

THE Mustard SEED

DEHONIAN BULLETIN...SPREADING LOVE AND LIFE

JOY TO

THE WORLD



December 2017, NO. 40

The Holy Father's Intentions for the months of



December 2017

The Elderly:

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

JANUARY 2018

Evangelization:

Religious Minorities in Asia: That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.

FEBRUARY 2018

Universal:

Say "No" to Corruption: That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

MARCH 2018

Evangelization:

Formation in Spiritual Discernment: That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels of corruption.

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EDITORIAL MESSAGE

THE LORD HAS COME
THE LORD HAS COME

Joy TO THE WORLD

Lk 1:10 "I am bringing you news of great joy for all the people." Christmas is a time of great joy taking us back to the crib in Bethlehem. The shepherds were a people who faced a lot of hardships in their daily life. In the midst of their pain and gloom the angels appear to them with good news in the midst of their fear, because the promised saviour was born, whom they encounter as they follow the instructions of the angels and go to Bethlehem. For this child is a sign of Hope and liberation for all who find daily life tough and challenging with all kinds of problems and difficulties.

To be faithful means to swim against the current. It calls for a daily time for prayer and service in our normal responsibilities. But it also calls for love and forgiveness, truthfulness and generosity. It calls for letting go all sorts of burdens that we may be forcefully carrying.

Here we may be reminded of the two Franciscans who tried to cross the waters, but the younger one took up the challenge to carry a woman across and he went on his journey. But the older one kept on complaining and worrying holding on to the past. Here St. Paul reminds us that it is our daily struggle to do the contrary to what we want to do and should do, (Rom 7:19) and in verse 25 he says who will set me free, thanks be to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Again in (Rom 8: 19, 23) he reminds us that that the whole world is groaning for liberation and not only creation but all of us. That is why God sent his only Son (Jn 3: 16) to save us to give us eternal life. In hope we were saved. (Rom 8: 24) Now this hope does not disappoint us (Rom 5: 5) This child is the only source of true joy.

Dear friends that is what Christmas is all about to experience the message of great hope given by the shepherds who go to Bethlehem and experience it. It calls us to go to Bethlehem and experience the joy of Jesus Christ our saviour born for all of us and to share it with one another. I must experience it in my heart, my family, community and give it to the world. May this Christmas be a time of great joy and peace for all of us.

M. Mascarenhas

Fr. McQueen Mascarenhas SCJ



EXTRA ORDINARY CHAPTER OF INDIA DISTRICT



Fr. K. Balraj SCJ

Holding an extra ordinary chapter was one of the great events for our Indian district. We held our chapter from 5th to 8th of September in Ashirbhavan, Kerala. There were 45 participants including Fr. Stephen Huffstetter and Fr. Thomas Cassidy. It began on the evening of the 5th, when we were given a short introduction to the chapter by Fr. Jesus Manuel Baena. He explained the time table and the responsibilities of various individuals for

the chapter. The chapter was moderated by Fr. Thomas Cassidy.

On the first day our previous district superior, Fr. Thomas Vinod Chittilapilly explained the achievements of our district during the last three years, the present situation of our Indian district, as well as future plans for the district. He thanked all those who helped him in his administration, especially the general and district administration; he also thanked all the confreres for their co-



operation during the last six years. He wished the best to the new administration who assumed their office on the 08th of September. He also released the new edition of our **Mustard Seed** magazine. Following his presentation we had a half hour discussion.

Some of the confreres raised questions and asked for clarifications. After the break the district treasurer presented the financial situation of the district and he also explained the situation concerning income and expenditures of all our communities. After his presentation there was also time for discussion. In the afternoon Fr. Jesus Manuel Baena read line by line our proposed district directory, while it was read we all followed along and corrected the directory wherever it was needed. Finally at the end of the day after corrections and additions, it was approved by the district members.

On the second day of our extra ordinary chapter The **Ratio Formationis** was read by Fr. Jesus Manuel Baena. While it was read we made some corrections and additions to it. It too was approved by the members of the district. In the afternoon session we dealt with the important issues on ESIC, becoming a region, and a sexual abuse policy. Fr. Ajit Baxla who was finishing up his studies at ESIC in Valencia did a good job of presenting all the necessary information concerning ESIC through Skype. We also had time for the discussion on fund raising and self-

sufficiency. Many of the confreres proposed different ideas to raise funds for the district. The extra ordinary chapter ended with words from Fr. Stephen Huffstetter, he thanked the old administration and wished the best for the new administration on behalf of our general superior.

In the evening of the 7th of September 2017, it was a glorious moment for our Indian district on the occasion of the installation of new district superior and council. Soon after our extra ordinary chapter ended, our general councilor, Fr. Stephen Huffstetter installed our new district superior, Fr. McQueen Winston Savio and the new council. Fr. Stephen Huffstetter celebrated Mass and gave a beautiful homily on leadership. He said "A leader should be a man of service and sacrifice". After his homily the installation took place. On the morning of the 8th of September the new district superior celebrated Eucharist for all who were present.

The calling of the extra ordinary chapter was mainly to discuss and finalize our district directory and **Ratio Formationis**. This dream was realized through this extra ordinary chapter. Thanks to Fr. Stephen Huffstetter and Fr. Thomas Cassidy for their contributions. It was also a great occasion for us to meet one another after many months apart working in our individual district ministries and to share with each other our beautiful experiences. Big thanks to the organizing committee who arranged the place and accommodation for this great event.



Fr. Leo John Dehon... "Daily Diary", 29 November 1887

"The devil doesn't sleep. He does his utmost all around the congregation and he doesn't miss an opportunity to get in the way. He knows all our weaknesses and exploits them. Unfortunately, he has many trumps in his hand. He takes one by sensuality, another by jealousy, another by laziness, another by vanity. He takes advantage of discouragement and illusion. He provokes situations. He organizes a genuine campaign against vocations which are in danger of being lost. We do not fight hard enough. We do not know how to handle our weapons: prayer, examination of conscience, vigilance, mortification."

(NQT IV, 4v-5r)



Advent: A Season of Hope

Advent is a time of joyful expectation and preparation, both for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas and for his second coming at the end of the world. Use the resources on these pages to enter more deeply into what Pope Francis has called "this season of active waiting and watchfulness."

Pope Francis: Advent restores the 'horizon of hope'

The First Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical year in the Western church, and this season is a time for all of us to "begin again," as Pope Francis has said:

"Just as in each of our lives we always need to begin again, to get up again, to rediscover the meaning of the goal of our lives, so also for the great human family it is always necessary to re-

discover the common horizon toward which we are journeying. The horizon of hope! This is the horizon that makes for a good journey. The season of Advent ... restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty.

"The model of this spiritual disposition, of this way of being and journeying in life, is the Virgin Mary. A simple girl from the country who carries within her heart the fullness of hope in God! In her womb, God's hope took flesh, it became man, it became history: Jesus Christ. Her Magnificat is the canticle of the People of God on a journey, and of all men and women who hope in God and in the power of his mercy. Let us al-

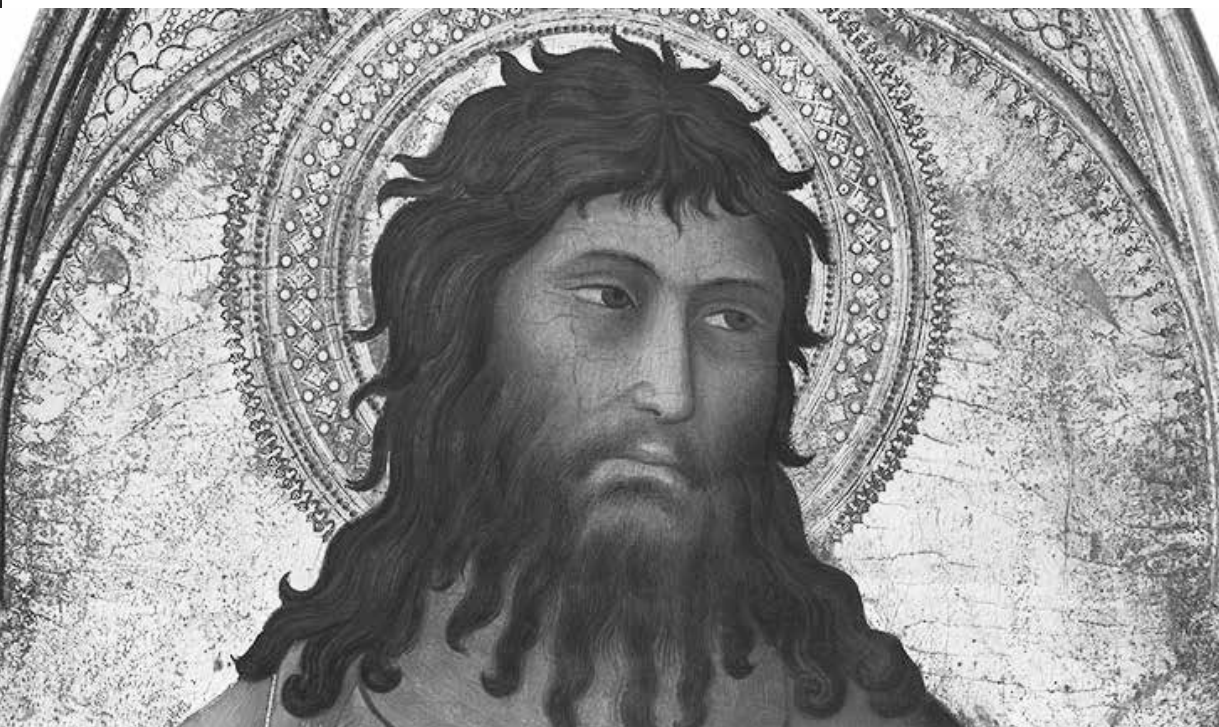
low ourselves to be guided by her, she who is mother, a mama, and knows how to guide us. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her during this season of active waiting and watchfulness."

'Prophet of the Most High,' John surpasses all the prophets, of whom he is the last. ... John bears witness to Christ in his preaching, by his Baptism of conversion, and through his martyrdom.

"When the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient

expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating the precursor's birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'"

The O Antiphons, ancient



St. John the Baptist

John the Baptist prepares the way of the Lord

Throughout Advent, the Mass readings remind us of how God prepared the world for the coming of Christ. The Catechism of the Catholic Church offers a reflection on how the prophets, and especially John the Baptist, relate to our own Advent preparations:

"The coming of God's Son to earth is an event of such immensity that God willed to prepare for it over centuries. He makes everything converge on Christ: all the rituals and sacrifices, figures and symbols of the 'First Covenant.' He announces him through the mouths of the prophets who succeeded one another in Israel. Moreover, he awakens in the hearts of the pagans a dim expectation of this coming.

"St. John the Baptist is the Lord's immediate precursor or forerunner, sent to prepare his way.

prayers of expectation

Everyone knows the Advent carol "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." But did you know that the hymn comes from the great O Antiphons, ancient prayers that reflect on the coming of Christ? (Some say the antiphons are referenced in the writings of Boethius, who died in the early sixth century.) The O Antiphons are still recited in the church's official evening prayer Dec. 17–23. Try incorporating the antiphons into your own prayer routine, or start praying the Liturgy of the Hours at www.ibreviary.org/en.

O Sapientia (Dec. 17): O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.

O Adonai (Dec. 18): O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on



Sinai mountain: come, stretch out your mighty hand to set us free.

O Radix Jesse (Dec. 19): O Flower of Jesse's stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

O Clavis David (Dec. 20): O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel, controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.

O Oriens (Dec. 21): O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.

O Rex Gentium (Dec. 22): O King of all the nations, the only joy of every human heart; O Keystone of the mighty arch of man, come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust.

O Emmanuel (Dec. 23): O Emmanuel, king and lawgiver, desire of the nations, Savior of all people, come and set us free, Lord our God.

Fun fact: If you read the first letters of the antiphons in reverse order, you get the Latin phrase *ero cras*, which means (roughly) "Tomorrow I will be there."

'Only God can fulfill us

The season of Advent reminds us of our weakness — and that's a good thing. There is probably no better way to prepare for Christmas than to admit our insufficiency, our weakness, our incapacity to save ourselves. In many ways that is what Advent is all about: preparing a way by recognizing that only God can fulfill us.

To admit our insufficiency is not a sign of defeat; to do so is a sign of welcome to the Savior. Jesus is ready — and desires — to come to us. Will we let him in?

SOURCE: NWCATHOLIC.ORG



Do not be afraid to Take Mary Into Your Home

The non-catholics and even some of the catholics are afraid of welcoming Mary into our homes. We read the Holy Scripture, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit (Matt 1:20). Just as Joseph had his fear, concern and his views about what it would mean to take a pregnant Mary into his home so we have too. We are afraid when we take Mary into our homes that it might take our eyes off of Christ or it might make Mary some sort of goddess or idol as the critics would say. We have our views and reasons not take Mary into our lives just as Joseph. But eventually Joseph recognized the



Br. Manish SCJ

beauty and importance of doing exactly what the angel encouraged him to do. The book of Proverbs tells us that the man who finds a wife finds a treasure, and he receives favour from the Lord (Prov 18:22). Jesus says, "Don't throw pearls (Matt 7:6)".

Mary is not just a treasure or pearl but she is beyond because she is "full of grace", and "blessed among all women". He would have

lost the blessings and privilege to become the husband of such a worthy and wonderful personality so called Mary. He would have lost the blessings honour and blessings to become the Father of Jesus and his Saviour. Joseph would have lost this “pearl-Mary” by throwing her out of his life if he had rejected the invitation of angel to take Mary into his home. His choice to take Mary into his home brought him innumerable blessings in his life.

When we risk taking Mary into our homes like Joseph we too will realize the beauty and importance of Mary in our lives that is what the angel encourages us to do saying, “Do not be afraid to take Mary into your home” (Matt 1:20). We might again ask, “Why is that we should not be afraid of Mary?” The answer to this question would be “Who is that has perfectly taken Christ into her home, into her soul, into her heart and into her body. Mary had many questions at the annunciation. She was troubled, curious to know “how this will be possible”, “I am a virgin”. She did not understand exactly where this would lead. She did not understand what this would look like from then-3 months, 9 months, 2 years, and 33 years. But she trusted the angel and allowed Christ into her life, into her womb. Taking Mary into our lives or making room for her we are making a way for her who allowed Christ perfectly to enter her. She prepares the way for us and does nothing other than help us receive Christ into our lives. It is like a mathematical thing. Mary takes Christ perfectly into her life, so by us taking Mary into our life we are also taking Christ into our life as well. When Mary entered the house of Zachariah in a loud voice Elizabeth exclaimed: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Mary did not go alone to visit the house of Zachariah but she carried unborn baby Jesus in her womb. When Mary comes into our homes it is a honour and a blessings. Elizabeth expressed her feelings of being honoured and blessed in this way: “How honored am I that you, Mary, should come to my place.” It is because the presence of Mary is transforming. “And she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when



Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the child leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,” (Lk 1:40 – 41) When Mother Mary stepped into Elizabeth’s house the anointing of the Holy Spirit too stepped into her house because Mother Mary was full of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit was flowing from her body and heart, as she believed in God. “He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘out of his heart shall flow rivers of living waters,” (Jn 7:37). Same things of joy, blessings and anointing of the Holy Spirit will step into as Mary enters our homes and lives. There is no point of fear in taking Mary into our homes. Even the unborn baby John leaped in Elizabeth's womb upon hearing Mary's voice because her presence is transforming.

The fear we have that if Mary comes into us we will lose our focus in Jesus is not true, because she does not come to take our focus, love and attention away from Jesus but to strengthen them. She does not seek her personal glory but the glory of her Son Jesus. She wants to come into our homes to lead us to Jesus. We all know the wedding story from the second chapter of John. There was a wedding ... the wine ran out, and Jesus miraculously turned jars of water into excellent wine. In the story, the host first went to Mary, but she referred to Jesus, saying, “Do whatever he tells you.”

In those simple words Mary verified her role as the one who leads others to Jesus—do whatever he tells you. Obey my Son, she says, he is the divine Son of God, our Saviour. She said, he is the one and only intercessor between God and Man. He is my Savior and your Saviour. Mary's great legacy lies in calling the world to faith in Jesus. From generation to generation she evangelizes saying, do whatever Jesus tells you. That is why Pope Paul VI called Mary the Star of Evangelization. Today she continues to evangelize people by appearing and telling the message of God in different states and countries and these were done before by the angels.

Mary comes into our homes to share our sorrows, pain and difficulties for she herself went through all these and she knows our sorrows, pain and needs. Some scholars say that the name "Mary" may have originated from the Egyptian language; it is likely derivative of the root mr "love; beloved". An 11th-century Jewish commentator on the Bible wrote that the name was given to the sister of Moses because of the Egyptians' harsh treatment of Jews in Egypt. Rashi wrote that the Israelites lived in Egypt for two hundred ten years, including eighty-six years of cruel enslavement that began at the

time Moses' elder sister was born. Therefore, the girl was called Miriam, because the Egyptians made life bitter (???, mar) for her people. The Old Testament Miriam is a symbol of sufferings and sorrows of Jews and in the New Testament the sufferings of Jesus stands for sufferings for humanity in which Mary also participated. It has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but also suffer for His sake. (Philippians 1:29). Mary not only believed in the words of angel but she was ready to suffer anything that comes as obstacle in the fulfillment of the words that the angel told her. We speak of the Seven Sorrows of Mary such as—the Prophecy of Simeon, "a sword shall pierce through you own soul also" (Lk 2: 35), The flight into Egypt (Matt 2:13-21), The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Lk 2:41-50), The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17), The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30), Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40) Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42).

All these sorrows show Mary's love for her Son and her readiness and willingness to suffer for Christ and share in his sufferings. And today Mary is willing to enter our homes to increase our joy and share our pain and sorrows. She is ready to stand by us just as she stood by Christ to strengthen him and fulfill his mission.

We have seen Joseph is afraid of taking Mary into his home and Mary is afraid to take Jesus into her life because they had their own reasons and views. But both of them said "yes" because their courage and faith allowed them to go forward. So we pray for courage and faith as we open the door of heart to welcome Mary who wants to be part of family. We do not have to fear Mary because Jesus Christ loves it when we honor his Mother, the same way we would be pleased if someone honored OUR mother. Honoring Mary draws us even closer to Christ. Didn't Jesus tell John (19:27) to take His Mother? True Devotion to Mary is that which explains "You go to Mary, she takes you to Jesus." So let us allow Mary to enter into our homes.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: “The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits

of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.”

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary’s Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus’ redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus’ work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset.

Reflection

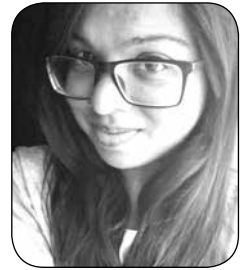
In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God’s behalf, addresses Mary as “full of grace” (or “highly favored”). In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary’s intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary’s whole life.

The logic of piety helped God’s people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God.

Source: Franciscan media



The Simple Joys of Christmas



Mary Jane,
St. Francis Xavier Church Duler, Goa

Hamilton Wright Mabie said, "Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love." Christmas is one of the most magical times of the year. Our hearts grow warm just by the thought of it, as childhood memories create a sense of nostalgia, and we become children again. Lighting up the Christmas tree, singing those beautiful carols, placing a star on the roof of our house, making sweets, making the crib, spending time with our family. This is what most of our memories are made up of. As we grew up, we realized that the purpose of Christmas, was celebrating the birth of Christ, celebrating God's love for us. Today, we have shifted focus to our decorations, clothes and gifts. Advertisers go on an overdrive, and in response to that, our bank accounts keep diminishing. The true meaning of Christmas fades against consumerism, and we feel lazy to do the things we once enjoyed doing. All of us need a more profound experience. An experience that will not only be an external celebration of Christmas, but something that will make us better people.

So how can we do that? Firstly, we need to find out more about Christmas. Some of us are ignorant, and don't even try to find out what exactly happened on Christmas, and why we

celebrate it. So this Christmas, let's all try and find out, what happened that night, where was Jesus born? Who knew Jesus was born? Who were the wise men? Who was King Herod? Why did Jesus come into this world? There's so much more to the nativity of Christ, and we can find out about it by reading the Bible, and understanding it. So let's make an effort to know more about our faith.

A lot of us call December an expensive month, as we end up spending an exorbitant amount of money on things we think we need. We focus more on our clothes and the gifts we have to buy, and in all the rush don't even talk to each other properly. This Christmas try to make some of the sweets, the decorations at home. Instead of spending so much money to beautify our houses and ourselves, we can focus more on doing at least some of the things on our own. We can sit together as a family and work together. The outcome of all we do may not be perfect, but it will bring us closer, and strengthen our bonds. We often complain that we don't have time. But we need to make time by prioritizing



what is really important. And nothing is more important than spending time with your family. Making sweets, decorations together, gives us a chance to spend time with each other in our otherwise hectic lives.

This Christmas, we can start a new tradition. If we have been visiting orphanages, old age homes and other institutes during Christmas, let's try to avoid restricting ourselves to making such visits only during Christmas, and visit them more often. Very often, such visits are carried out just to make us feel good about ourselves, and to give us the satisfaction that we have done something good during Christmas. Again, the focus is on ourselves, and not the people we visit. Most of the times, we only extend sympathy or pity to them, rather than extending empathy, understanding and warmth. If we want our visits to be fruitful, we need to continue extending care and concern towards those people, and visit them a few more times during the year. So when we visit a home this Christmas, let it not be just an annual visit, but let's promise ourselves to make time during the year for more visits.

We can make Christmas more meaningful by saving the money we would otherwise spend on ourselves, and giving it for a good cause. There may be so many people in our own neighbourhood who do not enjoy the same benefits we do, and who may not be able to do the same things everybody else does for Christmas.

We can help them out, and make Christmas better for them. Especially, the old in our neighbourhood. We can at least put a star on their house, or help them make sweets, sing a few carols with them, or spend time talking to them. Sometimes, a smile and a good word is all they need. In this way, we can extend the love and warmth of

Christmas to somebody else. They may not be able to give us anything in return, but they will surely pray for us, and that's all we need.

Kindness, forgiveness and love are some of the greatest virtues Christmas propagates. A lot of us may be short-tempered, impatient or rude at times. This Christmas, let's try to be a little kinder to those whom we come across, forgiving towards those who hurt us, apologetic about our bad behaviours, and loving towards every human being, irrespective of their social, economic or religious background. We cannot restrict the warmth of Christmas to ourselves or our families, we need to spread it as far as we can, and help everybody experience the same warmth and magic we feel.

Another thing we could do, is spend more time in prayer. Amidst the sweet, the food, the lights, the carols, the dances, the lovely family and friends, let's not forget about Jesus, born on that cold night. Jesus, who taught us what real, selfless and unconditional love is. Jesus brought with Him the religion of love, and the understanding of our God being full of love and forgiveness. Let us thank Him for that love that saved us from sin. As we celebrate his birth, let us try and be like Him. Let's be kinder, compassionate, forgiving and warm towards everyone we come across, and let's make this Christmas more about others, rather than ourselves.



Farewell to the Former Novice Master from the Novitiate



Farewell to Former Novice Master form the Novitiate



*Congratulations and Welcome to the New Novice Master
Fr. Christy Peter SCJ*



*Blessing and Inauguration of the
New District House in Chennai*



Blessing and Inauguration of the New District House in Chennai



District Superior's Visit to Bishop of Goa Rev Filipe Neri Ferrao



Extra-ordinary Chapter Held at Ashirbhavan, Kerala From 5th to 8th Septmber 2017



District Superior's visit to a benefactor in Goa



Congratulation to the New District Councillors Rev. Frs Michael A, Mathai, Jesus B, and Joseph C. The District Treasurer Fr Jojappa Ch, the Secretary Fr K. Balraj and the Novice Master Fr Christy Peter.



Inauguration of St. Jude Parish Koodal



Visit of the Potulants to Dehon Jyothi



Visit of the Postulants to Dehon Jyohti



Visit of the Postulants to Dehon Jyothi



Inauguration of St. Jude Church Koodal



Onam Celebration at Christu Dehon Nivas, Eluru



Theologians playing the Finals of St. Francis Cup at Vignananilayam



SCJ Theologians, Victors of St. Francis Ever Rolling Volley Ball Tournament



The renovated Chapel of Christu Dehon Nivas



An Hour with the Lord: Deacons Gathering at Christu Dehon Nivas, Eluru



Inauguration of the renovated Chapel at Christu Dehon Nivas



Inauguration of St. Jude Church Koodal



Administering of the minor orders of Lectors and Acolytes to the Theology Brothers



SCJ Theologians playing the finals of the Basketball tournament at SFS Cup, Eluru



SCJ Theologians victors of SFS cup, Eluru



First Friday Adoration conducted by Theology Brothers at Sacred Heart Church, Vempadu



First Friday Adoration conducted by Theology Brothers at Sacred Heart Church, Vempadu



First Friday Adoration conducted by Theology Brothers at Sacred Heart Church, Vempadu



“THE HEART OF JESUS AND THE HEART OF THE WORLD”

“**LOVE**” is the most powerful word which people very often use in their conversation all over the world. There is only one reason why people use the word “LOVE”, because the word love has the power to touch the hearts of people. 1st John chapter 4 says that “there is no fear in love and perfect love cast out all fears”. St. John wanted to convey that Jesus Christ is the perfect love which casts out all the fears of human kind. In the present world we can encounter various types of love. The love between parents, love between friends, love between lovers and love between religion and religious people. This is the common understanding of love, but when we reckon obviously about the love between various people, and then we can see there is no authentic or sincere love as such in the present world rather there is conditional love. So in that love fear is always being hidden, because when people love someone or help somebody they are expecting to be loved and to be helped.

‘The more I seek the more I find, the more I find the more I seek’, these are the words of a



Novice Dennis

saint who spoke about the love of Jesus. When we ponder about these words with the love of Jesus then it is absolutely right, because when we seek the love of Jesus he embraces us with his unending love and he takes us into his Sacred Heart and when we find his love we will have the heavenly joy and peace in our hearts. So the moment we have these heavenly experience we want to find it more and more. And the more we find the more we seek his love.

When Jesus was on the cross there was not even a single part of his body without wounds, except his heart. Since he came to the world to save his own people Jesus was ready to sacrifice even his heart for the world because he loved

the world so much. When Longinus pierced the Heart of Jesus the remaining blood and water gushed out of his heart as the sign of love and mercy. Jesus' heart was broken for every human being who exists on this earth. The world is being wounded and suffered by its own people. We can see so many problems around the world. In some parts of the world terrorist are devastating religious minorities and challenging world peace and harmony, other parts of world millions of people are thrown out as refugees, while in others women and children are being exploited. Our mother nature is contaminated and some are giving more importance to animals than to human beings. What happened to our world? The primary reason is that real love is lacking between nations, people, friends, and religion. No one remembers the ardent love of Jesus in society. We can see that all those who look at people and society through the Heart of Jesus will be transformed by his immense love.

There are people who looked society and people through the Heart of Jesus. And they saw the society in a different way. Fr. Leo John Dehon looked at society through the Heart of

Jesus and he saw exploited society and people. When he was aware of the situation of his society Fr. Dehon dedicated his life and energy for the betterment of these people because he realized that, the real reign of society is the love of Jesus. St. Mother Theresa too looked at the streets of Calcutta through the Heart of Jesus and she could see the face of Jesus in every people who lived in Calcutta and she spent her entire life for these people.

No matter who you are, No matter how much sin you have committed, no matter how wicked you are, the Heart of Jesus was broken for you. Jesus is looking forward to crown us with his steadfast love. Any one gazes at the Heart of Jesus will be transformed because the moment you look at the Heart of Jesus his unending and eternal love covers you and embraces you. The Heart of Jesus is telling us incessantly to rule the world and society with the love of Jesus and to impart his love to whomever we meet. If we want to see peace and harmony in the world then we have to go to the Heart of Jesus and rule society with his unconditional and steadfast love.





All I Want for Christmas...

In all the years that have gone by,
Each Christmas takes on a different hue.
This Christmas has me reminiscing
About so many things I'd like to do.

This Christmas I don't want to put
Just ribbons on a tree.
I want to create the fun and laughter
That truly binds family.

This Christmas I don't need to have
Presents and goodies galore.
I'd rather try and spend my time
To express my love to those I know.

This Christmas I don't want to go
Out to party and to dance
I want to play with kids and make them smile
For which, otherwise, there's hardly a chance

This Christmas I don't want to eat
Only with family
I want to go and share my meal
With those really in need

This Christmas my crib will come alive
Not with statues, lights and hay
My crib will be my life, my heart
In which I will invite the Lord to stay.



Larissa Rodrigues
St. Francis Xavier's church,
Duler, Mapusa, Goa

Jesus, the King, was born poor and cold
Yet was Saviour to the young and old
Jesus did what went against his time
Now it's our turn - yours and mine.

Yes, Christmas comes just once a year
But it's spirit should live on
In our lives, in our hearts, in all we do,
Christ's spirit should come strong

So in the spirit of the Season,
This I will surely try
To have a year that's full of love
To have every day, a "Christ-filled" life!



What is Christmas for you?

Once again we are going to celebrate Christmas, even though in the shops and on the television it seems that Christmas began two months ago. When you hear about Christmas, what is the first thought that comes in to your mind? When did you start your Christmas shopping, one month ago, two weeks ago, or a week ago? In the midst of your shopping, decoration and celebration, did you ever think of, why do you do all these things?

The birth of a baby brings joy. When you look at the tiny eyes of the little baby, you wonder and ask, what will this baby become? Christmas is all about a baby, a wonder baby. This baby was born in poverty because there was no room for Him at the Inn. This baby was born in the filth and stench of a stable. When this baby was born, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes. The animals in the stable lifted their eyes to gaze at Him when they heard the first cry of the baby. The angels started singing and shepherds came to see Him.

Who is this wonder baby? He is the Son of God, the Redeemer and Prince of Peace. Why was He born as someone like this? Why did He experience rejection, and chose to be born in the filth and stench of the stable? The answer is simple, to help us. We humans in the midst of our wealth and prosperity are vulnerable to pain, hurt, brokenness and sinfulness. We long



Fr. Sunil Issac Roman, SCJ

for warmth, love and affection. When you stand in the crossroad with pain, brokenness and sinfulness, this wonder boy invites you and tells you, I understand your pain and brokenness; I am here to help you, sit with me and talk to me. Oh! What a relief.

Dear friends, is this wonder baby the center of your Christmas? Don't you feel you want to hold this baby Jesus close to your hands and hearts? Jesus wishes to be with you and be your best friend. Jesus loves you and God's love is truly manifested in the person of Jesus. St. John rightly said, Jesus is standing at the door of our hearts knocking, if we open the door he will come in and dine with us (Revelation 3:20) let us make a good relationship with Jesus day by day. Let us be sincere with our daily prayer and worthy reception the Sacraments.

Jesus is our Emmanuel, God with us

STRAIGHT TALK

An interview with Fr. McQueen Mascarenhas SCJ after he was elected as the new Superior of the Indian District.



1. How do you feel being elected as the New Indian District Superior?

What makes me feel great is that The Lord has chosen me a weak person to serve to Him. I do not see it as a job of honour but a call, a responsibility to serve and give my best.

2. What are your plans and how do you plan to implement them?

I do not see them as my plans, but a collective search of the District Administration as a team seek to do God's will. It is and should be God's plans. We are able to do God's will by seeking a daily union with the Lord, by surrendering our will and plans to Him. By working together to build unity in the district administration and making efforts for collaboration and unity of all the members.

3. What about the initial statements of the district, of the missions to the north? Are we still proceeding in the right direction since it just began with regents?

We surely will continue with our initial statements concerning the northern mission. Yes, we are trying to go in the right direction.

4. Earlier some scholastics did their ministry in northern parishes, that has discontinued. Is this a message to the district that the earlier mission is abandoned?

Yes, in the past some did ministry in northern parishes and also now. So, we cannot say the earlier mission was abandoned.

5. Usually the new superior builds on what his predecessor has begun. How do you see your work, as something to build on or to start from scratch?

I believe that job is to see all the good done and continue to build on what was started, but at the same time to be ready and open to bring in the new that is needed. In fact that is my call to all

communities and parishes to see all the good done and continue with what has been started and for sure to be ready to bring in the new that is needed.

6. Youth are the future and Fr. Dehon had a special concern for youth. Don't we need to do something for eg., career orientation, educating them on issues concerning society today, beginning with ministries in our parishes. We usually get the youth together, conduct games and dances, why not educate them, so that they build a better society for the future?

It is very true that the youth are the future of building a better society. It is also true that Fr. Dehorn had a special concern for youth. We too feel that we must continue his inheritance. Yes, we are involved in bringing youth together through various short programmes which help us to bring them close to Jesus. And for sure we need to give them more by making efforts to build towards a better future.

7. Why not seriously begin a Dehonian Youth movement instead of bringing them together once a year and forgetting them throughout the year.

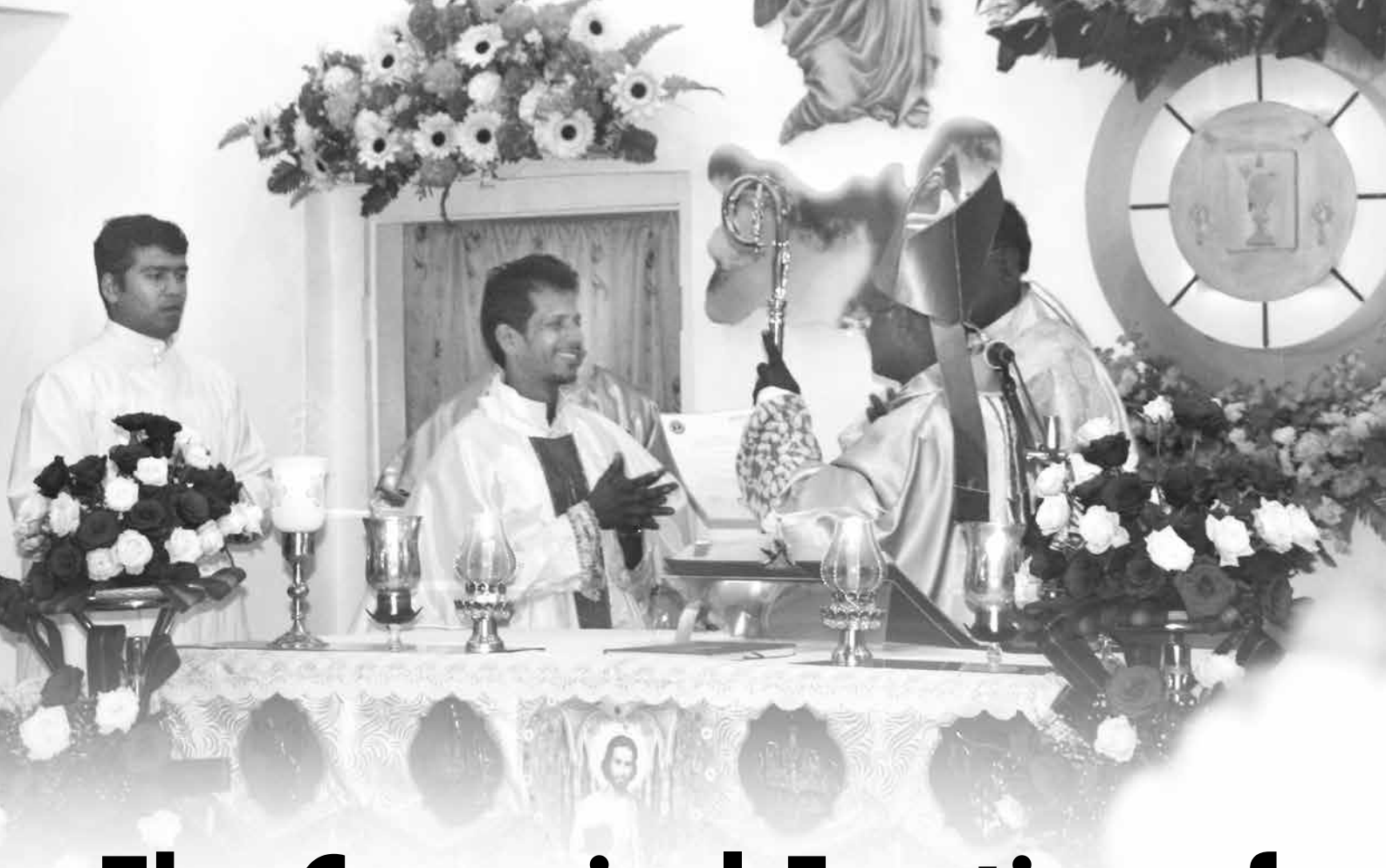
Yes, It is a move that we must make and we do see efforts being made for a Dehonian Youth movement. At the same time the smaller expressions cannot be avoided.

8. Your Vision for the future of the district?

We see a bright future for the district. To grow in our union with the Lord Jesus through the spirituality of the Sacred Heart, devotion to the Blessed Sacrament etc. To Build our unity amidst the variety and to grow in the spirit of Dehonians as Hope filled SCJ Fathers and Brothers.

9. Your message to our confreres and students?

We are called to be religious, we are called to be Dehonians rooted in the Sacred Heart of Jesus regardless at what level I am or what post I hold or what I have. Who I am will take me to the end.



The Canonical Erection of St. Jude Church Koodal

(*The contribution of SCJs*)

St. Jude Church is situated in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala. It comes under the Punalur diocese and His Excellency, Rt. Rev. Dr.. Selvister Ponnumuthan, the present bishop.

In 2010 SCJs came to the diocese. We bought a house and land in a place called Konni which is around 7 kilometers from St. Jude church. SCJs were invited to come to do ministry in this church. Fr. Christy Peter, Fr. Jijo Voice, Fr. Joseph Kasmir and Br. Xavier were the first SCJs who began to do pastoral ministry.

In 2013 Bishop Selvister Ponnumuthan raised



Fr. Sunil Issac Roman, SCJ

it as quasi parish and appointed Fr. Rinu Jose, SCJ, as priest in-charge. Fr. Rinu looked after the parish from 2013 to 2015.

In May 2015 Fr. Issac Sunil Roman, SCJ, was appointed as priest in-charge of the parish. Meanwhile Fr. Sijo Soloman, SCJ, was appointed as assistant priest. Fr. Mathew Lalan, SCJ, came to do ministry in the parish for a few months.

Before the arrival of the SCJs there was Eucharist only on Sundays and special occasions because it was a sub-station under Pathanapuram, St. Anne's parish.

SCJs began to widen the pastoral needs of the faithful. We started to organize things. We started daily Eucharistic Adoration and Holy Mass. Besides these, the following areas were functions begun by the SCJs;

Sacrament of confession

Catechism

Re-organizing the basic Christian communities

Youth Program,

House visit

Visit to the sick

Social care

Involvement in Diocesan activities

Extending Pastoral needs for neighboring parishes including other rites

Spoken English classes for students

Documentations for erection of the church

As a result, the community of the faithful became active and the number of the participants increased. The sacramental life of the faithful began to flourish. We started to spread the spirituality of the Sacred Heart by dedicating all the families to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We distributed the picture of the Sacred Heart to all the families and who placed it at the centre of their homes.

SCJs also focused on the material needs of the church at the request of the faithful. Fr. Rinu,

SCJ, with help of local benefactors completed the work of a St. Jude shrine near the church. Fr. Sunil, SCJ, completed the work of the shrine of St. Mary, St. Anthony and St. Jude near the main road with the co-operation of the parishioners and benefactors. The next project was to build a simple church hall to run catechism and other functions of the parish. The foundation of the hall was laid before the arrival of the SCJs and it was high time to complete the work. Fr. Sunil went with the parish secretary and treasurer, visiting all the families of the parish and raising funds to complete it. With the contribution received from the parishioners and with help of benefactors the work of the hall has been completed. It is known as St. Jude Sunday School Hall. The kitchen of the parish needed to be renovated and Fr. Sunil completed the work with help of the parishioners.

Now there was a proposal from the Indian district to approach the bishop of the diocese to request to raise St. Jude to the status of a full-fledged parish.

There was a meeting held on 2 March 2017, in the bishop's house. His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. Selvister Ponnumuthan (Bishop of Punalur), Very Rev. Msgr. Vincent S. D'Cruz (Vicar General), Rev. Fr. Thomas Vinod SCJ (District Superior of Indian District), Fr. Sunil Issac SCJ, Fr. Rinu Jose SCJ, Fr. Colin Nepolian SCJ, and Fr. Siju Soloman SCJ were present. In this meeting Fr. Vinod Thomas officially requested his excellency to consider erecting St. Jude as an independent parish. He also submitted the request letter.

Why did we request to erect it as an independent parish?

We have been working in the church since 2011. We realize that the erection of this church as a parish church would encourage us to render more pastoral care to the people. Kindly note the following:

1. There are residential priests available to celebrate Holy Eucharist every day. For daily Mass there are 20-30 people who participate.

2. There are three Basic Christian Communities and they are functioning well with help of the priests.

3. There is daily Eucharistic Adoration before Holy Mass. As a result there is a steady increase in attendance of the faithful for Sunday and daily Eucharistic celebrations.

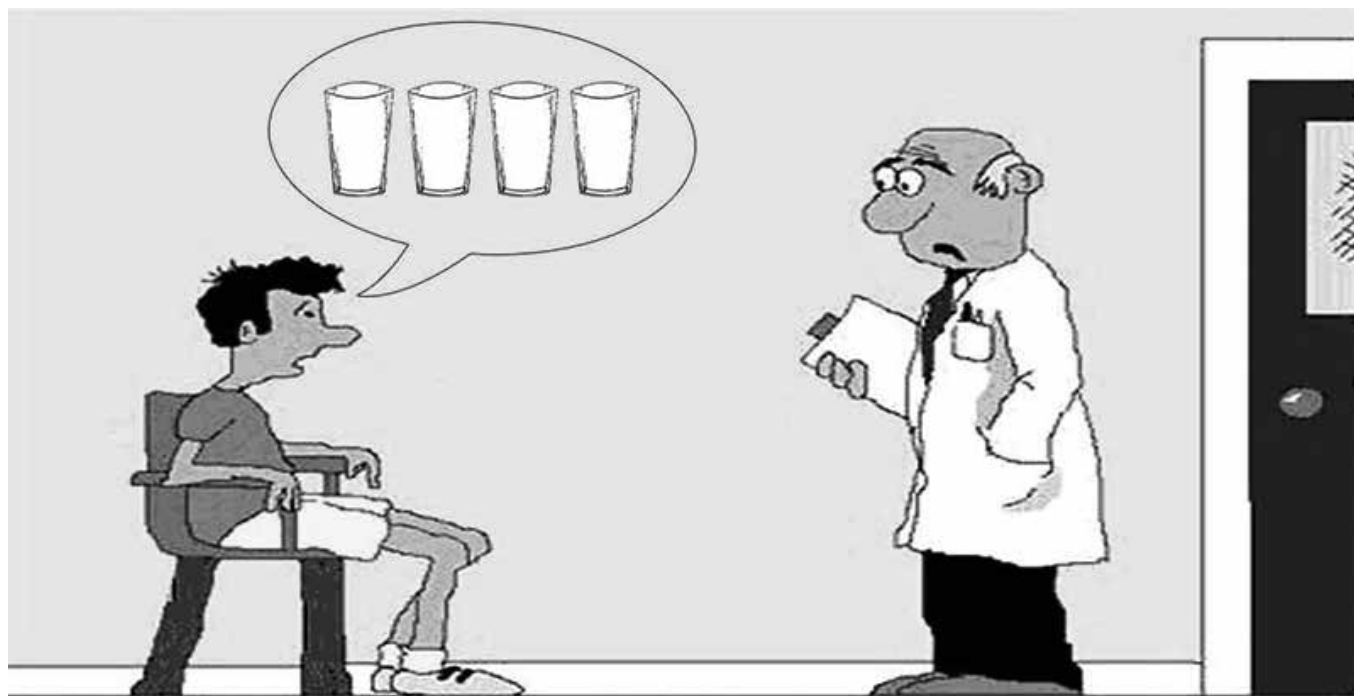
4. We conduct vocational spoken English classes to improve the educational skills of the students.

In this meeting the bishop asked us to submit all the documents necessary to make it a parish along with the history of the parish. It took some time to organize everything and submit to the bishop. He then asked us to discuss the issue in the Pathanamthitta (Deanery) forane and submit letter from the forane vicar. Meanwhile there was another meeting with bishop in which our present district superior, Fr. McQueen, SCJ,

requested the bishop to speed up the process of erecting St. Jude as an independent parish. This issue had been discussed in three forane meetings at last we got letter from the forane vicar. With this the process has been completed.

By God's grace, the bishop agreed to raise St. Jude as an independent parish on 29th of October which is the final day of the feast of St. Jude, the patron saint of the parish. During the Solemn Pontifical Eucharist Bishop Selvister Ponnumuthan declared St. Jude an independent parish and Fr. Sunil Issac Roman, SCJ, is appointed as the first parish priest.

Once again thanks to God the Almighty and everyone who contributed to erect St. Jude church as an independent parish.



Doctor: You should take at least 10 Glasses of water every day.

Patient: It is Impossible.

Doctor: Why?

Patient: I have only 4 Glasses at home..!

BLESSED RANI MARIA:

A courageous woman full of humility

When a tribal woman, hosting her in a hut in remote village of Uttar Pradesh in 1977, used her sari to strain tea served to them, Brighth Raphael was shocked. "How can I drink it?" she thought. Wide-eyed, she turned around to get a cue from Sr Rani Maria, who was accompanying her on the village trip.

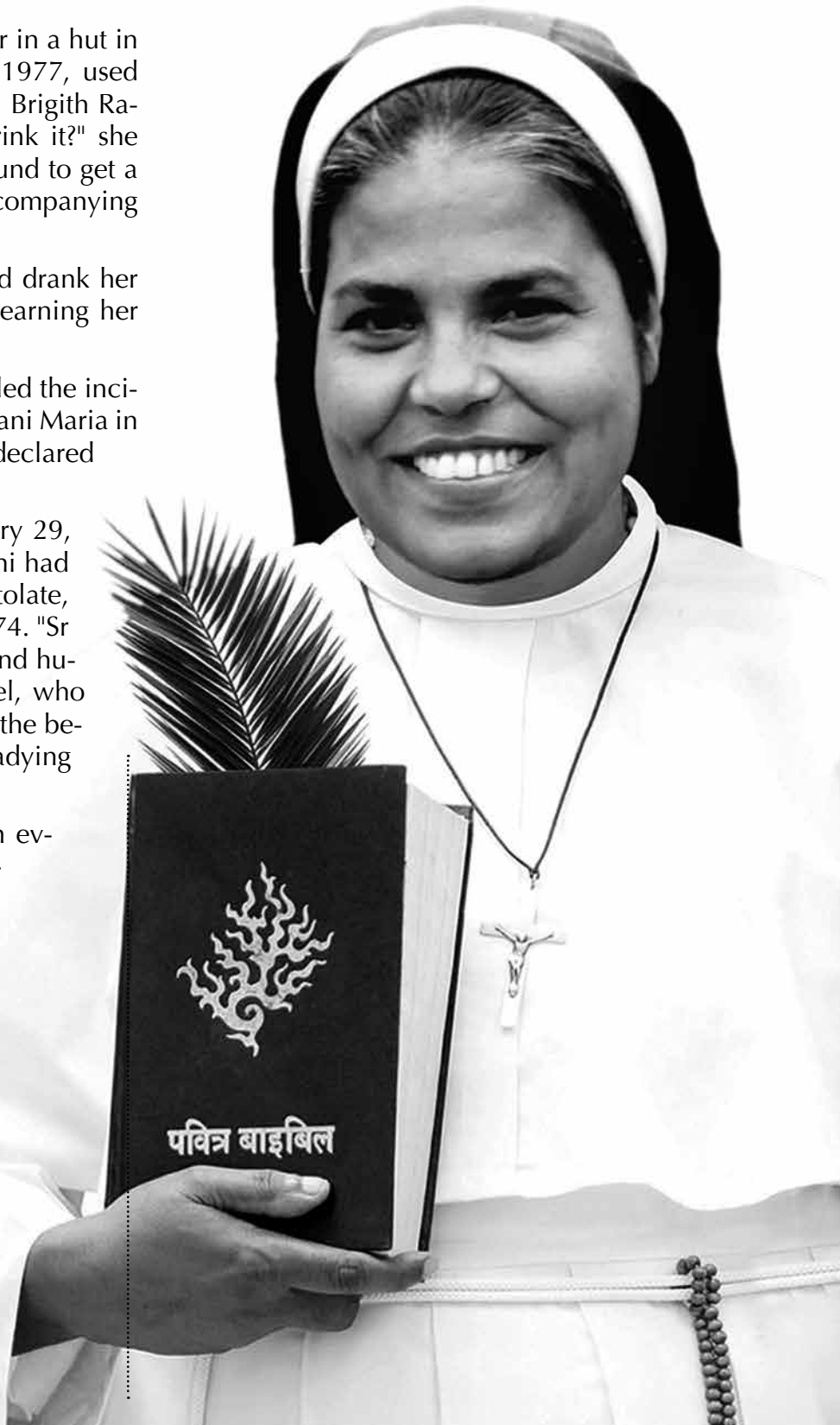
The nun smiled at her calmly and drank her cup of tea. Raphael followed suit, learning her first lesson of humility.

Four decades later, Raphael recalled the incident and lessons she learnt from Sr Rani Maria in Indore, minutes after the nun was declared 'Blessed'.

Born to Paili and Elisha on January 29, 1954, at Pulluvazhi in Kerala, Sr Rani had reached Bijnor for mission Apostolate, soon after taking her first vows in 1974. "Sr Rani Maria was a woman of grace and humility," said the 56-year-old Raphael, who spent a sleepless night preparing for the beatification ceremony as if she was readying for a 'wedding function'.

Sr Rani Maria had left a mark on everyone who came to her contact. After serving in Bijnor, she was transferred to Satna and later in 1992 to Udainagar.

The nun began organising people who were exploited by moneylenders. Slowly, she was able to make a difference in their lives. Her self-help groups helped the poor and the downtrodden to break away from the clutches of the established money lending community, Raphael said.





This indeed annoyed the rich and powerful. She was threatened several times, but she was not to be tied down.

Her bold initiatives won hearts of poor tribals, but they did not go down well with those having vested interests who ultimately decided to eliminate her.

"Sr Rani Maria was too humble yet quite courageous," said Sr Annie Flossy, FCC who worked for a brief period of one year with Sr Rani Maria. Sharing an incident about her passion for the mission work, she said, "Once she went to a village of the person who threatened to kill her and then after meeting him, she made him her friend. This says a lot about her character."

Sr Rani Maria was so passionate about her

mission call, that she would run to the villages every morning without fail, be it rains or thunders. She was full of courage, therefore, no threat call could deter her from helping poor and her impact was so huge that the tradesmen plotted to kill her.

"I feel blessed today," said Moni Bai, a tribal, who had come from Maharashtra district to attend this ceremony. Although she had never met Bl Sr Rani Maria in person, she'd always hear her stories from her family members. Thus she was overjoyed by the fact that she could be a part of this ceremony. She's wasn't just the only one who had tears in her eyes, talking about Sr Rani Maria.

Source: Times News Network



Fr. Leo John Dehon... "Daily Diary," 13 December 1887

"Corrections should be given gently, rarely and in private; for everyone is put off by harsh reprimands, as well as the most kindly corrections, when they are frequent or out of place. I've experienced this a hundred times."

(NQT IV, 8r)



POPE ON WORLD DAY OF THE POOR: THEY OPEN FOR US THE WAY TO HEAVEN

Pope Francis celebrated Mass on Sunday – the XXXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time and the first-ever

World Day of the Poor – in St. Peter's Basilica. The Holy Father announced the World Day of the Poor during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, and entrusted its organization and promotion to the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization.

There were some 4 thousand needy people in the congregation for the Mass, after which Pope Francis offered Sunday lunch in the Paul VI Hall.

Speaking off the cuff to guests at the luncheon,

the Holy Father said, "We pray that the Lord bless us, bless this meal, bless those who have prepared it, bless us all, bless our hearts, our families, our desires, our lives and give us health and strength." The Holy Father went on to ask God's blessing on all those eating and serving in soup kitchens throughout the city. "Rome," he said, "is full of this [charity and good will] today."

The World Day of the Poor is to be marked annually, on the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

In the homily he prepared for the occasion and delivered in St. Peter's Basilica following the



Gospel reading, Pope Francis said, "In the poor, Jesus knocks on the doors of our heart, thirsting for our love." He went on to say, "When we overcome our indifference and, in the name of Jesus, we give of ourselves for the least of his brethren, we are his good and faithful friends, with whom he loves to dwell."

Reminding the faithful that it is precisely in the poor, we find the presence of Jesus, who, though rich, became poor (cf. 2 Cor 8:9), and that there is therefore in each and every poor person, a "saving power" present, Pope Francis said, "[I]f in the eyes of the world they have little value, they are the ones who open to us the way to heaven."

"For us," the Pope continued, "it is an evangelical duty to care for them, as our real riches, and to do so not only by giving them bread, but also by breaking with them the bread of God's word, which is addressed first to them."

"To love the poor," Pope Francis said, "means to combat all forms of poverty, spiritual and material: and it will also do us good. Drawing near to the poor in our midst will touch our lives. It will remind us of what really counts: to love God and our neighbour. Only this lasts forever, everything else passes away."

Source: news.va



Fr. Leo John Dehon... thoughts on preparation for prayer and meditation

"It is clear that the principal obstacle to a life of love is sin. To sin and reject God's love are the same... By sin man turns from God to set himself up as independent and self-sufficient. He destroys the union of his soul with God and losses the grace which this union had established in him. Moreover, a new inclination draws him toward creatures and away from God, whereas formerly he an inclination to seek Good in everything and everywhere."

(OSP, II, 85)

Our Heart-felt condolences to Fr Raju Dumala SCJ on the death of his father and Fr. Jayaraj SCJ on the demise of his mother.



Jojaiah Dumala

Born on 01-01-1954

Died on 10-09-2017



Chapalamadugu Marthamma

Born in 1941

Died on 06-11-2017



Subscribe

Name.....Gender.....

Date of Birth.....

Home Addrss.....

.....City.....State.....Pincode.....

Tel:.....Mob:.....E mail.....

Date.....

Signature.....

spreading love and life



WITH
**OPEN
HEART
& MIND**
Lehonians

EST. 1878

Our Mission Statemnet

Our vision:

Love with open heart and mind

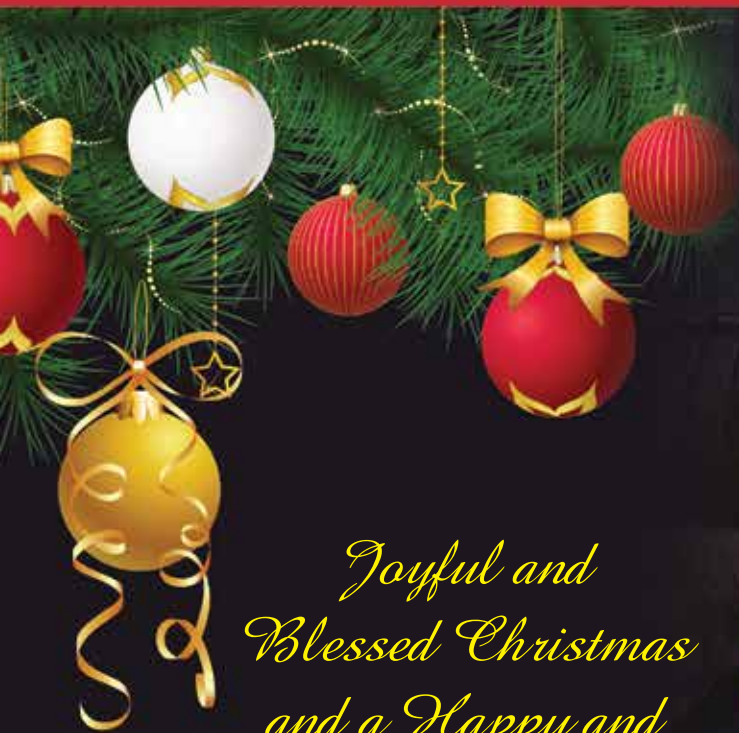
We are witnesses of God's transforming love in souls and society. We spread God's love around the world with open heart and mind.

Our Mission:

Adveniat Regnum Tuum – Your kingdom come

We are especially for people who are most in need and for the young. Our Congregation focuses on education, social work, missions, spirituality and media to announce the kingdom of God.

We live in community, are inspired by daily Eucharistic Adoration, and in a fragmented world we believe unity to be possible.



*Joyful and
Blessed Christmas
and a Happy and
prosperous New
Year 2018*

