waste unless it is inevitable. Refuse to burn plastic, rubber etc. - Recycle. |
| 5 | Use clothe bag for shopping and use things to the optimum. | Do not waste energy and say NO to the use of plastics and synthetics. |
| 6 | Plant trees and make them grow to heights - love and allow them to generate fresh air. | Reduce to the least, cutting down trees, burning wastes and water sources filling |

CIRCULAR 1

12 February 2021

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,
Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Sub: Directions, recommendations and information on different matters

Hereby I wish to give you certain directions, recommendations and information on different matters for your appropriate action:

- Covid-19 Protocol:** As we learn from the media the pandemic Covid-19 is gradually subsiding in our area. However the Government, health workers and medical experts highly recommend that Covid protocol such as use of mask, social distancing, sanitizing etc should be continued for greater safety - please follow it in all our assemblies, gatherings, celebrations etc. - liturgy, ward prayers, school assemblies and other celebrations. I exhort everyone to take adequate precautions against Corona Virus Covid-19 until it is totally subsided and under control. Many people belonging to unorganized sector namely migrant workers, daily wagers, beggars, street children etc are yet to recover from the blunt of lockdown due to Covid-19 and its after effects. Our special prayers and efforts are needed to reach out to these people. Please continue to keep them in our prayers and do needful to help them.
- Post Covid-care Assistance:** We have received two projects to help our boardings and people for post Covid care. In a small way by kind we will be able to help our stations. Fr. Jobin Ovelil is co-ordinating it. Please contact him for details.
- Uttarakand Glacier Calamity:** The diocese of Chanda expresses its grief and offers its condolences to the families of all those who have died or are missing. Please pray also for all

the affected people. I spoke with Bp. Vincent Nellaiparambil of Bijnor diocese and he said that the parishes or diocesan institutions are not much affected. We shall join the relief efforts of the Government and other agencies as per directions from our Major archbishop and CBCI.

4. **Ash Day celebration:** In the wake of Corona virus spread, the Congregation for the Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Vatican, has issued a direction with regard to Ash Day celebration for the current liturgical year. The Major Archbishop endorse it as well to be followed in our liturgy. The Vatican note says the following: *"The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything"* (Prot. N. 17/21, dated 12 January 2021, Vatican City).
5. **Forty Hours Adoration:** As usual the '40 Hour Adoration' will be held on 2021 February 15, 16, 17 (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday). Please follow the schedule (cf. Chanda Samachar Vol. XLIV No. 1 & 2, Jan-Apr 2021, p. 37). Kindly follow the Covid protocol. The Eucharistic procession on the final day stands cancelled.
6. **Monthly recollection** for priests and men religious scheduled on 15 February is postponed to Thursday 25 February 2021. It will be online. Women religious are also welcome to join. The talk will be available in Devdan Sanchar Kendra youtube channel. Preacher: Fr. Joseph Mukalel CFIC.
7. **Calvarygiri Pilgrimage, Lakkadakot:** In the wake of the Pandemic a common gathering of pilgrims stands cancelled. Pilgrims are welcome to do it in small groups keeping Covid-19 protocol. Details will be given later.

8. **Holy week celebrations & Confessions:** Everyone is requested to follow the pandemic restrictions and Covid protocol in Holy Week celebrations. Wherever possible the number of liturgical ceremonies may be increased depending on availability of priests and convenient places in the parish territory to conduct the services. Strictly follow Covid protocol in auricular confession. Distribution of blessed holy water and *Pesaha* Bread & Milk, communion in both species etc may be avoided. Kindly make sure that there is no crowding of people in large numbers violating the Covid protocol. Respective priests-in-charge are requested to take all necessary steps for the safe conduct of ceremonies during Holy Week. Guidelines, if any, from Vatican or from our major archbishop shall be communicated later.
9. **Holy Muron Qurbana:** The blessing of Holy Muron is scheduled on Tuesday 30th March 2021. In the context of the pandemic only priests are invited to join the liturgy in the Cathedral. The others those who wish, please join online. The liturgy will be available in live streaming. The link will be sent later.
The Schedule:
10.00 am - Talk
11.15 am - Holy Qurbana
10. I learn that there are issues connected with payment of fees in the schools. May I exhort everyone to deal with it prudently and with caution after having consulted experts and in mutual consultation among ourselves abiding by guidelines of Education department, Government and Court orders. Needless to say we have to take parents and teachers into confidence. It is good to have a common understanding in the diocese. Kindly contact the Board of Education for further information.

11. Launching of Whatsapp group - "EPARCHY OF CHANDA-

OFFICIAL"

A whatsapp group for our missionaries is to be launched on 15 February for official communication of the Diocesan Chancery & Departments and as required for parishes as well as institutions. News dispatch and postings will be by ADMIN from chancery. Only important and useful information & news will be posted in the group. For dispatch of news, information and postings please contact secretary to the Bishop, Fr. Vigil Parassery (Ph: 09545641645). Every information will be scrutinized and verified before posting. In this connection I wish to exhort everyone a little more discernment with regard to 'forward' or 'posting' messages that are instigating, not useful or unnecessarily humiliating others. Occasionally it is noticed that such forward or postings are found in *Missionaries of Chanda* whatsapp group.

12. The ordinations of our deacons are scheduled as follows:

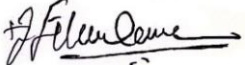
Dn. Shine Manjaly - St. Mary's Church, Thumbarassery
- 19 May 2021
(Irinjalakuda diocese)

Dn. Benson Puthenpurackal - St. Mary's Forane Church, Muttom
- 20 May 2021
(Ernakulam-Angamali archdiocese)

I wish you all a fruitful Lent

With warm regards
Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,




† Ephrem Nariculam,
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

NB: Kindly give necessary clarifications and directions to the people in advance wherever and whenever it is required.

CIRCULAR 2

01 March 2021

Sub: Celebration of the Year of St. Joseph - Diocese of Chanda

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

With the *Patris Corde*, the apostolic letter by Pope Francis, he has invited us to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph from 08 Dec 2020 to 08 Dec 2021. Pope wishes to deepen our devotion to St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus. Recitation of litany of St. Joseph is decided as diocesan level programme from 19th March until the celebration ends. Accordingly once again I earnestly request everyone to recite the litany along with evening prayer/holy rosary or any convenient time of the day during the year (cf. *Chanda Samachar* Vol. XLIV No. 1 & 2, Jan-Apr 2021, pp. 60-61). The following are also recommended at each one's initiatives to observe the Year of St. Joseph meaningfully:

1. Novena to St. Joseph on Wednesdays.
2. A gathering or celebration for workers in the parish/zonal level on May 1, the feast of St. Joseph, the Worker.
3. A celebration on any convenient day during the year in the parish level for all with the name Joseph.
4. A few Sunday homilies highlighting the different virtues/qualities of St. Joseph:
 - i) Joseph, Most Valiant Protector of the Church
 - ii) Joseph, a beloved father
 - iii) Joseph Most Just and Chaste
 - iv) Joseph, a working father
 - v) Joseph, Model of Workers
 - vi) Joseph Most Obedient and Head of Holy Family

- vii) Joseph Most Faithful
 - viii) Joseph, an obedient father
 - ix) Joseph, an accepting father
 - x) Joseph, a creatively courageous father
 - xi) Joseph, Patron of Dying and Solace of the Afflicted
 - xii) Joseph, patron of migrant families etc.
5. Ward prayer discussion/reflection on the passages from the gospel connected to St. Joseph or from traditions or teachings of the Church.
 6. Quiz competition on St. Joseph's life, history, virtues etc.
 7. Highlight the importance of St. Joseph as the foster father of Jesus on International Father's Day (June 18).
 8. Statue procession of St. Joseph in the parish from house to house.
 9. Arrange a special celebration of the feast of St. Joseph in the parish on regular feast of the saint or any Sunday during the year.
 10. A study seminar on St. Joseph basing on Church documents/tradition/papal teachings.

Resources on St. Joseph

- 1) Mentions in the Gospels
 - i) Joseph lived in Nazareth
(Lk. 2:4)
 - ii) Genealogy of Jesus
(Mt. 1:16, Lk. 3:23)
 - iii) Joseph Betrothed to Mary
(Mt. 1:18)
 - iv) Angel visits Joseph (1st dream)
(Mt. 1:20-21)
 - v) Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem
(Lk. 2:1-5)

- vi) Birth of Jesus
(Mt. 1:25, Lk. 2:6-7)
 - vii) Temple presentation
(Lk. 2:22-24)
 - viii) Angel tells Joseph to flee (2nd dream)
(Mt. 2:13)
 - ix) Flight into Egypt
(Mt. 2:14-15)
 - x) Angel tells Joseph to return to Nazareth (3rd dream)
(Mt. 2:19-20)
 - xi) Joseph and family settle in Nazareth
(Mt. 2:21-23, Lk. 2:39)
 - xii) Finding Jesus in the temple
(Lk. 2:41-51)
 - xiii) Holy Family
(Jn. 6:41-42)
- 2) Church Documents:
 - i) *Patris Corde* (A Father's Heart)
Pope Francis (8 Dec. 2020)
 - ii) *Quamquam Pluries* (On Devotion to St. Joseph)
Pope Leo XIII (15 August 1889)
 - iii) *Redemptoris Custos* (Guardian of the Redeemer)
Pope John Paul II (15 August 1989).
 - iv) *Quemadmodum Deus*
Pope Pius IX (8 Dec 1870)
 - v) *Bonum Sane*
Pope Benedict XV (25 July 1920)
 - 3) Meditations and Sermons on St. Joseph:
 - i) St. Joseph: Man of Trust
Pope John Paul II (19 March 1980)

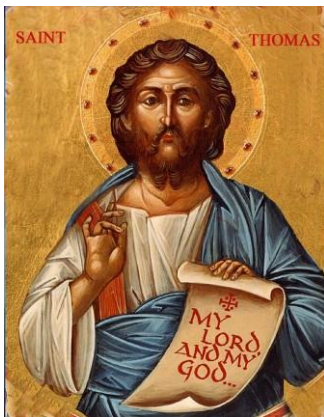
- ii) St. Joseph, a Witness to Fulfilment of the Promise
Pope John Paul II (19 March 1982)
- iii) St. Joseph the Worker, Man of Faith and Prayer
Pope John Paul II (19 March 1983)
- iv) Mary and Joseph Lived Gift of Virginity
Pope John Paul II (21 August 1996)
- v) St. Joseph, Image of God's Fatherly Love
Pope John Paul II (21 March 1999)
- vi) St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church
Pope John Paul II (26 March 2003)

I offer our diocese and all our missionary endeavours for the intercession of St. Joseph. May he protect us and intercede for us. St. Joseph, pray for us.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



† Ephrem Nariculam,
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda



**Feastal Greetings of
Dukrana of St. Thomas, the
Apostle
&
Sabhadinam (Day of the
Church).**

CIRCULAR 3

24 February 2021

To,
Priests-in-charge of parishes/mission stations and Diocesan institutions
(Society secretaries, incumbent or newly appointed ones)
Diocese of Chanda

Sub: Society's change report, FCRA new account in SBI (VERY URGENT) and diocesan land documents for archives, regarding

Dear Fathers,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we all know that we are in the process of doing the change reports of the Societies and starting new accounts in SBI, Delhi branch in the light of FCRA Registration Amendment Act 2020. It is a matter of great concern for all of us. As I understand there needs a lot of clarity in Government communications. So much so the banks are either unwilling to take up the task or not able to do it as required for various other reasons. Naturally it adds work load on our side. Needless to say it is going to be a herculean task. We are in a precarious situation where from we have no escape and we are forced to do it on war footing. Mr. Bosco D' Souza our auditor in our meeting on 18th Feb 2021 has articulated very well all intricacies of its urgency. The Finance Department, diocese of Chanda and our accountants are ready to do all what is needful to make things easier. As there are lots of office works and correspondences required and to do it for 17 Societies with more than four times number of institutions besides their other regular schedules, is a hard time for the accountants as well. So may I request everyone to take adequate interest to assist our

Finance Department and the accountants in the best way possible so as to facilitate this urgent work. Each one should take keen interest and regular correspondences both with the accountants and banks so that it shall be done on time. The Government communication states that in accordance with the FCRA Amendment Act 2020, March 31, 2021 is the last date to start the account in SBI, Delhi Branch. So we need to act with urgency. If that is not done we will not be able to accept any foreign donations to the respective Societies, including that of CNEWA. Everyone of us know theafter effects of such a situation. Besides in the recent inspection of our Charity Commissioner of Chandrapur district though it had gone without much trouble, the Commissioner has pointed out certain serious observations. Thanks to our DFO and our accountants for their remarkable service to keep the accounts on proper track and dealt with the inspection team of Charity Commissioner amicably and with sobriety. However the Charity Commissioner instructed us certain matters with firm resolution as regards to ownership of land documents, detailed change reports of the Societies, resolution for buying and selling of properties of the Society, transparency in providing concession/charity from our schools and hospitals etc. We need to pay little more focus in these matters. Another observation was about Devdan Press with regard to its functioning under a charitable Society. So at the advise of the auditors we have started the process converting it into a partnership firm. In the light of these I wish to state the following for your appropriate action:

- i) Take great interest and initiative in **URGENCY** with regard to Society change report, starting SBI bank account, proper resolutions for buying and selling properties etc. (Please contact the accountants and do everything by a checklist to initiate the process, AS EARLY AS possible, as time is running short)
- ii) Initiate more co-ordinated activities in the diocese with

regard to construction, renovation, buying and disposal of properties so as to make it abide by legal formalities with the support of required documents.

- iii) Strictly follow the diocesan stipulations with regard to submission of accounts (cf. Statutes of the Eparchy of Chanda # 138 §1: "The annual statements of accounts of the parishes and institutions with bills and vouchers are to be submitted to the Finance Officer latest by May 15. And so the monthly/tri-monthly statements as well, as directed by the curia. A budget is to be prepared as directed by the curia by the beginning of February every year and presented in the PPT meeting as scheduled by the eparchial bishop.")
- iv) Obtain necessary permissions for the schools wherever it is required as early as possible. Please contact Board of Education for details.
- v) You may avail the service of Fr. Peter KI to set diocesan land documents as per legal formalities. His contact: # 9182481825. He is ready to render his service also for matters connected with school permissions.

May I warn everyone not to take these matters leisurely as they are of utmost importance lest we face with unnecessary stalemate in our missionary endeavours. I wish that the Society secretaries - incumbent or newly appointed - to take special interest to contact each trustee/member of that Society and do updation of Aadhar, PAN etc. so as to facilitate the process faster as time available is just more than a month. Once again I earnestly request everyone to act with **URGENCY!**

Soliciting everyone's co-operation
Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



† Ephrem Nariculam
† Ephrem Nariculam,
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

CIRCULAR 4**27 March 2021**

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people

Thy Kingdom Come!**Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Chris!**

As we are at the threshold of Holy Week I wish you all a fruitful celebrations of Passion of our Lord and a Blessed Easter. May the risen Lord bless us all. I wish to bring home to your attention the following for your consideration, reflection and action.

1. In the context of the continuance of the pandemic I exhort everyone to follow the directions given in the past with regard to liturgical celebrations particularly in the Holy Week and the celebrations of Sacraments. (Cf - Circular 1/2020 & 2/2020, CS May-August 2020, Pp. 8-9). Please follow also all the directions such as the use of mask, social distance, sanitizing etc. as given by the Government, civil the officials and health department. As I understand the Government is contemplating on imposing more restrictions and let us co-operate and guide our people to do the same.
2. The pandemic Covid-19 is on slightly rise in our areas. A few priests and Sisters are also infected by it. Let us take all necessary precautions to the best by following the Covid-19 protocol. (Cf - Circular 3/2020, CS May-August 2020, p 10).
3. The Chanda Family condemns the harassment of SH Sisters at Jhancy. It is sheer violation of fundamental rights of any Indian citizen. We express our solidarity with the Sisters and convey our great concern to their superiors. The diocese of Chanda earnestly request the Government of India to take action against the miscreants

and protect the rights of the citizens of the country. We shall continue to pray for religious tolerance, social welfare and unity of our country.

4. Hearty congratulations to Bro. Bernard Kujur who was ordained deacon on Thursday 25 March at Sant Vianney Gurukul, New Daheli. The Chanda Family extends to him every best wishes and prayerful regards.
5. Everyone is requested to follow the directions of Fr. Albin Vadakkemulanjanal, priest-in-charge, Lakkadakot with regard to Calvarigiri pilgrimage. Please do the pilgrimage at your convenience in small groups keeping the Covid-19 protocol. As already announced there will be no common gathering for liturgy or Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at Calvarigiri, Lakkadakot.
6. Starting a new account at SBI, New Delhi Branch for the continuance of FCRA registration renewal process in the diocese is done to a great extent. Thanks for everyone's cooperation. A few Societies have delayed to submit the application due to some technical errors. Hope the process will be completed in couple of days.
7. As the menace of Covid-19 continues we may have to face greater financial crunch in the days to come. For different reasons we may be helpless. So please be ready to reduce the expenses and manage with the minimum. From wherever that we can, kindly share it with others.
8. We are not yet sure about the mode of CNEWA subsidy to our boardings in the years ahead in the context of new parliamentary legislations. As far as I understand CNEWA is planning to send subsidy directly from abroad to the respective Societies. Let us wait and watch.
9. Renewal of 12 A and FCRA registration will start in April 2021. I request everyone to contact Finance Department to get ready to do the needful in advance.

10. The Board of Education has come up with very good plans for coordination among our schools. So I exhort everyone to cooperate with it for common good and united witness. One of such ventures is to avail the service of Devdan Press to our institutions to the maximum through newly constituted Firm Enterprises - *Kiranoday*.
11. We are in *Harith Varsh* and the Year of St. Joseph. Please continue to do whatever is feasible to make it meaningful and useful. (Cf - Pastoral Letter 7/2020, CS Nov-Dec 2020 Pp 4-7 & Circular 2/2021)
12. As it has been already announced the Muron Holy Qurbana will be celebrated in private in the Cathedral Church as per the schedule. Please be spiritually united in our *Unum Presbyterium*.

With warm regards

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

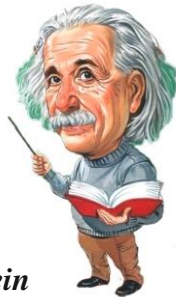


† Ephrem Nariculam,
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

Quotes

“ Look deep into nature, and then
you will understand everything
better. ”

—Albert Einstein



CIRCULAR 5

17 April 2021

Dear Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and my dear people,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened,
that it cannot save,
or his ear dull, that it cannot hear"(Is 59:1)**

The pandemic situation is on surge in our country. The media reports about the scarcity of Oxygen, Vaccine, unavailability of beds in the hospitals, large queues for cremation at crematoriums etc. It seems that the situation in our country is very vulnerable and aggressive. The second wave of the Pandemic looks to be critical and more fatal. May I plead everyone to take necessary precautions and do our best to help people irrespective of any differences. The hospitals and dispensaries attached to our parishes and institutions are doing their best to help the people. We resolve to continue it with vigour and valour. The situation is as if things are slip of our control and the Divine assistance is our only resort to rely on. Along with human efforts and necessary precautions that we take, let us rely on God's providence and divine aid to overcome the situation. "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold" (Ps 18:2). Along with psalmist we shall pray: "The Lord is my Shepherd and there is nothing I shall want (23:1). May the divine healer Jesus our Lord touch and heal everyone in accordance with his eternal plan. Hereby I wish to declare a week dedicated for Special Prayers for India, from Monday 19th April to Sunday 25th April 2021. Please make an hour of Adoration from 09.00 pm to 10.00 pm for this intention in the week ahead in all parishes and institutions in the diocese. If there

is people's participation, please make sure that Covid - 19 protocol is followed strictly. Let us pray together for the next one week for our country and for all people who are infected and affected by the Pandemic Covid - 19. Please pray also for all those who had gone to eternal rest due to the Pandemic. May God bless everyone of you!

With warm regards

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



Ephrem Nariculam

† Ephrem Nariculam,
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE IN INDIA

No. 522.573

From the Vatican, 9 February 2021

Deeply saddened to learn of the tragic loss of life and destructions caused by the glacier burst in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district, His Holiness Pope Francis expresses his heartfelt solidarity with all those affected by this disaster and he is praying for all those who lost their lives.

He is especially mindful of those who mourn the loss of their loved ones and who fear for lives of those still missing.

His Holiness offers encouragement to the civil authorities and emergency personnel as they assist the victims of this tragedy and upon all those impacted by the flash floods, he invokes the divine blessings of strength and consolation.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin
Secretary of State

CIRCULAR 6

25 April 2021

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters,

Thy Kingdom Come!

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Covid - 19 cases are on surge day by day. The condition is becoming critical day after day. In the past four days in India not less than 15 Catholic priests have become victims of the Pandemic and lost their lives and many others as well. Infected cases in India on daily basis is above three lacs. May I warn everyone to take double precaution not to be infected by the Pandemic and help the people around us to be exceptionally careful so as to not to become the victims of this dreadful virus.

At this juncture I wish to remind everyone the following for your special attention and favourable consideration. Those who are diabetic, asthmatic, allergic or with any other illness need to take extra care not to be infected by the Corona virus for they are more vulnerable to the attack of the virus. Needless to say, I am indebted to appreciate the administrators, doctors, nurses and the other medical staffs of our hospitals and medical centres in the diocese for their dedicated and relentless service. It is marvellous and beyond words to assess their commitment to the mission. They are exposed to vulnerable and dangerous situations. Yet, I feel that they are doing their mission with cheers and commitment. People do appreciate it and certainly God will reward them. Please accept my personal note of gratitude. As the situation is getting worse, I feel that we have to go for medical insurance for all missionary personnel and our staffs in the institutions and parishes. Please do whatever is needful after having consulted the concerned persons. The uncertainty still prevails with regard to the running of boardings in the diocese. As the boardings are the life-stream of the diocese we have to find

some means to run it. My personal assessment is that if the situation continues like this, I wish to bring to everyone's notice that we have a great financial crunch waiting ahead. So please take necessary steps to reduce the expenses and prepare well to face the challenges. These are few thoughts for your reflection and consideration.

I see all of you are putting lots of hard work for the mission to run. Every institution/parish is facing financial challenges. Loneliness and inability to visit villages and families also create a sense of frustration in our missionary activities. I invite everyone to reverberate in our hearts the prayer of Jesus at Gethsemane: "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done" (Lk 22: 42). Let us submit to God's will for better and hopeful days ahead. The prayer of Isaiah energises us with hope for future: "He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain, and Moab shall be trodden down in his place, as straw is trodden down in a dung-pit" (Is. 25: 8-9). The spirit of the risen Lord guide us in all our endeavours!

May I propose the following as precautionary measures:

1. Take health tips like breathing exercises, Vitamin food, adequate rest/sleep etc to keep corona virus away (lying upside down and breathing at least half an hour a day is good to increase intake of oxygen to the body).
2. Follow the general guidelines by the government and the medical personnel regarding the use of mask, social distancing, sanitization etc.

3. If any symptoms like cough, fever, body pain, throat ache etc start taking medical assistance immediately or quarantine and do what is needful.
4. Avoid all inter-state and other travels even some necessary ones unless it is inevitable.
5. Increase the quantity of intake of water (at least three litres a day). It is a great help.
6. Do not go to hospitals/medical centres to visit patients unless very necessary and avoid taking treatments unless absolutely unavoidable.
7. Avoid any kind of crowding and celebrations.
8. Do shopping/marketing only for urgency and necessity. Avoid frequency of it to the best possible (do proper sanitization after every shopping).
9. As the financial crunch is slowly creeping in; learn to manage with minimum and help people around us in the best way possible.
10. Spent more time indoor and possibly in prayer and other creative activities.

I plead everyone to follow these tips so as to be safe and keep others safe as well. Thanking everyone in advance for kind co-operation.

With warm regards
Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



† Ephrem Nariculam
† Ephrem Nariculam,
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda

IV. BISHOP'S DIARY**JANUARY**

1. Met with Archbishop Antony Kariyil at Archbishop's House, Ernakulam.
2. Ordained Dn. Jaisan Kaitharakuzhy SDB to priesthood at St. Joseph's Church Sanjopuram in Ernakulam-Angamaly Arch Diocese.
3. Offered Holy Qurbana at CMI Provincial House, Coimbatore for the feast of Sr. Chavara.
4. Visited the parents and sisters of Fr. Robert Nicholas at their parental home, Secunderabad
5. Presided over Golden Jubilee Qurbana of Sr. Elizabeth SD at Wirur Convent and planted a sapling in the campus to commemorate the *Haritha Varsh*.
10. In the morning bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Samudrapur CMC Convent and in the evening Holy Qurbana was offered at CMC convent, Arvi. In the afternoon Bishop met with Scholastics of Darsana and Claretian Ashrams, Wardha.
11. Offered Holy Qurbana at CMC convent, Arvi.
- 12-15. Attended virtual Synod of Syro-Malabar Church.
16. Attended webinar of Syro-Malabar youth commission.
- 18-22. Animated deacons' pastoral orientation programme at BPQ.
21. Attended international Syro-Malabar youth Directors' meeting online.
23. Attended webinar on FCRI Amendment Act 2020 organized by auditor Lancy and team. In the evening bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Mul SAB Convent.
24. Offered Holy Qurbana at Mul parish and met with the people.

26. Hoisted National Flag for republic day at Vianney Jubilee School, BPQ and in the afternoon bishop presided over funeral service of Sr. Regina ASMI at Allappalli.
28. Attended online Monthly recollection for priests.
29. Blessed the new Grotto at Lahanwani and offered Holy Qurbana in the Chapel.
30. Presided over Holy Qurbana for Jubilee of CMC sisters at CMC Provincial House, Wardha.
31. Offered Holy Qurbana at Warora and Sumthana and met with the people.

FEBRUARY

1. Offered Holy Qurbana at SVG in connection with intersem get together with CMI Aspirants, Bamini.

MARCH

4. MSMI Provincial Sr. Leonsa MSMI and her new Provincial team visited Bishop at Bishop's Home.
5. Visited Aksapur, Gojoli, Allappally stations and stayed overnight at Ettappilly.
6. Offered Holy Qurbana at Ettappilly and met with the boarders. Later bishop visited Haachbody village in Gatta mission and visited the parents of Fr. Ajay Khalkho. In the evening bishop visited Puske village of Gatta mission and visited the house of Sr. Asha SJB
7. Offered Holy Qurbana at Gatta and met with the people. He planted saplings in the Campus along with the people who attended Sunday Qurbana. Later he proceeded Bhamaragarh.
8. Offered Holy Qurbana at Bhamaragarh and met with the boarders. While returning bishop visited Gomini, Koproly, Ghot Chamorshi, Nandegan, Gondpipiri stations /centers.

13. Offered Holy Qurbana at Marneli Chapel.
14. Offered Holy Qurbana at Chellawada chapel.
- 15-16. Animated Quinquennial meeting of priests at BPQ. He also visited Santwady, Mul with quinquennial priests.
18. Sr. Treesa Manikathan SHSP the new Provincial Superior of Holy Spirit Congregation met with bishop at Bishop's Home.
25. Conferred the Holy Order of Diaconate to Bro. Bernad Kujur at SVG, New Daheli.
28. Officiated Palm Sunday, service at Maria Rani Mission, Gatta.
29. Sr. Tancy SMS, the provincial superior of Snehagiri Sisters met with Bishop at Bishops' Home.
30. Bishop officiated Muron Holy Qurbana at Cathedral.

APRIL

1. Presided over Holy Thursday service at Balapur Church
2. Officiated Good Friday service at Brahmपुरi Church.
4. Officiated Easter vigil and Holy Qurbana at St. Thomas Cathedral, BPQ. Fourteen Children of the parish received first Holy Communion and the sacrament of confirmation at Bishop's hand during Easter Qurbana.
15. Officiated the funeral service of Sr. Neena CMC at Carmelodaya province, Wardha
24. Offered Holy Qurbana for the repose of the soul of fr. George Canisius CMI at St. Thomas Cathedral, Ballarpur.

Quotes

“Miracles do not happen in contradiction with nature but in contradiction with what we know about nature.”
– St Augustine

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 2021 WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS

25 April 2021

Saint Joseph: The Dream of Vocation

Dear brothers and sisters,

8 December last, the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, marked the beginning of a special year devoted to him (cf. Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, 8 December 2020). For my part, I wrote the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, whose aim was “to increase our love for this great saint”. Saint Joseph is an extraordinary figure, yet at the same time one “so close to our own human experience”. He did not do astonishing things, he had no unique charisms, nor did he appear special in the eyes of those who met him. He was not famous or even noteworthy: the Gospels do not report even a single word of his. Still, through his ordinary life, he accomplished something extraordinary in the eyes of God.

God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: to beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of “the saints next door”. At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey.

Saint Joseph suggests to us three key words for each individual's vocation. The first is dream. Everyone dreams of finding

fulfilment in life. We rightly nurture great hopes, lofty aspirations that ephemeral goals – like success, money and entertainment – cannot satisfy. If we were to ask people to express in one word their life’s dream, it would not be difficult to imagine the answer: “to be loved”. It is love that gives meaning to life, because it reveals life’s mystery. Indeed, we only have life if we give it; we truly possess it only if we generously give it away. Saint Joseph has much to tell us in this regard, because, through the dreams that God inspired in him, he made of his life a gift.

The Gospels tell us of four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13,19,22). They were calls from God, but they were not easy to accept. After each dream, Joseph had to change his plans and take a risk, sacrificing his own plans in order to follow the mysterious designs of God, whom he trusted completely. We may ask ourselves, “Why put so much trust in a dream in the night?” Although a dream was considered very important in ancient times, it was still a small thing in the face of the concrete reality of life. Yet Saint Joseph let himself be guided by his dreams without hesitation. Why? Because his heart was directed to God; it was already inclined towards him. A small indication was enough for his watchful “inner ear” to recognize God’s voice. This applies also to our calling: God does not like to reveal himself in a spectacular way, pressuring our freedom. He conveys his plans to us with gentleness. He does not overwhelm us with dazzling visions but quietly speaks in the depths of our heart, drawing near to us and speaking to us through our thoughts and feelings. In this way, as he did with Saint Joseph, he sets before us profound and unexpected horizons.

Indeed, Joseph’s dreams led him into experiences he would never have imagined. The first of these upended his betrothal, but made him the father of the Messiah; the second caused him to flee to Egypt, but saved the life of his family. After the third, which foretold his return to his native land, a fourth dream made him change plans once again, bringing him to Nazareth, the place where Jesus would begin his preaching of the Kingdom of God. Amid all these upheavals, he found the courage to follow God’s will. So too in a vocation: God’s call always urges us to take a first step, to give

ourselves, to press forward. There can be no faith without risk. Only by abandoning ourselves confidently to grace, setting aside our own programmes and comforts, can we truly say “yes” to God. And every “yes” bears fruit because it becomes part of a larger design, of which we glimpse only details, but which the divine Artist knows and carries out, making of every life a masterpiece. In this regard, Saint Joseph is an outstanding example of acceptance of God’s plans. Yet his was an active acceptance: never reluctant or resigned. Joseph was “certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive” (Patris Corde, 4). May he help everyone, especially young people who are discerning, to make God’s dreams for them come true. May he inspire in them the courage to say “yes” to the Lord who always surprises and never disappoints.

A second word marks the journey of Saint Joseph and that of vocation: service. The Gospels show how Joseph lived entirely for others and never for himself. The holy people of God invoke him as the most chaste spouse, based on his ability to love unreservedly. By freeing love from all possessiveness, he became open to an even more fruitful service. His loving care has spanned generations; his attentive guardianship has made him patron of the Church. As one who knew how to embody the meaning of self-giving in life, Joseph is also the patron of a happy death. His service and sacrifices were only possible, however, because they were sustained by a greater love: “Every true vocation is born of the gift of oneself, which is the fruit of mature sacrifice. The priesthood and consecrated life likewise require this kind of maturity. Whatever our vocation, whether to marriage, celibacy or virginity, our gift of self will not come to fulfilment if it stops at sacrifice; were that the case, instead of becoming a sign of the beauty and joy of love, the gift of self would risk being an expression of unhappiness, sadness and frustration” (ibid., 7).

For Saint Joseph, service – as a concrete expression of the gift of self – did not remain simply a high ideal, but became a rule for daily life. He strove to find and prepare a place where Jesus could be born; he did his utmost to protect him from Herod’s wrath by arranging a hasty journey into Egypt; he immediately returned to

Jerusalem when Jesus was lost; he supported his family by his work, even in a foreign land. In short, he adapted to different circumstances with the attitude of those who do not grow discouraged when life does not turn out as they wished; he showed the willingness typical of those who live to serve. In this way, Joseph welcomed life's frequent and often unexpected journeys: from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census, then to Egypt and again to Nazareth, and every year to Jerusalem. Each time he was willing to face new circumstances without complaining, ever ready to give a hand to help resolve situations. We could say that this was the outstretched hand of our heavenly Father reaching out to his Son on earth. Joseph cannot fail to be a model for all vocations, called to be the ever-active hands of the Father, outstretched to his children.

I like to think, then, of Saint Joseph, the protector of Jesus and of the Church, as the protector of vocations. In fact, from his willingness to serve comes his concern to protect. The Gospel tells us that "Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night" (Mt 2:14), thus revealing his prompt concern for the good of his family. He wasted no time fretting over things he could not control, in order to give full attention to those entrusted to his care. Such thoughtful concern is the sign of a true vocation, the testimony of a life touched by the love of God. What a beautiful example of Christian life we give when we refuse to pursue our ambitions or indulge in our illusions, but instead care for what the Lord has entrusted to us through the Church! God then pours out his Spirit and creativity upon us; he works wonders in us, as he did in Joseph.

Together with God's call, which makes our greatest dreams come true, and our response, which is made up of generous service and attentive care, there is a third characteristic of Saint Joseph's daily life and our Christian vocation, namely fidelity. Joseph is the "righteous man" (Mt 1:19) who daily perseveres in quietly serving God and his plans. At a particularly difficult moment in his life, he thoughtfully considered what to do (cf. v. 20). He did not let himself be hastily pressured. He did not yield to the temptation to act rashly, simply following his instincts or living for the moment. Instead, he

pondered things patiently. He knew that success in life is built on constant fidelity to important decisions. This was reflected in his perseverance in plying the trade of a humble carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), a quiet perseverance that made no news in his own time, yet has inspired the daily lives of countless fathers, labourers and Christians ever since. For a vocation – like life itself – matures only through daily fidelity.

How is such fidelity nurtured? In the light of God's own faithfulness. The first words that Saint Joseph heard in a dream were an invitation not to be afraid, because God remains ever faithful to his promises: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid" (Mt 1:20). Do not be afraid: these words the Lord also addresses to you, dear sister, and to you, dear brother, whenever you feel that, even amid uncertainty and hesitation, you can no longer delay your desire to give your life to him. He repeats these words when, perhaps amid trials and misunderstandings, you seek to follow his will every day, wherever you find yourself. They are words you will hear anew, at every step of your vocation, as you return to your first love. They are a refrain accompanying all those who – like Saint Joseph – say yes to God with their lives, through their fidelity each day.

This fidelity is the secret of joy. A hymn in the liturgy speaks of the "transparent joy" present in the home of Nazareth. It the joy of simplicity, the joy experienced daily by those who care for what truly matters: faithful closeness to God and to our neighbour. How good it would be if the same atmosphere, simple and radiant, sober and hopeful, were to pervade our seminaries, religious houses and presbyteries! I pray that you will experience this same joy, dear brothers and sisters who have generously made God the dream of your lives, serving him in your brothers and sisters through a fidelity that is a powerful testimony in an age of ephemeral choices and emotions that bring no lasting joy. May Saint Joseph, protector of vocations, accompany you with his fatherly heart!

Francis

THE HOLY FATHERS PRAYERS INTENTIONS

(Apostleship of Prayer)

Please pray for the intentions of Holy Father Pope Francis

- **MAY**

- **Universal intention - The world of finance**

- Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

- **JUNE**

- **Intention for evangelization - The beauty of marriage**

- Let us pray for young people who are preparing for marriage with the support of a Christian community: may they grow in love, with generosity, faithfulness and patience.

- **JULY**

- **Universal intention - Social friendship**

- We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

- **AUGUST**

- **Intention for evangelization - The Church**

- Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

- **SEPTEMBER**

- **Universal intention - An environmentally sustainable lifestyle**

- We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

*Prot. No. 0241/2021***Post Synodal Circular**

George Cardinal Alencherry, the Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, to the Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Consecrated Men and Women and Lay Faithful of the Syro-Malabar Church.

May the Grace of the Lord be with you all!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The First Session of the XXIX Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church was held on line from January 11 to 16, 2021 because of the Covid -19. Various issues connected with the faith and the Church in the social, spiritual and political areas were discussed during the days of the Synod. The Synod remembered with grateful feelings the deep and committed work of the faithful during these troubled times to preserve their faith and love of the Church in spite of the limitations imposed by the pandemic. The Fathers of the Synod acknowledged with gratitude the heroic leadership rendered by the steady presence of the Holy Father as a pillar of hope and faith. The Encyclical, Fratelli tutti,

affirming that all are brothers, was a timely social teaching. It is a matter of great joy that 235 deacons were ordained priests who should be seen as a string of stars lighted by God during these dark days of the Covid.

Congratulations and Remembrances

The Synod offered their prayerful condolences at the passing away of Mar Paul Chittilapilly and Archbishop Mar Joseph Chennoth who were the zealous shepherds of the Church. Mar Paul Chittilapilly who did a magnificent work for the all round development of the Eparchies of Kalyan and Thamarassery contributed immensely to the renewal of the liturgy and for the

codification of the Particular Law of the Church. Archbishop Joseph Chennoth who was the Apostolic Nuncio to Japan was honoured with the highest civilian award by the Government of Japan. May God bless these dear bishops and may their souls rest in peace! The Synod offered its prayers and blessings to Geevarghese Mar Aprem who was appointed the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Kottayam. His appointment can be seen as a great witness to the fraternal relationship between the Syro-Malabar and the Syro-Malankara Churches.

Ministry for the Youth

The Syro-Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) is the official organization for the youth of the Church. KCYM is the federation of the youth wings of the three Churches sui iuris. It is through the membership of the SMYM that one becomes a member of the KCYM. The Synod desires that all the youth between the ages of 15 through 30 should become members of the SMYM. The Synod accepted the recommendation of the Youth Commission that all the Eparchies should take up a time bound programme to enlist all the youth in their respective Eparchies to become members of the SMYM. Those who are above the age of 35 should become active in the various ministries of the Church by becoming members of the Catholic Congress. Arrangements for this will be made at the organizational level of the Catholic Congress.

Liturgy

The Synod held a detailed discussion of the issues connected with liturgical matters. It has now become necessary to cremate the dead on account of the Covid. The Synod has given approval for the prayers that should be said on occasions when cremations are taking place. These prayers are to be used from now onwards. The Synod requests the faithful to show the same respect to the dead whether they are cremated or buried. The

Synod has given approval to a new set of liturgical readings on an experimental basis. During the next liturgical cycle, this new set of readings will be used. The Synod has also given its approval to the list of feasts according to the priority of their importance. Discussions were also held with regard to the revision of the breviary.

Persecutions against Christians

The Synod expressed its deep shock over the increased attacks and acts of violence against Christians all over the world. It is terrifying to find that around thirteen Christians are murdered daily in the world. The killing of 750 Christians in Ethiopia during the Christmas 2020 sent shockwaves in the Christian world. Their heroic deaths should enliven our faith. We shall pray for the Christians in those lands of persecution so that they may be blessed with infinite patience and endurance.

Farmers' Agitation

The Synod has expressed its solidarity with the farmers who are engaged in a long struggle for their rights at the Capital of India. The anxiety of the farmers that their natural rights would be curtailed through the new laws enacted to satisfy the demands of the corporate sector has to be alleviated. New markets for agricultural products, grant of support prices, dismantling of controls with regard to the storage of essential products, contract farming etc are the issues that disturb the farmers. The new laws were enacted without any prior consultation with the farmers. It is highly troubling to find the farmers who feed the country are to go on a long struggle to solve their grievances. The farmers in Kerala who are experiencing deep hardship on account of the low price of their products, attacks of wild animals, creation of buffer zones etc need support and help.

Discipline in the Church

Discipline in the Church has a very important role to play to preserve the unity and example of the Church. The Synod has noted that recently some lay people, priests and the religious have come forward with positions that challenge the unity and the structure of the Church. Those issues that are to be discussed at the internal forums of the Church are being discussed in public by these people, causing great harm to the Church. The Synod has authorized the bishops to take necessary disciplinary actions against those who indulge in activities that are against the teachings and the authority of the Church.

Fundamentalism is a threat against the communal harmony and the unity of the society. The prevalence of certain attitudes that are fundamentalist and divisive in liturgy, charismatic renewal and inter religious relations is causing confusion and disturbance in the Church, according to the Synod. These fundamentalist activities filled with intolerance and provocations are the causes of many divisions and differences in the Church and the society. The Synod has assessed that such positions, though outwardly appearing as helpful to the Church, are really causing very far reaching disastrous results and hence is urging the faithful to be more vigilant.

I wish all the blessings of the Paschal season and of the Lent. During this year dedicated specially to St. Joseph, I entrust all of you to the loving protection of St. Joseph. May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of our Father in Faith, St. Thomas the Apostle, be with all of you.

Given from the Major Archiepiscopal Curia at Mount St. Thomas, Kakkanad, on 10 February 2020

Cardinal George Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro Malabar Church

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF INDIA (CBCI)

C.B.C.I. Centre, 1 Ashok Place, Near Gale Dakkhana, New Delhi-110 001.
India. Tel: +9111 2334 4470

Cardinal Oswald Gracias

President

April 22, 2021

Your Eminence, Your Beatitude, Your Grace, Your Lordship,

A very grace filled Easter season to you. I am happy to be connecting with you once again — after a long break. Earlier all of us were more or less in a similar situation regarding Covid 19 and hence it was possible to make common plans for our relief efforts and pastoral work.

We are now in diverse situations regarding the pandemic, except that there is now a massive surge in the number of cases. We are recording around 300,000 new cases of Coronavirus every single day. The second wave has hit us like a tsunami, and we are yet to reach the peak! Added to this is the apparent lack of planning, resulting in shortage of hospital beds, anti-viral drugs, oxygen, and vaccines. It could get worse before it gets better!

After taking counsel with Cardinal Alencherry, Cardinal Cleemis, and CCBI President, Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao. I thought that especially during the Easter season of hope and light, we should unitedly turn to God in this time of distress. Hence, I am inviting all our Churches to observe Friday, May 7 as a Day of Prayer and Fasting for relief from the Covid 19 pandemic. Our ecumenical brothers from the NCCI and EFI have willingly agreed to join us in prayer on this day. Since we have diverse local circumstances, I leave every diocese to have its own mode of Prayer and Fasting. I request our Bishops to inform the parishes and Religious in the diocese about this Day of Prayer and Fasting. I invite all religious communities, especially our cloistered Sisters, to have a special holy hour praying for an end to the pandemic: a healing for those infected, comfort for those mourning, courage for our frontline workers and success to the efforts of those

involved in research and production of medicine and vaccines.

It would be good if all Bishops of our country meet in their own Bishop's House / Cathedral for a prayer service around noon so that we feel strengthened and united in prayer at this moment. A proposed prayer service which you may modify / change or replace as you consider appropriate, will be sent to you in a few days by our Secretariat.

All of us have heard reports from several religious congregations and some dioceses about the large number of priests and sisters who have been infected, with a number of fatalities too. While we wish to give pastoral care to our people, it is our moral obligation to take care of our health and protect others. A Covid Appropriate Behaviour is necessary: wearing of masks, social distancing, covid washing / sanitizing of hands. Our priests and sisters should urge our people to follow these norms for their own safety and the safety of others. Do also encourage our people to get themselves vaccinated. The restrictions imposed by the Government from time to time are a necessary inconvenience, meant for our safety.

Caritas India has done a marvelous job at relief work; as has CHAI in coordinating our medical assistance. They have operated in and through our dioceses. I request you to document these efforts and preserve pictures of them. This will be useful for future generations.

We are having our next Standing Committee Meeting (via video conference) on April 28 — 29 during which we will discuss different issues. I expect to get in touch with you after the Standing Committee Meeting.

With affectionate regards and best wishes, I remain

Yours fraternally in Christ,



Oswald Cardinal Gracias
 Archbishop of Bombay & President,
 Catholic Bishops Conference of India



The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India expresses its grief and offers its condolences to the family members of all those who have died or are missing as a result of the Uttarakhand Glacier calamity. We are still getting reports of the damage of bridges, hydropower projects and loss of life.

We deeply appreciate the relief efforts by Government and Government agencies. Our own Caritas Institutes will render all assistance we can to bring succor and hope to the affected people.

✠ **Oswald Cardinal Gracias**

February 8, 2021

Archbishop of Bombay &
 President, CBCI

AUGUST 15

**Happy Feast of
 Assumption of our Blessed
 Mother Mary**

**Happy
 Independence Day
 &
 Chanda Establishment Day**



Quotes

“ *Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.* ”

—*Frank Lloyd Wright*

GREEN GENIUS QUIZ CONTEST



Dear All,

We are presenting you the second set of questions for the Green Genius Quiz Contest jointly organised by the Diocese of Chanda and the Department of Evangelization & Pastoral Ministry.

The participants of the first set only can take part in the second set. The third set of questions along with the answer key of the second set will be published in the next edition of Chanda Samachar. The answers of the second set should be sent on or before August 31, 2021 in the email Id: cmichandapastoral@gmail.com.

If you have any queries please contact :
Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil CMI (08275265754)

ANSWER KEY SET I

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1 – d, 2 – b, 3 – a, 4 – a, 5 – b,
6 – a, 7 – d, 8 – a, 9 – d, 10 – d

ANSWER IN ONE WORD

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) HDPE (High density polyethylene) | 11) Brain |
| 2) Eugene Odum | 12) 50 years |
| 3) Gilded Silver | 13) Lexan and Plexiglass |
| 4) Sweden | 14) Hydrocarbonoclastic bacteria |
| 5) China | 15) San Francisco |
| 6) Micro-organism | |
| 7) Leo Baekeland | |
| 8) Carbon decomposition | |
| 9) Decomposers | |
| 10) Yes | |

SET - II (Q. 26-50)

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

- The breakdown of detritus into smaller particles by earthworm is a process called**
 - Humification
 - Fragmentation
 - Mineralization
 - Catabolism
- Maximum species diversity is seen in latitudinal range of**
 - 23.50 N to 66.50 N
 - 23.50 N to 23.50 S
 - 23.50 S to 66.50 N
 - 66.50N to 900 N
- Joint Forest Management Concept was introduced in India during**
 - 1980
 - 1990
 - 1960
 - 1970
- Kanhan National Park is located in _____ and is famous for _____**
 - Madhya Pradesh, Elephant
 - Madhya Pradesh, Tiger
 - Odisha, Tiger
 - Assam, Elephant
- Which of the following is not a cause of natural pollution?**
 - Volcanic eruption
 - UV radiation
 - Forest fire
 - Mercury



6) **Increased asthmatic attacks in certain seasons are related to**

- a) Eating fruits preserved in tin containers
- b) Inhalation of seasonal pollen
- c) Low temperature
- d) Hot and humid environment

7) **Acid rain is produced by**

- a) Excess NO_x and SO₂ from burning fossil fuels.
- b) Excess production of NH₃ by industries and power plants.
- c) Excess release of Carbon Monoxide by incomplete combustion of fossil fuels.
- d) Excess release of CO₂ by combustion and animal respiration.

8) **Chlorofluorocarbons are air polluting agents which are produced by**

- a) Diesel trucks
- b) Jet planes
- c) Rice fields
- d) Cellphones

9) **World's most problematic aquatic weed is**

- a) *Azolla*
- b) *Wolffia*
- c) *Eichhornia*
- d) *Trapa*

10) **Which of the following material takes the longest time for biodegradation?**

- a) Cotton
- b) Paper
- c) Bone
- d) Jute

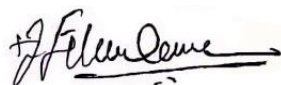
ONE WORD QUESTIONS

- 1) Who started Van Mahotsav?
- 2) What is the theme for the World Environment Day 2020?
- 3) Which country produces the most waste in the World in 2020?
- 4) Where was the first International Earth Summit held?
- 5) What is the good air quality index?
- 6) Who has coined the term SMOG?
- 7) Which instrument is used for measuring air pressure?
- 8) What is the main cause of marble cancer?
- 9) At what level a sound becomes physical pain?
- 10) Which organism used to gauge the quality of an Ecosystem?
- 11) Which is the largest mangrove forest in the India?
- 12) Which part of Himalayas are covered with dense forest?
- 13) What is the soil deposited by flood water called?
- 14) Which country has the highest Biodiversity?
- 15) Which method reduces the problem of solid waste?

V. CURIA MATTERS**TRANSFERS / APPOINTMENTS**
Eparchy of Chanda (17 January 2021)

| No. | Name | From/Relieved | To/Appointed | W.E.F |
|-----|--------------------------------|--|---|---------------|
| 1 | Fr. Tony Villiadath | Priest-in-charge, Wani | Studies and Pastoral mission, Kerala | 01 Feb 2021 |
| 2 | Fr. Tomy Chirapurath CMI | Priest-in-substitute, Hinganghat | Priest-in-charge, Wani Language Lab, Member | 01 Feb 2021 |
| 3 | Fr. Jose Zade | | Language Lab, Member (additional) | 01 Feb 2021 |
| 4 | Fr. Peter KI | | Asst. To Administrator, Gojoli Mission & Coordinator: Land rectification & Legal formalities for the diocesan schools | 15 Feb 2021 |
| 5 | Fr. Thomas Punchayil | Syncellus for Boarding, Land and Farming & Priest-in-Charge, Kopreli | Parish Priest, Allapalli | 10 April 2021 |
| 6 | Fr. Sebastian Orapuzhickal CMI | Parish Priest, Allapalli | Priest-in-charge, Kopreli | 10 April 2021 |
| 7 | Fr. Mathew Nirappal | DFO & Parish Priest, Cathedral, Ballarpur | Parish Priest, Wirur | 10 April 2021 |
| 8 | Fr. Robinson Chekkathadathil | Parish Priest, Wirur | Syncellus for Boarding, Land and Farming, DFO, & Parish Priest, Cathedral, Ballarpur | 10 April 2021 |
| 9 | Fr. Raju Avookaran | Parish Priest, Wardha | Priest-in-charge, Gomini | 10 April 2021 |
| 10 | Fr. Vincent Pangola | Director AVD & Priest-in-charge, Rajura | Parish Priest, Wardha & Manager, St. Antony's School, Wardha | 10 April 2021 |

| No. | Name | From/Relieved | To/Appointed | W.E.F |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 11 | Fr. Subin Kallampalli | | Principal, St. Antony's School, Wardha (additional) | 10 April 2021 |
| 12 | Fr. Vivek Puthenpurayil | | Priest-in-charge, Rajura (Additional) | 10 April 2021 |
| 13 | Fr. Thomson Pullasherry | Priest-in-charge, Gomini | | 10 April 2021 |
| 14 | Fr. James Karakombel | Asst. Priest-in-charge, Gomini | Administrator, Kaotha | 10 April 2021 |
| 15 | Fr. Robert Nicholas | Priest-in-charge, Ghugus | Priest-in-charge, Kalmana | 10 April 2021 |
| 16 | Fr. Anoop Aerimattathil | Priest-in-charge, Kalmana | Priest-in-charge, Ghugus Manager, Vianney Vidya Mandir School, Ghugus | 10 April 2021 |
| 17 | Fr. Antony Munjanattu | | Director, AVD Manager, Devdan Press (Additional) | 10 April 2021 |



† Bp. Ephrem Nariculam
Bishop, Eparchy of Chanda



Fr. Shibu Monippalil
Chancellor



Our Dear Bishopji celebrates his Patron's day on June 9. Let us specially pray for God's choicest blessings on our Bishopji on the special day. Chanda Family wishes a HAPPY FEAST.

St. Joseph, the protector of the Church

Dear believers of Christ,

On 19th March the Holy mother Church celebrates the feast of St. Joseph. Happy Feast to all. Pope Francis has declared 2021 as the Year of St. Joseph. So the feast of 19th March this year has a special significance. By the Papal letter *Patris Corde* Pope Francis declared the year 2021 dedicated to St. Joseph and invited every Christian to deepen our



devotion to the saint, the foster father and protector of the Church. There are not many references about Joseph in the gospels. However, among other attributes, one of the striking attribute of Joseph in the Church is that he is the protector of the Church. Joseph became protector of the Church not by a papal proclamation but by his own dedication to Christ our Lord and Saviour. Joseph had to protect infant Jesus when Herod declared all children below two years to be killed for the fear of losing his office and to keep his position safe (Mt. 2:16). It is the same infant Jesus sacramentally present in the Church today. Christ is mysteriously and sacramentally present in the Church. Holy Mother Church is the sacrament of Christ. So by protecting Church we are protecting our Christian faith. It is our duty and it is our mission. Every Christian by the sacrament of baptism is a missionary (AG, 2). The primary duty of a missionary is to protect

one's own faith in Christ and at any cost share it with others. It calls one to a radical discipleship. "If you wish to follow me, leave everything behind and take up your cross and follow me" (Mt. 16:24). Joseph followed Christ by being just (Mt. 1:19) by being faithful to his spouse Blessed Mary, by his hard work as carpenter, by being a responsible parent to child Jesus, by a single minded dedication to his religious faith and by protecting child Jesus from dangers and the evil fabric of the opponents. By the dedication of this year for the devotion to St. Joseph Pope Francis invites us to follow the saint, after these beautiful examples. In particular let us resolve to protect our faith and place the Church as beacon of light to show the way to Christ, the way, the truth and the light (Jn. 14:6). St. Joseph, the protector of the Church, pray for us. Amen



FASTING

Two Fasting in preparation for two important feasts are round the corner. Fifteen days fasting for the feast of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary (August 1-15) and Eight days fast for the feast of Nativity of Blessed Mother (September 1-8). Let the intercession of Mother Mary be with us always.

SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES

4 August: - The first Sunday of August is observed in the diocese as the day of Chanda Heavenly Brethren day in parish level.

4 August: The Sunday after 4th August is celebrated in the diocese as **Priest Sunday**.

15 August:- Establishment day of Chanda Mission. The Sunday after 15 August is celebrated in the diocese as Chanda Establishment Day.

DARWIN RAMOS**A BUDDING RAG-PICKER SAINT**

(Darwin Ramos is a saint from gutters in Pasay city, Philippines. Born (1994) in a broken family, not received parental care, stricken by poverty from birth, thrown to child labour, accidentally met with Christian faith, received baptism and the first Holy Communion at the age of 12 and lived in sanctity after having experienced Christ, died at the age of 12 (2012) is now on march to sainthood/canonization - Please read this inspiring biography - Editor).



Darwin Ramos was born on 17 December 1994 in Pasay City, Philippines. His father was an alcoholic and the mother earned livelihood by working as a laundry women. The family grew up in a slum. Darwin was their second child. In order to help his family, Darwin became a scavenger (waste picker) in the street, with his sister Marimar, who was two years younger. They spent their day going through garbage to recover plastic waste which they sold. The children did not go to school because of grave financial situation of their family.

The initial symptoms of what later would be diagnosed as Duchenne muscular dystrophy appeared. This began as weakness in the legs. Then, his mother noticed that Darwin was stumbling increasingly. Progressively, Darwin could no longer stand as his muscles weakened further.

Poverty pushed the family to live on the street. His father took advantage of Darwin's illness and he would position Darwin every morning at the Libertad station to beg from passers-by who took pity on the boy. In spite of the terrible shame felt by Darwin, hundreds of pesos fell into his hands which he held out painfully.

His father frequently took a large portion of the money to buy alcohol. Darwin would not complain as long as a sufficient portion was left to feed his brothers and sisters.

In 2006, a group of street educators of the Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation, went into contact with Darwin while he was panhandling at the Libertad station, and offered to take him in. Darwin agreed as he no longer could stand up straight, and was using his hands and remained seated. At the Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation (meaning "a bridge for children" in Tagalog), Darwin lived with boys and girls with special needs caused by different disabilities.

Darwin increasingly suffered more respiratory distress that required consecutive hospitalizations. He uplifted the staff and the children at the Foundation by the way he lived with his illness. He was constantly repeating "Thank you" and "I love you". He never complained and always smiled even during most difficult times. He was attentive to all and showed support to the other children at the Foundation in their trials. He had the habit of offering his sufferings. When he was speaking of his own illness, he did not talk about his myopathy but of what he called as being his "mission". One day, he said to the priest of the Foundation : "You know Father, I think Jesus wants me to hold on until the end, just like he did".

Darwin developed a deep personal relationship with Christ. Not a day passed that the young boy did not take time out to entrust himself to Jesus. A caregiver from the Foundation testified: "One day, when Darwin was feverish, he insisted to be helped in getting out of bed to join the others in the center so that he could lead the evening prayer. It was Jesus before anything else".

On Sunday, September 16, 2012, the nurse of the Foundation decided to bring Darwin to the (Philippine Children's

Medical Center (PCMC) in Quezon City) because he had difficulty breathing. When the priest in charge of the Tulayng Kabataan Foundation arrived at his bedside, the first thing that Darwin did was to excuse himself for causing the priest worries. Darwin added as he breathed laboriously: "Thank you for everything Father". Then began what some would describe as "Darwin's Holy Week":

On Monday, September 17, Darwin was intubated. He was not able to talk anymore. It was only possible to lip-read him, but he was able to write in a notebook. On Thursday, September 20, Darwin experienced a spiritual battle, his Maundy Thursday:

Darwin : "We must pray."

Priest : "Of course Darwin, but why do you need to pray?"

Darwin : "Because I am fighting."

Priest : "Fighting against your disease?"

Darwin : "I am fighting against the devil."

Darwin then received the Anointing of the Sick. On Friday, September 21, he looked peaceful and had a big smile. He wrote his two last sentences in a notebook: "A huge thank you" and "I am very happy" as a sign of a battle won. Darwin, intimately united with the Lord in his suffering, was already sharing the joy. On Saturday, Darwin entered into a great silence while remaining conscious. He died on Sunday, September 23, 2012, at sunrise, at the PCMC in Quezon City. The funeral mass was celebrated in a full church, attended by all the children of the Tulayng Kabataan Foundation. Darwin was buried in the Pasay City Cemetery.

In the Philippines, the memory of Darwin's life remains in the minds of many. People continue to gather at his tomb in Pasay City Cemetery. In France, Father Matthieu Dauchez wrote a book in 2015 entitled *Plus Fort Que Les Ténèbres* [Stronger than Darkness]. In 2016, Daniel-Ange de Maupeou d'Ableiges wrote

another book entitled *Prophètes de la Beauté* [Prophets of Beauty] with the initial pages dedicated to the life of Darwin Ramos. Many readers were touched by his example of Joy and Love through disease and suffering, throughout his adolescence, and his countless testimonies of the graces received by his intercession: "In spite of the disease, it is his joy of living and his luminous glance that will have touched more than one. Darwin has left the image of a young boy edifying with holiness, who despite his young age, quickly realized that his illness, much more than an irreversible ordeal, was none the less a mission... A mission guided by the One he loved so much to call his Friend: Jesus."

In 2018, the "Darwin Ramos Association" requested from His Excellency Honesto Ongtioco, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cubao (Philippines), to open the Cause for beatification and canonization of Darwin Ramos. The Darwin Ramos Association on March 14, 2018 assigned the Dominican Father Thomas de Gabory as Postulator. His Excellency Honesto Ongtioco confirmed this nomination by Decree of May 25, 2018. The Postulator officially addressed the written request (Supplex Libellus) to open the Cause of beatification and canonization of Darwin Ramos on June 20, 2018. The acceptance letter was signed on November 7, 2018. Father Robert T. Young, a Filipino Canon lawyer, was nominated as vice-postulator.

After having obtained the *Nihil obstat* (on March 29, 2019) of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome, and after the consultation of the faithful by the publication of the Edict during 2 months, the Cause was officially open in public on August 28, 2019 at the Immaculate Conception cathedral of Cubao by His Excellency Honesto Ongtioco. An Ecclesiastical Tribunal was assign to hear witnesses.

Darwin Ramos a rag picker boy under trials and tribulations

of poverty stricken life from birth, abandonment of family struggles, physical illness due to Duchenne muscular dystrophy, discovered Christian faith barely at the age of 11 and lived as Christian hardly for six years is on march to sainthood. It is amazing!!! To be a saint is call. It is the RESPONSE that make one a saint. Darwin Ramos grabbed sainthood at the age of 18 by offering his sufferings to Christ!

Bp. Ephrem Nariculam

SUSAMACHAR GHOSHANA VARSH

DAILY BIBLE READING FOR THE YEAR 2021

| MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUGUST | SEPTEMBER |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2 Maccabees | 1. Job 14 | 1.Psalm 2 | 1.Psalm 33 | 1.Psalm 64 |
| 4. 2 Macca. 1 | 2. Job 15 | 2.Psalm 3 | 2.Psalm 34 | 2.Psalm 65 |
| 5. 2 Macca. 2 | 3. Job 16 | 3.Psalm 4 | 3.Psalm 35 | 3.Psalm 66 |
| 6. 2 Macca. 3 | 4. Job 17 | 4.Psalm 5 | 4.Psalm 36 | 4.Psalm 67 |
| 7. 2 Macca. 4 | 5. Job 18 | 5.Psalm 6 | 5.Psalm 37 | 5.Psalm 68 |
| 8. 2 Macca. 5 | 6. Job 19 | 6.Psalm 7 | 6.Psalm 38 | 6.Psalm 69 |
| 9. 2 Macca. 6 | 7. Job 20 | 7.Psalm 8 | 7.Psalm 39 | 7.Psalm 70 |
| 10.2 Macca. 7 | 8. Job 21 | 8.Psalm 9 | 8.Psalm 40 | 8.Psalm 71 |
| 11.2 Macca. 8 | 9. Job 22 | 9.Psalm 10 | 9.Psalm 41 | 9.Psalm 72 |
| 12.2 Macca. 9 | 10. Job 23 | 10.Psalm 11 | 10.Psalm 42 | 10.Psalm 73 |
| 13.2 Macca. 10 | 11. Job 24 | 11.Psalm 12 | 11.Psalm 43 | 11.Psalm 74 |
| 14.2 Macca. 11 | 12. Job 25 | 12.Psalm 13 | 12.Psalm 44 | 12.Psalm 75 |
| 15.2 Macca. 12 | 13. Job 26 | 13.Psalm 14 | 13.Psalm 45 | 13.Psalm 76 |
| 16.2 Macca. 13 | 14. Job 27 | 14.Psalm 15 | 14.Psalm 46 | 14.Psalm 77 |
| 17.2 Macca. 14 | 15. Job 28 | 15.Psalm 16 | 15.Psalm 47 | 15.Psalm 78 |
| 18.2 Macca. 15 | 16. Job 29 | 16.Psalm 17 | 16.Psalm 48 | 16.Psalm 79 |
| JOB | 17. Job 30 | 17.Psalm 18 | 17.Psalm 49 | 17.Psalm 80 |
| 19. Job 1 | 18. Job 31 | 18.Psalm 19 | 18.Psalm 50 | 18.Psalm 81 |
| 20. Job 2 | 19. Job 32 | 19.Psalm 20 | 19.Psalm 51 | 19.Psalm 82 |
| 21. Job 3 | 20. Job 33 | 20.Psalm 21 | 20.Psalm 52 | 20.Psalm 83 |
| 22. Job 4 | 21. Job 34 | 21.Psalm 22 | 21.Psalm 53 | 21.Psalm 84 |
| 23. Job 5 | 22. Job 35 | 22.Psalm 23 | 22.Psalm 54 | 22.Psalm 85 |
| 24. Job 6 | 23. Job 36 | 23.Psalm 24 | 23.Psalm 55 | 23.Psalm 86 |
| 25. Job 7 | 24. Job 37 | 24.Psalm 25 | 24.Psalm 56 | 24.Psalm 87 |
| 26. Job 8 | 25. Job 38 | 25.Psalm 26 | 25.Psalm 57 | 25.Psalm 88 |
| 27. Job 9 | 26. Job 39 | 26.Psalm 27 | 26.Psalm 58 | 26.Psalm 89 |
| 28. Job 10 | 27. Job 40 | 27.Psalm 28 | 27.Psalm 59 | 27.Psalm 90 |
| 29. Job 11 | 28. Job 41 | 28.Psalm 29 | 28.Psalm 60 | 28.Psalm 91 |
| 30. Job 12 | 29. Job 42 | 29.Psalm 30 | 29.Psalm 61 | 29.Psalm 92 |
| 31. Job 13 | PSALM | 30.Psalm 31 | 30.Psalm 62 | 30.Psalm 93 |
| | 30.Psalm 1 | 31.Psalm 32 | 31.Psalm 63 | |

VI. NEWS FROM THE MISSION STATIONS

CARMEL PARISH GADCHIROLI:

Bishop Ephrem visited Gadchiroli parish on 14th February 2021. He presided over Ash Day service and Holy Qurbana on Sunday 14th February. In his homily he exhorted people to keep the spirit of great Lent by sharing, caring and bearing with one another. He handed over a sapling to the eldest member of the congregation present for the holy Qurbana and highlighted the importance of the Haritha Varsh 2021. He interacted with the people after the Holy Qurbana.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH MARAKBODY:

It was a happy day for the people on 7th February when Bp. Ephrem visited our parish. He arrived on 6th evening and at Marakbody he met with the people of the parish after Holy Qurbana on Sunday. He was accorded a warm welcome. Our Guruji Sri. Emmanuel received him with flower bouquet and shawl. Later Bishop visited Tatri village and offered Holy Qurbana for the people at Mr. Emmanuel's house. Almost 40 people attended the Holy Qurbana. He handed over a sapling to the head of the family to show the importance of the dire need to develop a nature friendly culture and life style in the context of Haritha Varsh celebration in the diocese. Bishop had lunch with the people. Thanks to Bishop and Fr. Vigil for the visit.

VISWAJYOTHI SCHOOL THALODHI:

The new school building was blessed by Bp. Ephrem Nariculam, bishop of Chanda on 13th February 2021. Our provincial Superior Sr. Elseena S.H inaugurated the building by cutting the ribbon. Bishop in his message invited the management and staff to add taste to life and give direction to the students as the passage read out was Mt 5:13-16, wherein Jesus exhorts his disciples to be salt of the earth and the light of the nation. In the

meeting that followed after blessing was presided over by the bishop. The management felicitated the dignitaries and the workers. The gathering was held keeping Covid protocol. So we could not invite many for the event. The programme began at 5.15 PM and ended with dinner and 8.00 PM. Thanks to everyone for the co-operation.

SHANTI KUNJ, KURKHEDA:

One day retreat was held on Friday 5th February 2021. Almost 70 people participated in the retreat. Bishop Ephrem offered Holy Qurbana in the afternoon. Bishop Ephrem and Fr. Vigil stayed overnight and visited Korchi and Kotgul centers. Mission activities are progressing well in the mission. Practically every day we are visiting the villages.

ST. THOMAS CHURCH, SUMTHANA

Inauguration of Bala sang: We inaugurated Bala sang at parish Church on 17th January 2021. Fr. Vivek the Director of Balasang inaugurated the program. On 14th February we celebrated Balasang Day.

Feast of St. Sebastian: On 24th January we celebrated the feast of St. Sebastian. Fr. Varghese Puthuparambil, the Vicar General was the main celebrant.

Bishop's visit to St. Thomas Church, Sumthana: On 31 January Bp. Ephrem Narikulam and Fr. Vigil, secretary to Bishop celebrated Holy Qurbana at Warora at 7am, and at 10 am at Sumthana Parish Church. Bishopji inaugurated the 'Haritha Varsh' by giving a Rose plant to Mr. Arogyappa, the elder member in our parish.

Inauguration of Youth (SMYM Sumthana): On 21st February we inaugurated SMYM Sumthana at our parish. Fr. Jose Zade was our Chief Guest. After the Holy Mass, there was Bible quiz competition based on the theme, St. Joseph and St. Matthew: 1 – 5. Sr. Daly SAB the Youth Animator of the Diocese conducted the

Bible quiz. And we decided to gather every 2nd Sunday for the prayer.

Feast of St. Joseph: On 21st March we celebrated the feast of St. Joseph at our parish church. Fr. Jose Koikkara CMI was our Chief Guest.

ARANYANIWAS CHURCH, LAKKADAKOT:

Bishop offered Holy Qurbana at Goshtala for the repose of the soul of Mr. Santhosh Kekkara brother of Sr. Savitha SD, on 16th February. He also administered Ash Day service on the same day at Goshtala Church. SD sisters did home mission in Lakkadakot parish for three days in the first week of March.

TERAPREM CHURCH, WARUR:

On the occasion of Lourde Matha feast on 11th February we had solemn Qurbana. In owner of Lourde Matha feast we also had Novena prayers and Fathers were invited to say Holy Mass and Novena from nearby parishes. 11 February was graceful occasion to celebrate the feast of Lourde Matha. Due to Corona virus we had arranged three Holy Qurbanas at 7:00 am in the morning in English and at 12.00 pm in Hindi and at 4.25 pm in Marathi. Holy Qurbanas were celebrated by Fr. Shyju Madapallinunnel, Fr. Joshy Chittianchira and Bp. Ephrem Narikulam along with newly Ordained Priests Fr Francis Minj and Fr. Jose as Con-celebrants respectively. As it is a pilgrimage centre of Lourde Matha many fathers and sisters including many faithful from different places different parishes were present from morning to evening.

ST. THOMAS CATHEDRAL, BALLARPUR

40 hours Adoration was held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 15, 16 and 17 February 2021. Due to Covid protocol the attendance was comparatively less and the final day Eucharistic procession had to be cancelled. Ash Day service was

conducted on Monday and imposition with holy ashes was done also on Wednesday as there were number of faithful gathered on that day. Dn. Benson Puthenpurackal preached on Monday and Wednesday. Department of evangelization of CMI Chanda province facilitated provision for confession on all three days. Thanks to Fr. Binoy Chekonthayil CMI for the initiatives. FDSHJ sisters helped for decoration and flower arrangements of the altar. Different communities of Balharshah parish offered Holy Hours on the third day of the Adoration. Thanks to everyone for the presence and co-operation.

SANTWADI, MUL:

On 14th February 2021 Bishop Ephrem blessed the foundation stone for the new Chapel in the campus. It is a project from Toronto Archdiocese, Canada. We hope to complete the construction by the end of the year. Mud filling for SCENT project is progressing well. The construction work of Mul-Gadchiroli road in front of Santhwadi area is almost complete. Turmeric harvest was very profitable, so also fish-pond. Bp. Ephrem visited the parish on Sunday 24th January 2021 and offered Holy Qurbana for the people. He distributed the seed-kit of Haritha Varsh to the congregation. He also gave sapling to the parishioners to create awareness of Haritha Varsh. We had five CMI scholastics from Darsana, Wardha for mission exposure in the parish from 14th to 22nd February 2021.

ST. ALPHONSA CHURCH, KALMANA:

Project work of renovation of Convent building and Girls' boarding is progressing well. We hope to complete it in a couple of months. As the road construction raised the area and the bridge build in the front had blocked the gate we had to change the position of the gate. A new gate is fixed and the way is made strait from the main road. We hope to complete the renovation works before Easter.

MARIA RANI CHURCH, GATTA:

bishop visited the mission station on 6th and 7th March. Offered Holy Qurbana on Sunday 7th morning and met with people. In connection with Haritha Varsh bishop presented 10 tree saplings to the people and planted them all in the campus. Bishop visited Haachbody and Puske villages. He visited Fr. Ajay Khalko's family at Haachbody and Sr. Asha SJB's family members at Puske. Sr. Tancy Provincial Superior of Snehagiri sisters visited Gatta Convent on 11th for her canonical visitation. A new motor bike is bought for the station. Thanks to Bishop's nephew and others for their generous contribution to obtain the motor bike for the station.

SNEHASHRAM CHURCH, BHAMARAGARH:

Bishop visited the mission station on 7th and 8th March. Offered Holy Qurbana on Sunday 8th morning and met with boarding children. In connection with Haritha Varsh bishop planted few plants all in the campus. Bishop handed over a welding machine to one of our parishioners.

ST. ALPHONSA CHURCH, JARAWANDI:

Bishop laid foundation stone for the parish Church during his visit to Jarawandi on 21 February. After Holy Qurbana bishop distributed the saplings to the people in connection with the celebration of Haritha Varsh. Sr. Tancy Provincial Superior of Snehagiri sisters visited Jarawandi Convent for canonical visitation on 22 April.

KARUNANILAYAM CHURCH, REPANPALLI:

Holy Qurbana at Marneli was celebrated by the bishop on 13 March and at Cellawada on 14th morning. Bishop visited some families at Chellewada and Marneli as well. He met with people on sides and distributed saplings and invited people to develop a live-nature culture in the best way possible.

**CMI MAR THOMA PROVINCE OF CHANDA:
Department of Evangelization & Pastoral Ministry**

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE COMPETITION

The Department has organised a National Level Christmas message writing competition which was open for everyone. The theme of the competition was “MY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE DURING CORONA”. The first prize of Rs. 5000 was secured by Syam Vettikulangara from Bhopal, the second prize of Rs. 3000 was secured by Yajna Mampilly from Chandrapur and the third prize of Rs 2000 was secured by Libin Velliappillil from Bengaluru. The winners were also given certificates and medals. The department also gave E Certificates of participation to all the participants.

CONFESSION FORUM

The department has set up a Confession Forum to help the Parish Priests and Priest In charges and Religious Major Superiors of Chanda Diocese with confessors on Sundays and special occasions free of cost. The department makes one confessor available at Cathedral Church Balharshah on every second Saturday of the month from 3 pm to 5 pm. The department also provided confessors at various parishes and centers as per the request on different occasions especially during this Lenten season.

LENTEN JOURNEY

The department started a spiritual programme for the Lenten season called “LENTEN JOURNEY”. A team of priests including two veteran missionaries will visit mainly Chanda Parishes especially on Sundays during the Lenten Season. The programme consists of confession, Holy Mass, Homily and

Missionary sharing by Veteran Chanda Missionaries. It has been organized freely by the department to help the Chanda Mission to have a fruitful Lenten Season. The department has already organized Lenten Journey programme at various Parishes, Institutions and stations. I thank all the Chanda Parish Priests, Priest Incharges and Religious Superiors and other reverent priests and Brothers for the great cooperation rendered to the department without which the programme could not have been materialized. The department thanks the Veteran CMI Missionaries Rev.Fr.Prasanna Bhai Rev.Fr.Jose Vadakkemury and Rev.Fr.Sebastian Thattil, for their availability and readiness and above all never ceasing passion for Chanda Mission.

GREEN GENIUS (QUIZ COMPETITION)

The department along with The Diocese of Chanda is jointly organizing a Green Genius Quiz Contest as this year is declared as *Harith Varsh* or Go Green Campaign 2021 in the diocese of Chanda. The quiz competition has three units with 25 questions each spreading out to the entire year. The result will be declared on 26th January 2022. The first three winners will be getting the cash awards of 7000, 5000 & 3000 rupees along with attractive certificates and St.Chavara Medals. All the participants will get attractive E Certificates on their respective email ids. If the number of winners is more, then the three winners will be decided by lot taken by the Bishop of Chanda.

REFLECTIONS ON SAINT JOSEPH

As this year has been dedicated to St.Joseph the department has telecasted reflections on St.Joseph under the title PATRIS CORDE in the month of March. It is inaugurated by Rev.Fr.Benny Mukalel CMI our provincial and the feast day reflection was given by Mar Ephrem Nariculam our bishop. The remaining reflections were given by our reverent fathers who are zealously working in Chanda Mission. It is telecasted on the C

Mission YouTube Channel. The department congratulates and thanks everyone who contributed to the cause of St. Joseph.

MUSIC MINISTRY

As part of the music ministry of the province the department has released a few new songs in Hindi and Malayalam which could be sung during Holy Masses Adorations and feast days of saints. Hearty congratulations to Rev. Fr. Meljo Parappuram, Rev. Fr. Anil Murmade, Rev. Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil and Bro. Jackson Palliparambil for their fruitful efforts in the music Ministry.

The department also produced a song on St. Joseph in Hindi and Malayalam languages as the present year has been dedicated to St. Joseph by Holy Father Pope Francis. The famous singers Kester and Anna Baby Sang the songs while Fr. Binoy Checkonthayil CMI gave the lyrics and Music. The Malayalam song was released by Rev. Fr. Benny Mukalel CMI, Provincial, CMI Mar Thoma Province Chanda and the Hindi song was released by Rev. Fr. George Kulangara CMI, Rector, Darsana, Philosophate, Wardha for the occasion of the feast of St. Joseph.

SANT CHAVARA MARG : (Sant Chavara Lane)

The recent (from 1970s) Settlement Bamni Beghar, at whose western end the former Sant Chavara Kalaniketan (2000) and Sant Chavara Hospital (2002) as well as the B.Ed College (2007) and CMI provincial house (2008) have been operating, was christened Amit Nagar some years ago. From its very inception Kalaniketan extended its warm CMI service to this locality and its neighbourhood, helping the education of the children, attending to their health, organizing picnics and festivals, with special attention on cultural training and sports. Out of the 192 houses constructed so far since 2007, 170 are in Amit Nagar.

As the women empowering activities progressed, proposals

came up to have some memorial of Kalaniketan, preferably naming the lane leading from the centre of the village to the children's study centre "Vidya Niketan", where more than 100 children from Std. 3 to 12 assemble every evening for their home studies, enjoying some refreshment of their taste, after Sant Chavara. The village leaders responded positively and the name board **SANT CHAVARA MARG / SANT CHAVARA LANE** was unveiled on the eve of Palm Sunday and of Holi 2021 in the hands of elected Panchayat Ward members Smt. Surekha Madavi and Mr. Santhosh Tekam with a hand ovation of many well wishers. Sant Chavara may guide all from Darkness to Light !!

CARMELODAYA PROVINCE, WARDHA

- Three of our Novices Nilima, Liya, Nima made their Vestition and First Profession on 21st April 2021 at the St. Xavier's Church, Pullur, Irinjalakuda Diocese. Rt. Rev. Bishop Mar Pauly Kannookadan was the main celebrant for the function. Among these Sisters, Sr. Nilima, daughter of Thomas and Maria belongs to Gojoli parish in Chanda Diocese.
- On 19th April 2021 Sr. Rose CMC. went to give 3 days Pre-Cana course at Ballarshah Bishop house pastoral centre conducted under the Able leadership of Rev. Fr. Kurian P. - Director of Department of CLC. There were around 75 couples who participated in the course. Since they were mixed group they were divided into two groups. The second group were for marriage rectification which were handled by Sr. Rose CMC. alone. They were around 20 couples who participated in this course. Topics like marriage as sacrament, living a healthy relationship- role models like couples for Christ, healthy parenting etc. were taught to them. They were also led into daily prayers & adoration & Holy Mass. Thus the Lord led them & us successfully throughout the 3 days. Thanks be to God.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

Annual Report of the Activities of the Catechism Department & Family Apostolate

Greetings from Department of Catechism and Family Apostolate!

Prayerful greetings in this lock down season. May the Holy Spirit protect us and enrich us in this me. We are happy to present a report on the activities of the Catechism Department and Family apostolate 2020 -2021

We are filled with hope in all that we as a Department of faith have accomplished in spite of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the pandemic, we have realized opportunities and new ways to continue ministry and outreach in this time of social distancing and isolation. We have donned our masks, maintained our social distance and have begun assessing how we can continue the mission of our department in a variety of ways virtually with live streaming, Google hangouts, and Zoom. The Entire department is thankful to everyone to successfully complete one more academic year. Hope the same enthusiasm will take you forward in the coming year also.

The following events were conducted by the department to motivate the faithful to spark the light in their hearts.

1. Sunday school and faith formation

Sunday catechism was the most effective way of giving faith formation for the children. The locked-down has forced the children not to come to the church for Sunday school. In this circumstance, the pedagogy of education is shifted from class rooms to online. This problem is opening new avenues of faith formation through online tutorials. The CLC Department with the help of CMC Sisters of Carmelodaya Province, Wardha started online intensive catechism, Solemn Holy Communion coaching etc.

The inaugural address was made by our Bp. Ephrem Nariculam stating the importance of faith formation in the life of the

church. As the online classes are found to be more affective and effective, we can think of continuing such services in the future too to complement our faith formation programme for which the

help of parents can be sought to make it more attractive and colorful with media aids.

2. Diocesan Level Catechism Annual Exam

The catechism department conducted Diocesan level Catechism Annual Exam on 19th February 2020 at Bishop's Home, Balharshah for the Balharshah, Brahmapuri, Wardha and Wirur foranes and for the Allapally forane it was conducted in the Forane church, Allapally. More than 250 children from our diocese participated in this event. The winners were honored with cash awards and trophies by the respective parish priests due to the corona pandemic.

3. Alpha Marriage Course

The Alpha Marriage course (AMC) is a pre-marital program that aims at preparing young men and women of marriageable age for Christian married life. It was held at Diocesan Pastoral Center, Balharshah from 19th March 2021 to 21st March 2021. Forty Six delegates from our diocese participated in it. Rt.Rev.Bp. Ephrem Nariculam graced the occasion with his presence. The event witnessed the esteemed presence of various other dignitaries like Fr. Varghese Puthuparambil CMI, Fr Mathew Nirappel, Fr. Shyju M, Dr. Majo, Sr Rose CMC and many more.

4. Post Marriage Course

The Post Marriage course (PMC) is the parenthood preparation programe which helps the couples to be good parents who, in turn, would train their children to lead an ideal Christian life. It was held at Diocesan Pastoral Center, Balharshah from 19th March 2021 to 22nd March 2021. Sixteen couple from our diocese participated in it. Rt. Rev. Bp. Ephrem Nariculam graced the occasion with his presence. The event witnessed the esteemed presence of various other dignitaries like Fr. Varghese Puthuparambil CMI, Dr. Majo, Sr Rose CMC and many more.

5. Spiritual retreats

"Strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Mt 6:33)

Recognizing family's central role in God's plan for humanity the ministry of Family Apostolate conducted a one day retreats for the parishioners of Mary Matha Church, Rajura and Shanti Nivas Church, Wirur during the Lenten season. Fr Kurian, Srs. Agatha and Viviana Shsp were the resource persons. The programme was well arranged. Thanks to Frs. Robinson, Vincent, Rev. Sisters and parishioners of the respective parishes.

6. Online liturgical and spiritual services.

The most dramatic result of Covid 19 in the ecclesial life is the quick shift of liturgical and spiritual services from in-person to online. Sunday Holy Mass, celebration of sacraments, sacramentals and Holy Week services are done online which was unimaginable in the beginning. But slowly and gradually people are getting adjusted to the new situations.

The services without the presence and participation of people have become an important challenge. The people being blocked to come to the Churches have opened a new possibility of living the faith in the families. Considering all these challenges the department is providing Sunday Homilies, Christmas messages by children, Life stories of Saints, Rosary devotion, May Month Devotion (vanakkamasam) etc through the online platform.

7. "CHRISTMAS FIESTA 2020"

The Ministry of Family Apostolate & Women's Commission, Diocese of Chanda

organized a National Online Competition For The Families "CHRISTMAS FIESTA 2020" including a Prayer, Christmas message & Carol singing. Around 85 families attended this competition from all over the India. Congratulations to all the prize winners and a huge thank you to all the awesome contestants who willingly responded to our advertisement in the social media and making this programme a wonderful one

8. "VITANOVA 2021"

As a remote preparation to Easter the Ministry of Catechism Department organized a Diocesan Level Online Competition which was open to all the faithful of Eparchy of Chanda.

The Competition will be conducted in 4 categories. Category 1 – Up to 10 years, Category 2 – Up to 15 years, Category 3 – Up to 18 years and category 4 General Category – 18 years and above. The medium of language was Marathi and Hindi. More than 250 contestants participated in this competition. Congratulations to all the prize winners and a huge thank you to all the awesome contestants who willingly responded and supported. We express a big thanks to everyone

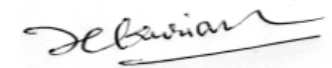
CONCLUSION

"Faith is born of an encounter with the living God, who calls us and reveals his love, a love which precedes us and upon which we can lean for security and for building our lives." (Lumen Fidei 4)

These words of Pope Francis are a reminder of the importance of the gift of faith in guiding our lives on a path of love and fulfillment as the people God created each of us to be. Faith Formation (Catechism Classes & Seminars) helps our children to make that "encounter with the living God" Pope Francis spoke of. It is our hope to make that faith formation experience one that brings joy and enthusiastic response from our children (and their parents) as they learn how much they are loved by God and the importance of being a part of a community of faith.

I acknowledge the deep dedication and hard work of our Rev.Fathers and Sisters Catechism teachers, staff, parents, students and benefactors whose unceasing contribution realized our dreams. We humbly thank every one of you for your love, cooperation and seek divine grace and blessings in all our endeavors. I would like to end by saying the quote – "Let us together illuminate the world."

Thank you.



Fr. Kurian Panayalil
CLC Department

VIII. NEWS FROM THE FORMATION HOUSES

SANT VIANNEY GURUKUL, NEW DAHELI:

Get together : It was a day filled with joy. We had gathering of both CMI Aspirants and S.V.G Brothers on 28 Feb 2021. Get together began with solemn Holy Mass by Bp. Ephrem Nariculam at 7am. Both rectors of the seminary and vice rectors were present; Fr. Shibu, Fr. C.C. George, Fr. Anil and Fr. Vivek. After Holy Mass we had breakfast after that brothers were divided into three mixed groups, at 10am we had basketball match and several other indoor games. Then we had a delicious lunch at 1pm then brothers had little rest and interaction. At 2pm we arranged fifteen minutes cultural programme for each group, fathers evaluated programmes. Then at 3pm we had friendly cricket match then we had tea. Then gifts were distributed for the groups and individuals, then Fr. Shibu Monipally proposed vote his words of gratitude to all those who are gathered for the get together. At 5pm CMI aspirants returned back to their house with great joy and happy.



DARSANA INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY, WARDHA

MISSION WEEK: Being with the Missionaries

Covi-19 busted many of our opportunities this year 2019. Taking opportunity of the mission Sunday to get out of boring and regular schedule Darsanites conducted a mission week. To encourage everybody to mission and to experience a real mission we went to Jam for one day mission experience where Fr. Varghese Puthuparampil was serving in his ashram for mentally challenged people. It was a good experience for everyone. We conducted games and interacted with inmates. It was really

challenging to manage them. We also had a live interview with Fr. Varghese. His views on mission challenged all of us to be a good missionary. Along with that for a week we had live interviews of veteran missionary fathers and sisters by our brothers. Every experience was like a if they were really calling us to see the real face of missionaries.

In the midst of this, on November 1 we celebrated mission Sunday solemnly. Starting with solemn Holy Qurbana, then felicitating some real life missionaries we had different programmes for the parisoners. We prepared food stalls, games stalls and auction was also held. Considering the protocols everybody enjoyed the mission Sunday fruitfully. It was a happy day for Darsanites because we were able to conduct the programmes successfully.

ADAY FOR THE FLOCK

In the midst of the pandemic when there was no way for parish or family ministry for brothers, we Darsanites conducted a one day retreat for our parisoners. Brothers took initiative to visit families and pray with them for retreat. With rosary, small prayer service and a speech delivered by our brothers made the whole atmosphere spiritual for the families. In three days they completed all the assigned families. On December 20 Sunday the retreat was held. Almost every family came for retreat. The retreat was wholly led by the brothers. Two retreat talks and praise and worship conducted by brothers changed the whole ambience of the people present there. It gave a good spiritual wave for everyone to pray and meditate on God's blessings and gifts. After a solemn Holy Mass the retreat got over. The retreat between the pandemic boosted the self-confidence of the budding young missionaries.

A day with the Angels

To see mission more closely, as a part of Christmas we invited inmates who were physically and mentally disabled from Sevasadan and sanjeevani ashram. Brothers charted a programme for them. We conducted games and action songs for them. Everybody especially brothers from Kerala provinces interacted and enjoyed lot with the inmates. There was also lunch prepared for them. They were all very happy that they were able to come out of their secluded world amidst the pandemic.

Do...Re...Me...Fa...So....

Music academy was an initiative of our brothers to grow more in learning musical instruments. It also became a medium of enjoyment for brothers during the pandemic. Around six instruments like flute, harmonium, violin, tabala, triple and guitar are being taught to brothers by their own batch mates who are experts in these fields. There was also a musical night held by these brothers during Christmas. Everybody loved the performance of the brothers. Covid-19 paved a good opportunity for the innovative use of time by brothers. All the music academics come alive during the noon recreation.

APLAY ON DEVASAHAM PILLAI

Under the leadership of Fr. Rector and Fr. Animator Darsana was able to play 2 hour drama in English on Devasaham Pillai, the martyr of Christ. It was really a challenging task for our brothers, during this pandemic to set up the drama. Yet everything went so well and good. The drama was played on the valedictory of DKS and DSKS (Darsana Kala Samithi and Darsana Samaj Kalyan Samithi). Everybody enjoyed the show very much. More than that we were able to convey the message of hope and salvation through the life of Devasaham Pillai

VISIT TO SANJEEVANI ASHRAM FOR SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

Under the banner of prayer group brothers decided to visit Sanjeevani Ashram a centre for retreat and frontier ministry to pray and meditate. It was a one-day visit. All arrangements were done by brothers. They spent a whole day in prayer and meditation. Talks were also given by Fr. Rector and the SJB sisters at the ashram. Brothers were more motivated and everybody enjoyed the spiritual atmosphere at the ashram.

PRAYER REQUEST

Please pray for our Deacons.....



Dn. Shine Manjaly

Date of Ordination : 16th June 2021
 Venue : St. Mary's Church,
 Thumbarassery
 (Irinjalakuda Diocese)
 Time : 9.30 AM

Dn. Benson Puthenpurakal

Date of Ordination : 17th June 2021

Venue : St. Mary's Forane church, Muttom
 (Ernakulam-Angamali Archdiocese)

Time : 9.30 AM



Dn. Bernard Kujur

Date of Ordination : 25th September 2021

Venue : St. Alphonsa church, Jarawandi
 (Chanda Diocese)

Time : 10.00 AM



HEAVENLY BRETHREN**JUNE**

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Sr. Jesslima SD | 02-06-1995 | Chethipuzha |
| 2. Sr. Clementia SHSp | 04-06-2018 | Germany |
| 3. Fr. Davis Kannampuzha CMI | 07-06-2006 | Bellampall |
| 4. Fr. Alex Ukken CMI | 11-06-2006 | Irinjalakuda |
| 5. Sr. Justina SD | 16-06-2002 | Wardha |
| 6. Fr. Antony Cyriac Chirayil CMI | 28-06-2002 | Bellampalli |
| 7. Sr. Lutgardis SJB | 24-06-2018 | Germany |

JULY

- | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|
| 1. Fr. Diego Kodankandath CMI | 01-07-2004 | Pavarty |
| 2. Fr. Mathew Manikompel CMI | 09-07-2009 | Mutholy |
| 3. Fr. Christian Plakatt CMI | 12-07-2005 | Mutholy |
| 4. Fr. Callistus Chavarananickal CMI | 14-07-2011 | Ballarpur |
| 5. Sr. Infant Mary FCC | 16-07-1998 | Bhopal |
| 6. Fr. Mathew Kalarickal CMI | 17-07-2003 | Bellampalli |
| 7. Bro. Michael Nellikunnel CMI (Aspirant) | 23-07-1988 | Ballarpur |
| 8. Sr. (Dr.) Jose Maria FCC | 25-07-2004 | Aluva |
| 9. Fr. Remiji Nadackal CMI | 30-07-1991 | Yellareddy |
| 10. Sr. Auxillia ASMI | 10-07-2015 | Allapally |

AUGUST

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Sr. Vijaya FCC | 11-08-1991 | Muvattupuzha |
| 2. Sr. Amala SD | 11-08-2000 | Chethipuzha |
| 3. Sr. Priya SJB | 13-08-1998 | Hinganghat |
| 4. Fr. Joseph Koikara CMI | 14-08-2017 | Kochi |
| 5. Fr. Thomas Pandipally CMI | 16-08-2008 | Bellampally |
| 6. (Candidate) Tessa SD | 21-08-1997 | Athirampuzha |
| 7. Fr. James Thottapally CMI | 25-08-1986 | Neeleswaram |
| 8. Fr. Dharmanand Muttathottal CMI | 25-08-1990 | Ballarpur |

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|--|------------|-------------|
| 1. Sr. Hilaria Kochuparambil SD | 01-09-2014 | |
| 2. Sr. Deepthi SJB | 09-09-2009 | Vettukad |
| 3. Bro. Jose Vetticattil SG | 18-09-2005 | Hyderabad |
| 4. Fr. Dan Thottakara CMI | 20-09-1997 | Kalamassery |
| 5. Fr. Eugene Thopmas Kizhakethala CMI | 22-09-2002 | Bellampally |
| 6. Sr. Mercy SSS | 23-09-2006 | Mallussery |
| 7. Sr. Justina Francis ASMI | 26-09-2000 | Cherthala |
| 8. Sr. Stephy Maria DM | 30-09-1994 | Ballarpur |
| 9. Fr. Suresh V.C. | 30-09-2012 | Janampet |

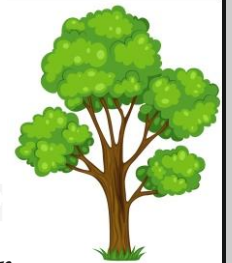
OBITUARY

- | | | |
|------------|---|--|
| 08/02/2021 | : | Sr. Reni MSMI, Beloved aunt of Fr. Shibu Monipallil |
| 12/02/2021 | : | Mr. Santhosh Khekar, beloved brother of Sr. Savitha SD |
| 17/02/2021 | : | Mr. Augustine Choorakal, beloved Father of Fr. Prem Choorackal CMI |
| 24/02/2021 | : | Mr. V. T. Mathai, beloved cousin of Bro. Kuriakose SG |
| 24/02/2021 | : | Mr. Thomas Vadakkemury, beloved brother of Fr. Jose Vadekkemury |

Quotes

“ The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between how nature works and the way people think. ”

– Gregory Bateson



Homage to Bishop Joseph Pastor Neelankavil (90)



Bishop Joseph Pastor Neelankavil, Bishop emeritus of Sagar Diocese, was called for eternal rest on 17th February, 2021 in Kerala. As the ashes of his mortal remains were taken to Sagar Diocese for last rites, en route, it was brought to Jam on 21st Feb, 6.00 pm and kept it in the chapel of Santwana CMC Convent to pay homage and prayers. In the name of Chanda family Fr. Varghese Puthuparampil

CMI, Proto-syncellus, and CMC Sisters paid homage and offered prayers for the repose of the soul. Fr. Devamitra and Fr. Babu Chiriyamkadath of Sagar Diocese were accompanying the casket containing the ashes. Special prayers and the Office for the Dead were prayed and all the assembled offered floral tributes to Bishop Neelankavil. Fr. Varghese Puthuparampil cmi, Mother Lilly Grace cmc, the Provincial and the CMC Sisters from both convents of Jam and Samudrapur, were present for the prayers. After the prayers Fr. Devamitra spoke to the assembled community about the life of late Bishop Neelankavil highlighting his missionary works in the Diocese of Sagar. By 7.15 pm they resumed their journey to Sagar.

Bishop Joseph Pastor Neelankavil cmi

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Born | 19 th March, 1930 |
| First Vows | 1951 |
| Priestly Ordination | 1960 |
| Episcopal Ordination | 1987 |
| Emeritus | 2006 |
| Called to Eternal Rest | 17 th February, 2021 |

Fr. George Kalapurackal CMI

“If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.”
(Romans 14: 8)

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--------------|
| Born to love | : | 27. 10. 1932 |
| Professed to serve | : | 15. 10. 1952 |
| Ordained to minister | : | 17. 05. 1960 |
| Died to live forever | : | 24. 01. 2021 |



Rev. Fr. George Kalapurackal CMI (88), a member of the Mar Thoma Province, Chanda was called to eternal rest on 24 January 2021 after receiving the last sacrament at Rajagiri Hospital, Aluva where he was admitted two days earlier complaining uneasiness in his chest. His more than six decades of life and service as a religious priest in the CMI Congregation, bear witness to the undaunted spirit of a sage who immersed in serious quest for true wisdom and his unflinching faith in his Master who called him to be His instrument of peace and love. Fr. George Kalapurackal manifested this quest for in his life throughout his priestly and religious existence without fear, doubt and uncertainty. His love embraced all: an all-inclusive love which prompted him to pray and wish *Lokah Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu*.

He was born of Mr. Agasthy and Mrs. Mariam Kalapurackal at Thazhuvamkundu in the diocese of Kothamangalam on 27 October 1932. After schooling he joined the CMI Congregation as an aspirant at St. Joseph's Monastery, Mannanam in 1950. He did his novitiate at Little Flower Novitiate, Ambazhakad and made his first profession on October 15, 1952. After his philosophical studies at Chethipuzha and

Koonammavu he moved to Dharmaram College, Bangalore for his theological studies. He was ordained a priest on 17 May 1960.

After his ordination, he worked in Kerala for a period of two years and he opted for the Chanda Mission, the first mission territory entrusted to Syro Malabar Church and to the CMI Congregation. He landed in Chanda in 1965 with other eleven fathers. In the Chanda Mission he served as its Vicar General, finance administrator and procurator of the Mission headquarters at Balharshah. He also discharged the responsibility of the Guru of aspirants and taught them Latin, Syriac and English. He was in charge of the building of the present Bishop's House at Balharshah, Chanda. In 1974 he moved to Rome for higher studies in Sociology at Angelicum. After this he shifted his area of pastoral care to the United States of America where he served as associate pastor for about 40 long years in different diocese like Gary, New York and Beaumont.

Fr. George was an icon of peace which is easily notable in his pleasant and welcoming presence. The mental peace that he enjoyed is very evident in his conversation with anybody. Anybody who had a chance to meet him will return with an impression of meeting someone from whom the divine peace emanated. Sincerity, transparency, accountability and obedience to the superiors were virtues that shined in him in an unparalleled way. He was a calm, pious and happy religious who did not make any hue and cry over anything that would disturb his peace of mind and his commitment to God. His forgiving love and compassionate attitude to humanity at large are the highlights of his personality and they all bespoke of his exemplary commitment to religious and priestly life. He did his works and moved as a silent worker with no malice to anyone. His only concern and care were to know God and to find Him in all possible ways. He read voraciously and his reading materials varied from religion to nature, from humanity to divinity and from the Holy Bible to the Vedas. He was a man of minimum things and his possessions were a few books and some newspaper and magazine cuttings on topics related to God, Nature and

Humanity. All this stem from his prayer and wish that everybody in the world live peacefully and happily (*Lokah Samasta Sukhino Bhavantu*).

His philosophy and theology covered all good things in all religions. The depth of his interiority and the width of his spirituality were unfathomable. His presence and life-style showed simplicity personified and his pleasant face manifested a content Carmelite who is very happy to be called and chosen by God to spread His peace and love. He was always thirsty for knowledge and this made him to be experimental always. This experimental mode was very explicit in his efforts to find e-friends through emails and WhatsApp after his return from the States. He could very well synchronize various philosophies and theologies in such a way that he could see the divine presence in everything in the nature and more so in human beings which prompted him to respect the other and give its due importance to everything in the nature. Taking inspiration from his studies of various religions he believed that we belong to a community where everybody and everything has a right to live and own a place in this universe, our 'Common Home.'

He was called to eternal reward on January 24, 2021 due to multiple organ failure and staying in the Rajagiri hospital for one and a half day. The passage to eternity was smooth after receiving the Last Sacrament. The first part of the funeral ceremonies began at 10.30 a.m. on 25th January, 2021 at Tera Nur, Thaikattukara, Aluva where he was a member during his final days of his earthly sojourn and it was led by Rev. Fr. Benny Joseph Mukalel CMI, Provincial of Mar Thoma Province, Chanda. Then the mortal remains was brought to Carmel Monastery at Vazhakulam, near to his native village, Thazhuvamkunnu. The second part of the funeral ceremony was led by Rev. Fr. Josey Thamarassery CMI, the Vicar-General of CMI Congregation. The main celebrant of the funeral Mass was His Excellency Mar Sebastian Vaniapurackal, the Curia Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Church. The last part of the funeral ceremony was presided over by His Excellency Mar George Madathikandathil of

Kothamangalalm. Rev. Fr. Johny Edapulavan CMI, former Provincial of Mar Thoma Province, Chanda, preached the homily on the occasion. He was buried at Carmel Monastery, Vazhakulam.

Let us thank the Almighty for blessing the CMI Congregation and Mar Thoma Province, Chanda through the tranquil, inspiring and motivating religious personality of Rev. Fr. George Kalapurackal and pray that the Risen Lord keep his obedient servant always with him and grant him everlasting joy and peace.



A Tribute to Sr. Regina Mary ASMI

Death : 25-01-2021



Sr. Regina Mary was born on 14th February 1933 as the third child of her parents Augustine and Annamma Panthapillil at Moozhur, in the diocese of Pala. She had 3 brothers and 3 sisters, among whom one brother is a Jesuit priest now in Delhi. Her baptismal name was Annamma. Young Annamma did her schooling at Moozhur, was very brilliant and completed her studies in 1951. She joined the Congregation of the ASMI on 19th April, 1954, She belongs to the 2nd batch who joined in the initial struggles of our Father Founder to bring up the Congregation as a pioneer member. She made her 1st Profession on 11th Feb 1957. As a junior sister she was sent to Ireland for the study of Nursing and returned after the completion of her studies in 1962. She committed her whole life to God by her Final Profession 11th Feb 1963.

She has done her selfless services in communities like Kotagiri, and Talavady(TN) Vallakom and Cherthala in Kerala, in

Narayanpur (CG). She was the administrator in our Leprosy hospital Greengardens, with a number of 200 inmates and she managed the hospital single handedly with extraordinary efficiency and won the hearts of all the patients and of the locality. 1981 onwards for about 26 years she worked in the Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre at Nimbhora, Amravati diocese, along with Rev. Fr. James Vakamala who was her class mate and neighbor in Muzhur, Pala. She lived in the hearts of all the leprosy patients there, even now they keep asking for her. Her heart melted with love and compassion for them and strived to earn a livelihood for them and for their family members

From 2007 onwards she was in Jeevoday Nagpur, then a short time in Ashadeep Amravati and from 2015 onwards in Assisi Sevasadan, Allapalli. During these years she suffered the gradual loss of eye sight and hearing, still she had a keen memory.

All the ASMIs will unanimously agree that they all experienced Sr. Regina's personal love. She knew each one individually with their former names, family members etc. Accordingly, she was praying for each one and all used to approach her for their prayer intentions. She was also concerned for the growth of vocations to religious life and priesthood, and praying for them very sincerely. She was a constant intercessor for our Congregation, for different dioceses and for the whole Church.

She was a self-disciplined person, strict to herself and with others, faithful to her commitment in all levels. She has taught us never to tell a lie even for the sake of fun. She used to inspire the young priests and the formees telling them about the power of taking the Name of Jesus, and in countless ways she could touch their hearts. She lived as a religious with full contentment and radiated that joy to everyone she met.

In the past 5 years she spent her life in Allapalli, depending

on others due to her poor eye sight and hearing. Still she could pray the rosary and many other prayers which she had by-hearted several years ago. Gradually she lost her eyesight. Since a year she lost her memory too. Her vocabulary reduced into just two words: 'Eesho', 'Amme'. The whole house reverberated with these words and the house was indeed sanctified by these words coming from her heart. Only these words and no complaints ever came out of her mouth. The sisters of Sevasadan community took care of her with great love and care day and night.

She became weaker gradually and now at the age of 87 she completed her race. On 24th Jan 2021 evening she started sinking; she was given final anointing by Rev. Fr. Sebastian Orapuzhickal CMI the Parish Priest. On 25th January 2021, by 4.45 am, she surrendered her life into the hands of her divine bridegroom; she had a peaceful passing away which testifies the holy and peaceful life she lived.

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

May the life and example left by Sr. Regina kindle the fire of love and missionary spirit in us.

MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE



Rev. Sr. Neena CMC

BORN: 29-11-1938

FIRST VOW:- 18-05-1961

DIED: 14-04-2021

“Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life.” Rev.2/10

Sr. Neena was born on 29th Nov. 1938 as the 5th child of Porinchu and Kathrina. She hails from Kannumkuni family in the parish of Kallettumkara, belongs to the Eparchy of Irinjalakuda. The pious parents were blessed with six children and admired by the saintly life of their parents' two of them dedicated their life to God. Sr. Neena's elder sister Sr.Sparantia CMC belongs to Udaya province Irinjalakuda and continues her journey doing the apostolate of prayer.

Sr.Neena entered into the religious life after competing her Hindi Praveen training. She made her first profession in the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel on 18th May 1961 and her final profession was on 13th May 1965.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.” Imbibing the Spirit of this word of God Sr.Neena began her service at St. Mary's convent Ollur, Trichur Arch diocese, as a vibrant and zealous Hindi teacher and served there for 9 years and she continued her service with enthusiasm in St.Paul's convent Kuriachira for 8 years. After that Sr.Neena had a special call to serve in the mission and thus she began her missionary life in Shadol, Deori, and moved to Kagaz nagar, Sindola, Bombay, Bangalore, and Delhi a Generalate house. She also served at Thommana the recruiting house of the Province and in the Provincial house Wardha. She served as a superior of the house at Deepthi Bhavan Deori, Mt.Carmel convent Sindola & Carmel convent Bangalore. In all these years Sr.Neena proved that the service of our fellow brethren is service to God himself.

Apart from serving the congregation in various convents, Sr. Neena also had a unique privilege to do her apostolate of prayer at Potta Ashram for 3 years, Divine ashram Muringoor for

5 years and at Ballarsha Bishop's house for 4 years. She served Bishop Januarius with great dedication at Bishop's home, during his last days. She was very much aware of her call to pray for the salvation of souls thus she spent long hrs. in incessant prayers for the whole world.

The last 10 years of her life she was in Mt. Carmel Convent, Katol. There too she proved that there is nothing small in the service of God. So through her deep faith in God which was so immense paved the way for bringing people to the Lord, particularly the village named Savargaon near Katol was blessed to receive and experience the Word of God and come to faith in true God.

She possessed a unique nature of caring and loving sisters like a mother. She had a great respect towards the priests and seminarians; she even taught them Hindi language. She was very much interested in the agriculture and loved to be with the nature. She was extra careful to treat the poor with love and respect. She would work hard and perform her entrusted duties with utmost sincerity and faithfulness.

During the last days of her life she found deteriorating health so she was transferred to the Carmelodaya Provincial House, Wardha from Mt. Carmel Convent, Katol. As she was faithful in her commitment to the Lord throughout her life, she continued to be faithful even in the crucial days of her suffering. Though she struggled during her final days she obtained a marvelous grace of a holy and peaceful death in the presence of a priest Fr. Baiju CMF so with the priestly blessings and prayers she breathed her last on 14th April at 12.30pm.

The funeral rites of Sr. Neena were conducted on 15th April at 9.am at Carmelodaya Provincial house, Wardha. On this

occasion we were blessed to have the gracious presence of his Excellency Mar Ephrem Nariculam, bishop of Chanda, Rev. Fr. Varghese Puthuparambil CMI, the vicar general of the diocese and Rev. Fr. Vincent Pangola the Vicar, forane Church Wardha, to officiate the holy liturgy and due to the protocol of Covid-19 only few fathers and sisters were allowed to take part in the ceremony. The Eucharistic community offered incessant prayers for God's blessings upon our Sr. Neena, on her voyage to the heavenly abode.



Fr. George Canisius Kachiramattam CMI

Birth: 04.06.1936

First Profession: 16.05.1959

Ordination: 01.12.1964

Death: 18.04.2021

“One who cannot pray can never be a missionary” (Fr. Canisius Kachiramattom CMI)



The St. Paul of Chanda Mission, Marathi Father and the Solace of the Poor and the Suffering, Fr. George Canisius Kachiramattam CMI left for his eternal reward on 18 April, 2021 at the age of 85. He could be called 'The Missionary' as he zealously spent his whole life dedicating to the Lord in spreading His message of Love. *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Mt:28;19-20)*. These words of Jesus were the driving force behind his 55 years of relentless service to the poor people in Chanda Mission.

Fr. George Canisius Kachiramattam was born of Mr. Mathai and Mrs. Therese Kachiramattam on 04 June, 1936 as the youngest son of ten children. He joined the CMI Congregation in 1956 and had his aspirancy at Mannanam and Mutholy. He did his novitiate at S. H. Monastery, Chethipuzha and made his first profession on 16 May, 1959. He had his Philosophy and Theology Studies at Dharmaram from 1960-1964. He was ordained a priest on 01 December, 1964 at the National Eucharistic Congress held at Bombay when the Holy Father Pope Paul VI visited India.

He had deep faith in the Lord and nothing could hinder him from going to the peripheries of Chanda Mission. We can say with conviction, *“How Beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news” (Rom: 10:15)*. It is cent percent true about Fr. Canisius. He was exceptionally enthusiastic in serving the Lord. He began his mission journey in 1967 at Shanti Nivas Church, Wirur and continued till the last moment of his life.

The new mission stations established by him at Warur, Pattaguda, Wani, Shengaon, and Jiwati tell how zealous he was for the Lord. Even at his old age he was very particular in going to the villages, meeting people and helping them in their needs. He also served at Kopreli, Gomini and Gojoli. He used to say *“One who cannot pray can never be a missionary.”* It was this conviction that led him and inspired him to venture into any hardship for the spreading of the Gospel of Love. His one year stay at Anudhavana Mission Novitiate at Mancherial as its Spiritual Director did help and guide the young seminarians in their future mission work. One year he went to Manila, Philippines and attended a refresher course; only to come back rejuvenated and refreshed to go again to the sheep and he became a real shepherd who had the smell of his sheep.

All those who worked with him: fathers, sisters and laymen were of the same opinion that it is Fr. Canisius who had taught them about the basics of the Mission Work. He was a Father to them who

always supported them in their needs. He was always at their help in their joys and sorrows, difficulties and trials, sickness and health, etc. He was a great model for them in their mission journey in Chanda. In other words, he was a blessing for all of us like Abraham in the Old Testament.

He was very simple, punctual and humble in his behaviour. He was also a true follower of the ideals of the first bishop of Chanda, late Bp. Januarius Palathuruthy CMI who always requested his priests to go to villages by foot and cycle wherever possible. Fr. Canisius shared everything dynamically divine as Bishop Januarius said *“Sambhaje Mahi Divyani”*, or let us share everything dynamically divine. He also considered everything in the universe as members of the Universal Family or *Viswakudumbam* of Bp. Vijay Anand Nedumpuram CMI. People described him in different ways: *“man with a smile that emanated divinity; priest imbued in simplicity and humility; one who finds contentment in fully submitting himself to the will of the Superiors; man with a serene demeanour which instilled hope; the bright-eyed soldier of the Lord....”*

Fr. Canisius was diagnosed with leukaemia or blood cancer in the month of March and was under the treatment at Rajagiri Hospital, Chunangumveli. His ardent desire to go back to Chanda Mission could not be materialised as his health condition deteriorated drastically and he breathed his last on 18 April, 2021 after receiving the holy anointing of the sick.

His body was brought to Tera Nur, Chanda Bhavan, Aluva on 24 April, 2021 and the first part of the burial was conducted by Fr. Benny Mukalel CMI, Provincial, Mar Thoma Province, Chanda. Later, his body was taken to St. Pious X Monastery, Amanakara for the burial. Bishop Emeritus Joseph Kunnath CMI conducted the second part of the burial and the Holy Mass was officiated by Bishop Prince Panengadan of Adilabad Diocese. The final part of the burial was conducted by Bishop Joseph Kallarangattu of Pala Diocese. Rev.

Fr. Johny Edapulavan CMI gave a fitting tribute to Fr. Canisius through the homily.

We remember with gratitude everyone who supported in conducting the burial of Fr. Canisius. We remember with gratitude Fr. Mathew Thayil, Prior and community members of CMI Monastery, Amanakara for their wholehearted support in the final sojourn of Fr. Canisius in the Ashram. May God grant Fr. Canisius eternal rest.

I request you to offer the suffrages for the Departed as mentioned in the Directory No. 58 (b).

Fr. Joy Parappilly CMI
 Prefect, Mar Thoma Provincial House
 Bamini, Chanda



Rev. Fr. Paul Kattamkottil CMI

Birth: 08.08.1938 First Profession: 16.05.1960
 Ordination: 17.05.1967 Death: 29.04.2021



“But of that day or that hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch; for you do not know when the time will come” (Mt. 13:32).
 We knew that Fr. Paul Kattamkottil was very sick but little did we know that the Lord will take him soon. He was a simple man who was always available for the Lord and People.

Fr. Paul was born as the second son of Mr. Ipe and Mrs. Eli Kattamkottil on 08 August, 1938. He joined the CMI Congregation in 1957 at Aluva and had his aspirancy at Aluva and Koonammavu. He did his novitiate at Karukutty and made his first profession on 15 May, 1960. Then he moved to Dharmaram College

for his Philosophical studies. Later he was sent to Raigardh-Ambigapur CMI Mission for Regency. Then he completed his theological studies from Dharmaram College and was ordained a priest on 17 May, 1967.

He came to Chanda Mission in 1968 and after a short course in Marathi language he was appointed at Brahmapuri Mission Station as assistant to Fr. Dan Thottakara CMI. He was made in-charge of the Brahmapuri mission in 1971. From 1975 -1978 he was appointed Superior at Prabhu Sadan, Tarsa. In 1980 he was sent to the USA for Pastoral Ministry and served there till 1984. Coming back from the USA he took up the responsibility of the director of the Christianad Hospital, Brahmapuri and continued to serve there till 1987. After that he was ascribed to Prabhu Sadan, Tarsa for a short period. In 1987 he was appointed Parish Priest at Tera Prem Church, Warur. As he was serving at Warur Parish he was diagnosed with acute or chronic renal problems in 1995 and was sent to Kerala for treatment. The doctors at Medical Trust Hospital, Ernakulam confirmed the renal failure and asked to go for kidney replacement. His own younger brother Thomas donated one of his kidneys and the transplant was conducted in 1995. With the transplanted kidney Fr. Paul served the Lord for a long period of 26 years by staying at Tera Nur, Chanda Bhavan, Aluva.

During that last few months he developed swelling on his body and was taken to Carmel Hospital, Aluva where he used to go for medical treatment. He was diagnosed with Covid – 19 as soon as he was taken to the hospital on 28 April, 2021 and breathed his last the next day after receiving the Holy Communion in the morning. He was buried at Mother of Dolours CMI Monastery, Malayinkeezhu, Kothamangalam on the same day following the COVID -19 protocol.

He was known as 'Photo Father' at Brahmapuri with the beautiful photos he had taken. He had the privilege of being selected to take photos at the National Eucharist Congress held at Bombay in 1964 when the Holy Father Pope Paul VI visited India. Some of his photos were selected as cover pages for various books on St. Chavara and

Others. He had a special talent to get sponsorships for poor children for their studies and living. He was very particular in reaching out to the poor village people with the CRS food service and other welfare schemes.

He used to request people who came to him to “smile please,” and has been smiling till he fell seriously sick. He was ever thankful to the Lord for his life and especially to his brother Thomas, the doctors and others who made his life last for 83 long years. He had been serving at the confessional at Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor, Potta and Chittoor for the last 22 years and also in the nearby convents helping them with Mass and other spiritual services. His social contacts had no bounds and had an uncanny knack to meet people and offer them his services. He used to visit the Chanda Mission and the members of the Province whenever he had a chance. He had great love for Chanda Mission.

I am grateful to Fr. Biju Koottaplackal, Provincial, Carmel Province, Muvattupuzha, Fr. George Kochuparambil, Prior and members of the Mother of Dolours CMI Monastery for their wholehearted support for burying Fr. Paul there. I remember with gratitude Sr. Helen CMC, administrator and other co-workers of Carmel Hospital, Aluva for taking care of Fr. Paul. We do remember with gratitude the good will and timely help offered by the Samaritan Group of Volunteers from St. Teresa's Forane Church, Vallam for helping and preparing Fr. Paul's mortal remains for burial due to the COVID – 19 pandemic situations.

May the Lord grant Fr. Paul Kattamkottil eternal rest.

I request you to offer the suffrages for the Departed as mentioned in the Directory No. 58 (b).

Fr. Aisteen Vadakkumchery CMI
Prefect, Tera Nur, Chanda Bhavan, Aluva