



Santhome Voice



**Bulletin of
St. Thomas Province, India**

Claretian Missionaries

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“FOR THIS IS HOW GOD LOVED THE WORLD: HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON” (Jn 3:16)

**GRACE-FILLED
AND
MERRY
FEAST
OF THE
NATIVITY!**



**BLESSED
AND
FRUITFUL
MISSIONARY
NEW YEAR
2012!**

Christmas beckons us to proclaim Jesus Christ, love-incarnate-of-God to the whole creation. May the feast of the nativity of Jesus Christ bring reconciliation, joy and peace into your heart, into your family and in to everything that you do and say!

Fr. Thomas Vattukulam, CMF
Provincial Superior

Dear Brothers and Friends,

We are celebrating Christmas! The memory of an epoch making event of love and hope! God became man and dwelt among us. God is not distant, He is near. He is “Emmanuel”: God-with-us. He is no stranger to us; He has a face, the face of Jesus. This message is ever new and ever surprising, for it surpasses even our most daring hope. “The Word became flesh”. The Word and the flesh are mutually opposed realities; how can the eternal and almighty Word become a frail and mortal man? There is only one answer: Love. One who loves shares it with the other; he/she wants to be one with the beloved. Bible shows us the greatest love story of God with his people in and through Jesus Christ.

The Incarnation is the culmination of creation. When Jesus, the Son of God incarnate, was formed in the womb of Mary by the will of the Father and the working of the Holy Spirit, creation reached its high point. The ordering principle of the universe, the Logos, began to exist in the world, in history, at Bethlehem.

“The Word became flesh”, it is a mystery of love. Only those who are open to love are enveloped in the joy and light of Christmas. So it was on that night in Bethlehem, and so it is today. Incarnation is an event within history, while at the same time transcending it. In the darkness of the world a new light was kindled, one which lets itself be seen by

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“The Word became flesh” the proclamation of Christmas is also a light for all peoples, for the collective journey of humanity. “Emmanuel”, God-with-us, has come as King of justice and peace. We know that his Kingdom is not of this world, and yet it is more important than all the kingdoms of this world. It is like the leaven of humanity, where it is lacking, the energy to work for true development would flag; the impulse to work together for the common good, in the disinterested service of our neighbour, in the peaceful struggle for justice. Belief in God who desired to share in our history constantly encourages us in our own commitment at this moment, to face all challenges. It is a source of hope for everyone whose dignity is offended and violated, since the one born in Bethlehem came to set every man and woman free from all enslavement.

May the light of Christmas shine forth anew in each one of us, in our land and in the whole world! May the comforting message of the coming of Emmanuel ease the anguish that torments us and bring consolation amid confusions and profit making, bringing peace and unity among races and regions. May it also bring joy and peace to those who suffer for justice and peace in the world. May the true liberator of the world bring joy, dialogue and reconciliation in their lives.

We are very happy to receive the greatest gift of God to the Church and the Congregation in eight of our students who are getting ordained to priesthood after Christmas. Let us thank the Lord for his blessings and also thankfully adore the Lord for the many blessings we have received in the year 2011. Let us also resolve to implement the Patris Mei year of ‘Forge’ with motivation. “Before we dutifully proclaim the Lord’s Word, we should first listen to it in attentive meditation and also share it with our brothers so that we ourselves may be converted to the Gospel, become conformed to Christ and set afire with his love, the force that should impel us” (CC 34). The last sentence is clear: the Word is the fire that can become inflamed and to be urgent, that give us the gift of missionary zeal.

We have advanced along this road that was a road trafficked by Claret.

Dear brothers and friends, “the Word became flesh”; he came to dwell among us; he is Emmanuel, the God who became close to us. Together let us contemplate this great mystery of love; let our hearts be filled with the light which shines in the stable of Bethlehem!

To everyone, a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year 2012!

Fr. George Kollampampil, CMF
Prefect of Spirituality

MISSION DARSAN

BANGALORE, CLARET NILAYAM

Parish Day of St. Sebastian’s Church and MCWA Annual Day Celebration, Mathikere:

Parish Day and MCWA Annual Day Celebration were held on 6 November at Mathikere, St. Sebastian Church. Rev. Dr. Thomas Vattukullam, cmf, Provincial Superior of the province of St Thomas, was the main celebrant of the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration and the chief guest of the day. The provincial made emphasis on family prayer and study the Word of God to become an effective instrument for the new evangelization. The ward competitions on skits based on moral and biblical themes, colourful cultural programmes of the catechism students, youth, and Matru Jyothi added richness to the event; the function ended with agape meal. In connection with the anniversary we conducted sports and games competitions for the parents, youth and children. Thus the whole celebration was extremely life giving and unifying for the parish community.



Felicitation of Sr. Simi George MSMI: Sr. Simi George MSMI first religious sister from St. Sebastian Church belonging to MSMI congregation was felicitated on 13 November 2011. Former parish priests Frs. John Poovathany, Binu Kezhakkalamthottam and George Valiyamyilil joined and felicitated the sister on this occasion. We hope the younger generation will follow the example of Sr. Simi.

One Day Retreat for Parents: One day retreat on “Responsible Parenthood” was conducted under the guidance of Rev. Fr. James Kunnil, Former Director of Family Apostolate of Archdiocese of Changanassery on 4 December 2011. All the participants appreciated the retreat and thanked the Lord for the spiritual renewal.

CARE Home, Bangalore: CARE Home in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kollegal and Rotary Inner Wheel organized a Rally at Kollegal on 1 December, World AIDS Day. The Rally was inaugurated by the District Judge at 10.30 Am. The short message by the District Judge highlighted the need to work for the prevention of HIV. He highly appreciated the works of the NGOs in this field in bringing proper awareness of this disaster on the World AIDS Day which will create an idea in the minds of the young to act in the society to prevent the spread of the disease. There were 1400 students from 12 Schools and a Nursing School. Many Auto rickshaw drivers and local people joined the Rally. The Students were holding placards displaying the messages about prevention of HIV/AIDS and were distributing leaflets about HIV/AIDS. CARE Home awarded the participating schools with a shield.



Fr. Mathew Panackakuzhy, Director of CARE Home, Bangalore, gave away the shields, Fr. Thomas Manamel also took part actively in the days programme.

Visit to Orphanage: The youth of Mary Matha Church (MACYA) made a visit to the Vijayanagar orphanage on the occasion of Children’s day. There are 35 children and two sisters to look after them. They had a lovely interaction and sharing of music, dances, group games and presentation of their daily usable things. The youth felt so good that they promised to meet them again during Christmas.

Blood Donation Camp: MACYA along with Vijayanagar Blood Bank and Rotary Club arranged Blood donation camp on 20 Nov 2011 at St Claret Auditorium which had a great impact that 29 parishioner donated their blood. It was really an encouragement and motivation for the people to donate the blood for the needy. Thanks to MACYA members and others who assisted the doctors all through the camp for its success.

A Day with the least and lost of the Society: Mathrujyothi members of Mary Matha Church Vijayanagar had a heart touching day during the visit to Nirmala Shishu Bhavan Ligarajapuram where Mother Teresa sisters taking care of the least and lost ones of the society. We spent a quality time with the inmates and distributed the things which we collected from our parish community. We also wished them peace and joy of Child Jesus.

KAGHAZ NAGAR, FATIMA HOUSE

Parish feast: The annual feast of Fatima Parish was celebrated solemnly on 6 November 2011 with nine days of rosary and novena. Mar Joseph Kunnath, cmi, Bishop of Adilabad, was the main celebrant. Fr. Antony David, Jeevadhara Divine Center, Kazipet, in his homily reminded the faithful to journey with Mary to reach our goal that is Jesus Christ. Mary should be the model for our Christian life as she said ‘yes’ to the will of God, knowing very well what is going to happen in her life. There were many in the procession carrying the holy relics which made a faith witnessing in the life of the people. The celebration was ended with colorful cultural programme.

Foundation stone: It was a happy day for the Claretians in Adilabad, as our dream gets shape in the form of a new school at Kag haz Nagar. The foundation stone for the school was laid by Rev. Fr. John Thadathil, cmf, Vice Provincial of St. Thomas Province on 16 November 2011 in the presence of Claretians.

Visit to the old age home: It was a treasure day for the youth of Fatima parish with lot of experience drawn from the life of the senior citizens of the old age home run by diocese of Adilabad at Mancherial on 09 October 2011. Thirty of our youth along with the animators visited them carrying what they have collected. The youth moved with tears as they heard real plight of the parents. We felt that though they are given all the facilities in the center, they lack what they really need, the love of the dear ones. It was also an eye opener for the youth towards the responsibility to their parents. The youth also entertained them with some programmes, and the parents felt that they were with their own dear ones for some time.

KOLLAMULA, CLARET VILLA

Children's Day Rally: Children's day, on 14 November, the birthday of Pandit Nehru, is celebrated as a day of fun and frolic, a celebration of childhood, children and Nehruji's love for them. Little Flower School decorated the day with the spectacular rally of 2000 students and their staff to Mukkoot-tuthara. It was flagged off by Mr. K.J. Joseph Kizhikandayil, President of Vechoochira Grama Panchayat. Enchanting slogans, Chendamelam, band set, class-wise variety entertainments synergized the rally into a splendiferous road show.



Balolsavam: The annual day of the kindergarten and primary section was celebrated on 14 November. Around 400 kids of the KG and lower primary sections made two hour magnificent stage show. Rev. Fr. Mathew Panachickal, Vicar of St. Maria Goretti Church, Kollamula inaugurated the celebration. Rev. Dr Jose Thenpillil, Manager, Rev. Fr. Siby, the Principal and Mr. M.M. Joseph Mankamthanam felicitated the kids.

Realising this the parents of our students had a three hour long seminar on child caring and equipping them with solutions of modern challenges. Leading family counselor and eminent psychologist Mrs. Grace Lal led the sessions.

PTA Seminar: The parents are the co-partners in education and modern parenting is an art.

Kerala Piravi: The Kairali club of our school fed us with a spectacular cultural fest on November 1, the Kerala Piravi day. Though being an English Medium school, the students are well trained in our mother tongue. The students performed various traditional artistic forms.

KOTTARAKKARA, CLARETIAN ALAYAM

Feast of Sts Claret & Jude and Parish Renewal Retreat: St Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church solemnly celebrated the Feast of Sts Claret & Jude on Nov. 25-27, 2011. Fr. Jose Kudakuthilyil, cmf, Fr. Santhosh Elavumkel, cmf and Fr. Mathew Anchil, Vicar, Kristu Raj Church Kunnikode, presided over the Solemn Qurbana in the respective days. Br. Jose (Thuvanisa Retreat Centre, Kottayam) guided a three day parish renewal retreat along with the feast celebration. It was a renewal and gracious occasion for the parishioners and friends around to participate in the retreat and feast day celebration. The Feast celebration was concluded with agape on all days.

MARTHIDI, CLARET HOME

Solemn Rosary: Faithful of Munjapally, St Alphonsa Church and Marthidi, Christ the King Church experienced a spiritual height with many graces from Mother Mary in October, month of Rosary. Ten days Solemn Rosaries conducted at both churches were participated actively from different villages with the Holy Qurbana every day. On the final day Fr. Joseph Thachukunnel, cmf celebrated the Holy Qurbana and gave the homily. There was solemn candle procession to Bogadaguda village and nercha payasam after the Qurbana.

Visit of Proclade: Fr. Matheo and Ms. Ana visited Claret Home Marthidi with Fr. Jose Kidangayil, Prefect of Apostolate, on 4-6 November 2011 They visited Mary Matha School Marthidi and St. Alphonsa Church and village Munjampally and had close interaction with St. Claret Boarding students. It was an opportunity for them to really understand the need and concrete situation of the missions.

Feast of Christ the King: It was celebrated at Marthidi from November 23-27, 2011. On 23 evening, Fr. Thomas Madanu, Vicar General of Adilabad diocese, hoisted the flag at 06 p.m. On Sunday 27 November Mar Joseph Kunnath, Bishop of Adilabad, presided over the Holy Qurbana and baptized a family from a new village as a fruit of evangelization strengthened in the Syro-Malabar Mission year. In his Homily Bishop urged the faithful to be authentic Christians by witnessing the Word of God. After the Holy Qurbana there was feast day procession to Marthidi village with the statue of Christ the King. Faithful from all the villages actively participated in the Procession. It was followed by fraternal agape, cultural programmes of youth and boarding students.

**PATHADIPALAM, SHANTI NIVAS**

Launching of KCYM: St. Jude's Parish, Thadeuspuram inaugurated the KCYM on 22 Oct. 2011 in the presence of Rev. Fr. Shinu Uthuppan, Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocesan KCYM Director, and Rev. Dr. Noble Mannarath, cmf, Vicar. As a preparation a half day Seminar was guided by Fr. Santhosh Elavunkal, cmf, on 5 Oct. for the youth. He enlightened the youth about the need to cultivate positive values, self-esteem, self-confidence, and the need to look into their life with positive attitudes. The exposition with life example, power-point and documentary presentation made great impact on the youth and stirred them with greater vision for life. The seminar was indeed an ideal springboard for the youth of the parish in view of the inauguration of the KCYM. Fr. Shinu, in his talk, elucidated to them the aim and functions of the KCYM. They have planned to have meeting every second Sunday and to have classes on personal growth programs, inter personal communication, carrier with Christian values and vision. Besides, they decided to organize outreach programs, discussions, games, visits, study tours, greater involvement in the parish activities, etc. A total of 40 out of 65 youth of the parish are regularly attending the KCYM meetings.

PENCHIKALPET, CLARET VIHAR

Parish feast celebrated: Feast of St. Jude, the patron saint of St. Jude church Penchikalpet was celebrated. On 21 Oct. Fr. Joy Mechirackal, cmf, priest in-charge of Fatima Church, Kaghaz Nagar, hoisted the flag and celebrated holy Eucharist and novena. On 23 Oct. 2011 Mar Joseph Kunnath, Bishop of Alidabad, celebrated the Solemn Qurbana of the Feast Day and distributed First Holy Communion to six who are newly baptized adults. After the Eucharistic celebration there was festal meal and cultural program.

Baptism: In this Syro-Malabar Mission Year two families of five members each were baptized on 16 Oct. It gave impetus to do the evangelization work more fervently in new villages. It also helped the existing Christians to strengthen their faith.

Mission Sunday Celebrated: In the Mission Sunday celebration, we explained to the parishioners the meaning and purpose of Mission Sunday. Though the people are very poor they were able to share a percentage from their daily earnings, because they know the taste of vulnerability. We were able to collect an amount of Rs.1600 through auction and contribution. to strengthen their faith.

VALIATHURA, SANTHWANA

Feast of St Xavier: The parish feast of St Xavier’s Church was celebrated on 4 Dec. 2011. Festal flag was hoisted on 24 Nov. by Fr Jacob Mundiath, cmf, Parish Priest and each day’s programs and prayers were led by each association of the Parish and the BCC. We had a Syro-Malabar Solemn Qurbana on 27 Nov. On 3 Dec. thousands participated in the procession which was held around the parish area carrying the statue of the Saint in a Chariot. On 4 Dec. 15 children were given First Holy Communion and in the evening the Solemn Festal Eucharistic celebrated followed by the Eucharistic procession and the fireworks. The feast was an occasion to revitalize and exhibit the unity and fraternity of the parishioners and various pious associations of the Parish.

Malayalam Bible Diary Published:

On November 27, 2011 a dream came true; Malayalam Bible Diary was published, with the collaboration of 12 priests from the Archdiocese of Trivandrum. The occasion was esteemed by the presence of Claretian Fathers Anselmus, Arul, Singarayan, David, and Alex from Chennai Province. The Diary was unveiled in St Xavier’s Church by Msgr. Wilfred. E., Episcopal Vicar, and the first copy was given to Fr. Edison, Executive Director of BCCI. Msgr.



Wilfred addressed the faithful that this diary would be a great help for the laity to prepare well for the daily Eucharist. He also cordially thanked the Claretians for this great venture. Among those present were Frs. Alexander Kureekattil, Jacob Mundiath and Saby Kochikunnell

FEATURE

CLARET SADAN, VYTHIRI

Claret Sadan, the first ever Claretian Mission in the Syro-Malabar Church, is situated in the Diocese of Manathavady. The People are basically migrants from other parts of Kerala. A good portion of this hill district is forest and estates, both coffee and tea. The majority of the people are economically poor and without sufficient land-property in their name. Most of them are estate-workers.



Fr. Perikilakkatt welcomes Bishop Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy

Claretian Mission Claretian presence in this area started in the year 1985 by taking up two mission parishes at the invitation of Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy, then Bishop of Manathavady. St George Church, Charity and St Thomas Church, Olivumala were parishes, less developed without proper church building, regular Mass or even the minimum facilities for a resident priest. In the year 1987 Claret Sadan was established with the status of a residence to look after the pastoral needs of the faithful here. In 1993 by a written agreement between the Bishop of Manathavady, and the Provincial Superior of the Province of Bangalore, Fr. Kuriakose Thekkilakattil, cmf, the two parishes of Charity and Olivumala were entrusted to the Claretians permanently. In 1995, the General Government erected Claret Sadan as a house. This mission can be considered as the first mission of the Claretians in Kerala. Presently it has two independent parishes of St George Church, Charity and St Thomas Church, Olivumala, St Claret Public School and work among the HIV/AIDS affected.

The first Claretian missionary to this region was Fr. Thomas Perikilakkatt (1985-87). He began the initial works of strengthening the parish communities which were till then being looked after by pastors Fr. John Thonippara, cmi

(Founding Father of Charity Parish), Maria Das, cmi and Jose Kandathikudy (Founding Father of Olivumala Parish). From then on both these parishes were blessed with the shepherding hands of Claretians, Frs. Augustine Aykkaramattam, Kuriakose Mundackatt (1987-91), Mathew Keechira, Jacob Areekatthundatthil, James Madappatt, Noble Mannarath (1991-97), Jose Valliamthadathil, Joshy Nirappell, Sebastian Palackathadam, (1998-2001), Jose Mattathil, Jacob Mundiayath, George



Kollampampil (2001-05), Jose Kidangayil, Sebastian Tharappel, (2005-08) and George Chirackalpurayidam, Saji Valiplakkal, Manoj Thanniyil, Rony Thottathil (2008-11). People of these parishes gratefully remember all of them. At the time when we took up this mission there were only two sheds for prayer, one at Charity and the other at Olivumala. During the last 27 years of our presence in this area we could successfully engage ourselves in various pastoral, social and economic developmental activities. With the generous help and support from some funding agencies, the Province and the hard work of the faithful, two beautiful Churches (St. George Charity 1995), St. Thomas Olivumala 2005). Thanks to Frs. Mathew Keechira, Jacob Mundiayath and Sebastian Tharappel who were behind the completion of them. Claret Sadan, our residence was constructed in the year 1995. Thanks to Frs. Mathew Keechira and James Madappatt for their efforts in building this beautiful house. The present community consists of Frs. Thomas Pattathilchira, Cyriac Kizhakkeelamthottam, Rony Thottathil and Manoj Thanniyil.

Apostolate of The Center: The Apostolate of this house is of the pastoral care of the two parishes of Charity and Olivumala, the administration of St. Claret Public School and ministry for HIV/AIDS affected.



St George Church, Charity: Built in the valley and surrounded by green tea estates, Charity church has a panoramic look. The Church that we have at present is in fact the third one. The first one was a thatched shed on the top of the adjacent hill. This had collapsed in rain and wind. Hence, another shed was made in the very spot where the present structure was constructed in 1995. This parish was handed over to us in 1985. Since then this parish has been treading the path of spiritual renewal and transformation. Currently Frs. Thomas Pattathilchira and Manoj Thanniyil serve this parish as Parish Priest and Asst. Parish Priest, respectively. The parish has presently 85 catholic families and has nearly 400 members. It is divided into four wards. Ward prayer gatherings are organized every month. There is regular celebration of the Holy Qurbana. First Friday Adoration, Novena to St. George on Fridays, Novena to Mary on Saturdays, Novena to Infant Jesus on Fridays at the Shrine, special celebrations, annual retreats, seminars, celebra-

tion of other sacraments etc., form part of the spiritual aspect of the life of the faithful. Catechism classes are conducted regularly. Pious associations like CML, Mathrusankham, St. Vincent De Paul Society, Thirubaalaskhyam and KCYM are very much active in the parish and they help the parish community to deepen its faith. The parish celebrates its annual feast on 24 April, Feast of St. George.

St. Thomas Church, Olivumala: This parish is nearly 8 kms away from our house. It was opened by Fr. Jose Kandathikudy, a diocesan priest. The administration of this parish was entrusted to us together with that of Charity Parish. The old church was replaced with a new one in the year 2005. Currently the parish has 95 Catholic families with nearly 450 parishioners. The Holy Qurbana is celebrated daily and on Sundays there are two Masses. First Friday adoration, novena to Mary, St Jude and St Thomas, special celebrations, annual retreats, seminars, celebration

of other sacraments etc., form part of the whole spiritual activities of the parish. Regular Catechism classes, activities of other pious associations like Mathrusankham, Thirubalaskhyam, Altar boys, CML, KCYM, St Vincent De Paul Society etc., are very much active in the parish. The parish celebrates its annual feast on the first Sunday after Easter (Puthunjayar). Construction of a hall for Sunday Catechism and pastoral activities is progressing. Currently Fr. Rony Thotathil, CMF is serving the parish as Vicar. He was appointed Forane Director of KCYM quite recently. Congratsto him!

With the support and help of the Parish Council, Pothuyogam and Sunday school PTA we implement various programs and the periodical evaluation and follow up of the resolutions of the house meetings, Parish Council meetings, Pothuyogam and PTA meetings is also made. In the varied activities of the two parishes we are assisted by the Sacred Heart Sisters. Some of them teach in our school and also serve as animators of pious associations. Both the parishes are active on account of the whole-hearted co-operation of the parishioners. The Sunday school classes under the efficient leadership of respective directors and lay leaders function smoothly. In order to encourage the faithful to read and meditate the Word of God periodical Bible Quiz and other competitions are conducted in both the parishes. This year being "Preshitha Varsham", we plan to emphasize and highlight the missionary aspect of the Church and to instill in people love and respect for missionaries in the Church.

As indirect means and part of the integral human development of the people of this locality we undertake other socio-economic activities for them. As and when needed we give medical aid and short-term loans for building houses. The Social Welfare Society (SWS) in both the parishes also takes up certain other developmental projects. Every year we give fees concession to a few children in our school who hail from economically poor families. We have cordial relationship with the local bishop, other diocesan authorities, clergy and other neighboring religious communities. We render our service to some of the religious congregations by way of spiritual direction, recollection and confession as part of our apostolate.

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St Claret Public School (CBSE):

Taking into consideration the backwardness of the area the Province decided to begin a school for the locality to promote quality education and thus address the problems of the people by making them literate and skilled in various fields. Thus the school was started in the year 2003 with 25 admissions to the



Kindergarten. Currently the school has reached up to Class VII with a total strength of 365 students in 12 divisions. It has 17 teaching and 8 non-teaching staff. Nearly 40% of the students is Muslim and the rest, Christian and Hindu. The construction of the second floor of the school is completed and the further extension of the structure with additional class-rooms, labs and library is to be begun in the nearest future. Under the efficient leadership of the Principal, Fr. Manoj Thanniyil and the Management, the school is fast treading the path of progress and excellence.

HIV/AIDS Ministry: Ministry for the HIV/AIDS affected was newly added to this centre this year. An extension centre of the CARE Home ministry of the Province will start at Cherral. We hope to begin the construction of the this center in the nearest future. Fr. Cyriac Kizhakkeelamthottam is the Priest-in-charge of the entire project.

Conclusion: We bow our heads in profound gratitude to God for His abundant graces showered upon this mission center down through the years. All of us, especially the pioneering missionaries to this center, have many good reasons to be proud of this center. Today we learn that in the order of priority our first task is to maintain the parishes entrusted to us with utmost care and commitment. We need to plan out and implement various programs to nurture the faith-life of our people. Since many of them are economically poor, we also need to look for more social and developmental activities to improve their standard of living. Our next task is to develop our school. The future of it undoubtedly looks bright and promising with increasing admissions every year. We place on record our gratitude and appreciation to all my predecessors for their dedicated service. Special thanks to the members of the present Provincial Government for their concern, support and encouragement. God bless all of us to timely, effectively and urgently fulfill the mission entrusted to us after the manner of St. Claret our Founder. Fr. Thomas Pattathilchira, cmf.

Christmas Celebration: A huge star erected in the premises of St George Church, Charity. It is of 40 feet height and 25 feet width and is expected to be the biggest of this kind in the entire Wayanad district this year. It is wrapped with 120 meters white linen fabric and is illumined by seven tube-lights from within. It is the fruit of the strenuous effort of the youth of the parish. Many keep flocking to the spot to view the star in its charming and gigantic look.



EXPERIENCE OF REGENCY



I have an obligation of gradually discovering and expressing my Claretian call correctly in dialogue with the altering features found in me as I do my regency. Here I write briefly to share my experience of regency. The Bible apostolate and the Small Ecclesial Community department in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry portray me with encouraging tips to be passionate for God's glory. I was quite sure that I will be exposed to a number of new possibilities useful for my Claretian ministry. The programs turn motivational for me, when I see their effect in the people. As a young missionary I would no doubt have been full of zeal for giving love of God to many. And when I saw the transforming powers of the programs we have undertaken, I was enthralled to be more passionate for the love of Christ.

Bible apostolate department with its Bible study programs, Quiz programs, and a lot of Bible based seminars and prayer services, is there in the midst of the laity, available for all the people, endowing the experience of the power of the Word of God. The majority of the people responds positively and integrates dedicatedly to the animation given. The spirit in which they take the matter concerning the Word of God are inspirational for me and persuade me in my vocation as a servant of the Word. The comprehension which I receive is that if a Priest wishes still will have missionary possibilities of the ministry of the Word anywhere in the world, thus the Christians who live in a determined place can enter into a dynamic method of announcing the Gospel. The department of the Small Ecclesial Community questions the standards of their social worlds and undertakes out-reach programs, leadership trainings, prayer group animation and conventions to make them grasp the virtues of the early Christian communities. The department could quench the thirst of the people benevolently and our Director Fr. Moban Chooravady moves tirelessly all over the archdiocese to provide an early Christian experience and Word of God to many. I am happy that I could also be a part of it. Sathyadarsanamala is a bimonthly, published from the department. It is successful in bringing out the themes on oriental theology and Syrian tradition. Besides its greatness, I am given responsibilities of dealing with the writers, layout, etc. which in fact is a guidance to expertise on publication.

From my perspective, my regency in this department is a unique opportunity to enhance my pastoral skills and organizing capacity. I am given chances to do certain ventures where I must be both responsible and creative. "When you can supervise your own schedule constantly, you will be in your own initiative and make most of this fantastic learning experience." Here I receive the same from the department I serve.

Regents stay together under the supervision of the animator Fr. Joseph Panakezham. Stay in the dormitory is a good experience. We are provided with the opportunity for praying together amsa, Lalia, Sapra, Holy Qurbana, and also for meditation, confessions, monthly recollections, personal prayer etc, which seal me with a transforming spirit and a burning conviction.

It is appropriate to conclude this way: that my regency is essentially a cluster of experience to acquire greater maturity and enabling me to make a definitive option to be a Claretian. Stu. Sebin Mundackal, cmf.

FROM OUR FORMATIN COMMUNITIES

KUNNOTH, CLARETIAN STUDY HOUSE

Claretian Week Celebrated: The community celebrated the Claretian week from November 10-12, 2011. These days were moments of spiritual nourishment, each of these three days we reflected on topics such as Devotion to the Word of God, Holy Eucharist, and Veneration to Mother Mary.

Annual Competitions: The annual competitions for the academic year 2011-12 were conducted for the students in order to develop their different talents. The competition was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Abraham Pothiyittel, cmf, superior of the community on Nov. 1, 2011.



KURAVILANGAD, CLARET BHAVAN

Pilgrimage: The second year students travelled on foot to the tomb of Blessed Kunjachen at Ramapuram on 16 October 2011. Fr. Thomas Paingottu, their prefect guided the pilgrimage. It was a revamping spiritual journey for the missionary aspirants. On 21st October, we celebrated the golden jubilee of the maiden voyage of our pioneer missionary Fr. Joseph Madhavath to Germany. Rev. Fr. Thomas Vattukulam, the provincial superior celebrated the Holy

Eucharist and in his homily he thanked Fr. Joseph Madhavath and other zealous missionaries who took great pains to start our mission in India.



Claret Bhavan arts and sports competitions (CBASC 2011) were held from 25 Oct. to Nov. 26, 2011. The students in three groups namely Twinklers, Sparklers and Dazzlers demonstrated their dynamism of participation in the annual competitions. The competitions brought out the literary and the sporting talents of the students. The soil was perfectly tilled as we celebrated the sports day on 26

November. "In the games we may fail or lose, but don't forget to compete." Fr. Joseph Madhavath, cmf exhorted the students while hoisting the flag of sport's day. The students tested their mettle in the sports and games and twinklers emerged as the winners.

WARDHA, CLARETIAN ASHRAM***Northern Regional Missionary Meet 2011:***

Claretians working in different states in the northern region of the Province came together for the first Regional Missionaries' Meet on Nov. 12, 2011 at Claretian Ashram, Wardha. The meet was aimed at strengthening the bond of communion, missionary venture and the Claretian spirit among the members. The meeting began with a prayer session followed



by the inaugural address by Rev. Fr. Thomas Vattukulam, Provincial Superior. Fr. Jose Mattathil, cmf moderated the sessions. The presence and sharing of the provincial consulters encouraged the participants. The members shared their missionary life and activities in brief and the superiors of each community summarized the life and missionary commitments of the respective communities which were followed by an evaluation of our missionary presence in the region. In the meeting Fr. Provincial appointed Fr. Augustine Mundiath, cmf as the Regional Co-ordinator of the Northern Region of the Province. It was indeed an occasion to imbibe and to rekindle the Claretian Charism handed on to us by our holy Founder.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regents get-together: Six of our regents from the different communities had a joyful get together at Kaghaznagar on 15-16 November 2011. Fr. John Thadathil, Prefect of Formation, animated the students. The time was spent fruitfully in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, personal sharing, and Eucharistic celebration. The two days programme was an inspiration for the regents and to experience the taste of different Claretian missions. They went back to their ministries with lot of experience and new convictions.



Diaconate Ordination: Four of our students Alappatt Joseph, Edathattamkunnel John, Kootanal Chacko, and Kunnath Paulson received the order of diaconate at Kaloor Renewal Centre on 21 December from Mar Sebastian Adayamdrath, Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly. It was a function organized to confer the orders on the 76 professed religious. There were many priests including several Claretians, sisters and relatives witnessing and participating in this joyful event. In his homily the Bishop told that the church is in need of inspirational and stirring people for her renewal and advancement. Unless the wheat dies, it does not produce fruit, he said.



*Congratulations
&
Best Wishes...*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 27-Jan 05:** Priestly Ordinations
Jan 02-03: Board of Education Meeting
Jan 05-06: Council of Apostolate Meeting
Jan 11-13: Provincial Council meeting
Jan 17-20: Canonical visit to Claret Bhavan, Kuravilangad
Jan 27-29: Canonical visit to Claret Villa, Kollamula
Jan 30-Feb 02: Course for the New Priests
Feb 02-04: Economic Council Meeting
Feb 06-09: Provincial Council meeting
Feb 10-12: Canonical visit to St Claret Vidhya Niketan, Chimur
Feb 18: Regional assembly (Central and South Kerala) Claretian Provincial House
Feb 19-20: Canonical visit to Christu Nilayam, Vettampara
Feb 22: Regional assembly North Kerala and Bangalore at Claretian Study House, Kunnoth
Feb 25-Mar 02: Canonical Visit, Adilabad Communities
Mar 05-09: Canonical visit to Claret Nilayam, Bangalore
Mar 08-09: Canonical visit to Claret Nivas, Kombazha
Mar 11-14: Visit to Gorakhpur
Mar 15-18: Canonical visit to Claret Niketan, Satna
Mar 18-24 : Interprovincial retreat Dirnberger Niketan, Sonada
Mar 22-25: Canonical visit to Claretian Provincial House, Karukutty
Mar 28-30: Provincial Council meeting

New Mobile Numbers

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