



| Fr. Cyril Kuttiyanickal

Message from the **Provincial**

Greetings from Bhopal St. Paul Provincial House

Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers,

I am pleased to wish you all a fruitful Pentecost overflowing with abundant blessings from our Lord Jesus Christ through the showering of the Holy Spirit. As we delve into the pages of Lehar, our attention turns towards the younger generation, particularly those residing in formation houses and the newly ordained priests. Listening to their stories and hearing news from formation houses is very encouraging and satisfying. Many of our brothers have excelled in their studies as well as in other co-curricular activities. We congratulate and appreciate them and wish them all the best for their continued success.

On this occasion, I extend our heartfelt gratitude and acknowledgement to the dedicated vocation promoters and formators in our province and common study houses. Their selfless and generous efforts stand as pillars, playing an important role in nurturing and guiding the next generation of priests and religious.

In his insightful teachings, Pope Francis addresses the challenges faced by priests and religious, calling us to transcend spiritual mediocrity, resist the allure



of an easy life, and abstain from superficial engagement. The Holy Father advocates for regular spiritual practices, such as intense daily prayer, regular participation in the Eucharist, and frequent confessions, urging us to move beyond mere routine. Furthermore, he emphasizes the need for active and conscious involvement in people's lives, urging us to authentically contribute to the well-being of those around us while maintaining a deep connection with Christ through prayer. Thus, Pope Francis highlights the importance of striking a delicate balance between engagement with society and maintaining a profound closeness to God through prayer.

We are the living models whom the younger generation looks up to for inspiration and guidance in their vocation. Let us remember that formation is not just the responsibility of a few but all of us. May the counsel, wisdom, and reflections of Pope Francis act as a guiding beacon, illuminating our hearts and communities. Let it instil in us a renewed commitment to prioritize the nurturing and guidance of our younger members by re-committing ourselves to actively participate in their formation journey, offering support, encouragement, and guidance whenever needed. Together, may we create an environment where each member can flourish and grow in their spiritual journey, becoming beacons of light in the lives of those we serve.

Wishing you all a blessed, spiritually enriching holiday and a fruitful new academic year.



There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged "place" for our encounter with God.



-Pope Francis

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EDITOR'S NOTE

| Fr. Sebastian Elavathingal

Religious Formation Theory & Art

Theoretical aspects of religious formation are accorded significant importance across various stages of formation, commencing with vocation camps and continuing through aspirancy, postulancy, novitiate, first profession, regency, final profession, philosophical, theological, and secular studies until priestly ordination. For a priest-missionary candidate, this entails a protracted period of formation comprising distinct stages of personal transformation. In many cases, higher studies at home and abroad extend the duration of formation. It is intriguing to witness the evolution of a 15-year-old boy into a 35-year-old man, encompassing physical, mental, and spiritual dimensions as he progresses through the pipeline of religious formation. However, formation is not confined to a specific stage or age; it is a continual process known as ongoing formation.

Theoretical formation imbues candidates or seminarians with Gospel values and the principles of spiritual life, guiding them towards their religious vocation and commitment. They are enlightened by the Word of God and the lives and teachings of spiritual masters. Many seminarians complete their formation as proficient teachers and preachers, having been provided ample opportunities to engage with diverse peoples, cultures, languages, and lands, experiencing various human situations as part of their formation. They embark on their

ministry with fervent enthusiasm as visionaries and missionaries, their transformed selves being tested for their mettle. Formators rejoice in the success of their wards' transformation into responsible and innovative priests and missionaries. Yet, it is also disconcerting to encounter instances of failed formation, prompting reflection on the efficacy of our formation methods.

The crux of the matter lies not in theoretical input but in the method of formation. Formation should not merely disseminate information; it must effect transformation, demanding artistry to complement theory. Theory and art must work in tandem. Formation encompasses both spiritual and physical dimensions, requiring formees to make their bodies and faculties responsive to transformation. The inspirational Word must engage with the entire person of the formee to effect holistic transformation, a process akin to artistic integration. Just as artwork emerges from the union of design and materials, formees, equipped with their physical, mental, and spiritual resources, necessitate transformation in all facets of their lives. The physical aspect of formation is often overlooked without proper and systematic monitoring. There is no merit in lamenting the perceived lack of responsibility, discipline, enthusiasm, social behaviour, and interpersonal skills among the younger generation, despite their advancing age and knowledge. "Strike when the iron is hot" holds true in religious formation as well, necessitating the cultivation of virtuous behaviours and noble values while the opportunity presents itself.

While acknowledging the role of the Holy Spirit in personal transformation, external factors also play a decisive role in a seminarian's religious upbringing. Accompanying formees in a conscientious and systematic manner, evaluating their potential, and fostering their development, all require serious consideration in formation. Not a single day should pass without diligent observation and assessment of formees, both individually and collectively. Formators must maintain comprehensive records of growth across all aspects of formees' lives. At the outset of each year, the formation team should convene to outline plans and objectives for each formee, who, in turn, should grasp the significance of

their forthcoming endeavours. Thus, formation becomes a conscious process of transformation, wherein both formators and formees actively collaborate with the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul Province is currently blessed with a considerable number of seminarians who exhibit unwavering commitment and fidelity to their calling, a testament to the commendable efforts of formators. If formation is approached with due seriousness, casual achievements will not suffice; systematic and methodical engagement with the field of formation is imperative. Only then does formation ascend to the realm of artistry. Undoubtedly, the conforming of formees to Christ is the exclusive work of the Holy Spirit. However, it also entails a physical process of seizing opportunities, an aspect often overlooked due to the absence of objective systems. It is heartening that today's formators recognize their roles, and their innovative approach yields fruit in the form of numerous young seminarians.



Today's frantic pace leads us to close many doors to encounter, often for fear of others. Only shopping malls and internet connections are always open. Yet that is not how it should be with consecrated life: the brother and the sister given to me by God are a part of my history, gifts to be cherished. May we never look at the screen of our cell phone more than the eyes of our brothers or sisters, or focus more on our software than on the Lord. For whenever we put our own projects, methods and organization at the centre, consecrated life stops being attractive; it no longer speaks to others; It no longer flourishes because it forgets its very foundations, its very roots.



-Pope Francis

OUR MEMORABLE DAYS AT SACCIDANANDA ASHRAM



| Br. Bristo &
Br. Savion

Our time at Saccidanand Ashram was like a wonderful journey! Every day, we started early with yoga at 5:15 am after waking up at 4:30 am Breakfast came next, and then we all gathered for mass at 6:30 am. It was a special time of togetherness and prayer. We spent some time in the library before heading out to help feed people at the hospital, which we called Bandara. Back at the Ashram by 2:00 pm, our afternoons were filled with teaching and learning with amazing kids.

In the evenings, we had our own time for prayers at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner at 7:30 pm and then Satsang But one of the most memorable parts was being part of a big conference (Interreligious conference)with people from different religions. We sang a song together, and it was amazing to see how everyone, no matter their religion, came together with love and respect. We even visited different houses in the parish to share blessings.

Through all these experiences, we felt the love of Jesus embracing everyone, regardless of their beliefs. It showed us that Jesus lives in the hearts of all people, spreading love and unity wherever we go. It was truly magical and reminded us of the power of love and togetherness in our world.



NEW PRIEST'S PAGE



This year we were blessed with five young vibrant priests. They were ordained in the month of Dec-Jan 2023-24. At present they are doing their pastoral ministry in various parishes.

Fr. Joel is doing his pastoral ministry in North Chalakudy belonging to Irinjalakkuda diocese. The parish has 800 families and Fr. Joel enjoys his pastoral ministries in the parish and he extends his services to the nearby parishes too.

Fr. Benedict is doing his pastoral ministry in our station at Migging in Arunachal Pradesh. The parish has good number of Catholics. Fr. Shaju Panengadan is the parish priest and Fr. Benedict assists him in various pastoral involvements in the area.

Fr. Geo is stationed in the national Shrine Basilica of our Lady of Vallarpadam which belongs to the Archdiocese of Verapoly. Fr. Antony Valungal is the shrine rector and Fr. Geo along with two other priests are busy helping people who flock this shrine from all parts of Kerala to seek the blessings of Mary, traditionally known as *Vallarpadathamma*.

Fr. Speejo was appointed as the Assitant Vicar of St.Mary's Church, Kannothe after his priestly ordination. This parish belongs to the diocese of Thamarassery. The church is situated on a hill and is also a popular pilgrim centre. There are 650 families in the parish. Basically most of the people are farmers and Fr. Speejo is blessed to have his pastoral ministry among such simple and God fearing people. Fr. Augustine Alumkal is the present Vicar. The parish has also two schools. The parish is also blessed with many vocations to religious life and priesthood.

Fr. Derin Thottian is doing his pastoral ministry in Sacred Heart catholic Church after his priestly ordination. The parish church is belongs to the diocese of Itanagar. It has about 20 families in Boleng Town and there are 50 families under Boleng parish. The parish has five villages under Boleng parish namely Riga, Pegging, Pagine, Sisen, Komsing. Fr. Derin assists Fr. Martin to enliven all the subcenters of our parish.

New Priests on their Dreams about Priesthood at the End of their Seminary Formation Fr. Paul: How do you feel when closely approaching your priestly ordination, a long cherished dream?



Truly, I feel like I am going to have a great experience, not less than a fan-boy moment. As I reflect more on priesthood these days, the seriousness and the greatness of the sacrament that I will receive makes me humble each day.



I am so happy getting closer to my long-cherished dream. With love, fear of God, and a thankful heart, I am looking towards God's Providence.



I feel happy and a bit tensed, to be frank. I know it is not the end but the beginning. But there is much excitement about the day and the priestly ministry.



It's obviously a dream come true moment. Its always a moment of anxiety what next. I always hope in the Lord who called me in spite of my weaknesses and unworthiness.



I am really excited because my dream is going to be fulfilled. At the same time, I'm also afraid because being a priest today is not an easy task. Life is being challenged every single second. But I feel that this fear is also helping me, in one way or another, to prepare more vigorously to be a faithful priest.



How has your journey led you to discern a vocation within your call?



The Journey has always been a progressive graph with many ups and downs. The only fact is that in all the moments of downfall, there was the companionship of the sacraments to get up, look forward, and go forward.



The community supported me well whenever I had to discern my vocation during this journey of my call.



The long years of formation have helped me find a personal call: to go wherever I am sent to proclaim His message.



In my case, primarily, my journey was an attempt to strengthen my call and qualify myself for that call. I am still in pursuit of that call within the call.



I find it more satisfying to serve the people of God with love.



Can you share an experience from your formation that has been particularly transformative and has deepened your understanding of your vocation within our religious community?



The village experience program organized during our novitiate in Jagdalpur was one such. Our batch mates were divided into 3 groups and were sent to different villages. For about 15 days we could stay there with the people. That was the time I really felt the need to become a CMI religious priest to be with people. I feel that only with the help of such a beautiful fraternity, I can do my priestly mission for the people. Our community is such that it always respects and supports a mission.



I also have a similar experience; after the death of my father, I was in a dilemma about whether to continue or not, but I could decide with the help of my community, and many of our priests supported me to move forward my religious life.



I developed all my abilities and talents in seminary. I always felt at home there. I am sure I would have felt 'misplaced' if I had not been in seminary. I had a strong bond with the formation life. The seminary life gave me many experiences that made me feel that 'this is my home and I am called to this life.'



There have been many occasions where I had these kinds of experiences. Very recently, in the month of May, my



brother met with an accident and was seriously injured. I was tensed and helpless, but I was sure that God would take care and He has a plan. Yes, God's providence was very visible in everything; his recovery was fast. Similar experiences have taught me a lot, and strengthened me significantly to be more faithful to the call I received.



Very particularly, the time of the Deacon ministry has been the eye opener for realizing this fact. When I was away from my community at Deori for two months, there was no access to the CMI community. And it was like a completely cut-out from home. After 2 months, when I came and saw my community and had a eucharist with the community, I was literally crying in the mass. I had this experience when Fr. Sebastian Thekkinieth came from Brazil. He also cried during mass, saying the same thing. I experienced it when I was away from my community.



As a priest, how do you envision integrating a life of prayer, service, and community living into your daily life within the congregation?



I still cherish the spirituality taught at home. Whenever I go home and see them praying, it is a great boost and nourishment for me. With the same spirit, I would like to integrate these inseparable entities of our life.



As all three of these are interrelated, they are essential and inseparable. The community and prayer should strengthen the service. A fall in any of these will affect the other. The same is asserted by the motto of our congregation, "Action in Contemplation."



I was also so moved by the idea of contemplation through action and action through contemplation. This was exactly what Jesus did.



Prayer definitely has an effect in all other walks of our lives. If we are bound to the community, it is very easy. I found it a challenge when we are outside the community how to integrate all these together. Samanvaya spirituality helped me... All things that happen around me is because of my prayer. That has no boundaries of religion or caste or creed.



I feel that, It's only possible when the whole community cooperates and supports each other. Individually a member of the congregation might pray, and do service. But it will touch its ultimate fullness only when the community supports it. Because, our community has to be praying, serving and a loving one. It's in this community that we live and have our existence.



Our congregation emphasizes social outreach programmes. How do you plan to contribute to and support these initiatives?



As I was at Parasia I have been a part of the social ministry of our congregation. I have plans in my mind for the people's social welfare, which has to be executed with the support of the community strengthened by prayer. First of all, there should be thorough study before the plans are made. For me social outreach should be a planned and well organised system covering all the parts. Moreover, this should be executed with the support of the community.



Personally, what I feel is to render my time and energy to support the initiatives that the community undertakes. I also try to find out the needs of the time and the

people around me and find a way to support them with the consent of the superior and the community.



More often means become our end. So, we should have a clear-cut vision of the mission, which requires a commitment.



Every ministry has a foundation and vision. I will be a part of it in-person and I can also be the source of it. Grasping the vision of it and working for the cause will be my support.



Jesus always had an outreaching point of view. And that's what I love. Reach out to those who are in need of Christ.



How do you intend to approach pastoral care?



Walk the talk, be transparent, approachable, available, listen and talk less.



Wherever we are placed, there is always a room for pastoral care. I believe that it is up to one to find creative ways where he can be a true pastor.



Personally, a range or field that is unexplored by us would be pastoral care. Definitely institutions can help us in getting involved with people, but the future reputation of the institution may be hampered by it. But if we are into a proper pastoral care I think we can make differences.



Pastoral care is very dear and important to every priest. Therefore, I, too, consider it to be the same. Which is why, where ever I am assigned, my primary responsibility is to attend to the pastoral care of the people.



I believe pastoral care is being with the people. To be with them, leading them by serving them and being part of all

their joys and sorrows, praying for them and giving spiritual support would be my way of pastoral care.



What challenges do you anticipate encountering in your ministry within our congregation, and how do you plan to navigate and overcome them?



The greatest challenge that we are going to face within the congregation is lack of mission zeal that our founder and our pioneers had. The COVID has jeopardized our passion for our mission. Only a conscious motivation and initiation from within can help us overcome this challenge.



My dream is to take our congregation to a newer height by making us more acceptable to the people.



After all, we need the real convictions. If we are convinced of our mission, then whatever be the issues, they will never be a challenge to us rather, they become only stepping stones and lessons to go forward and reach the real end- the mission that handed over to us by Jesus.



I think the attitude of "maintenance church" would be the greatest barrier. Most of the members would be thinking to maintain the province as well as the congregation. But to take up new ministries, we would need to shatter the comfort zones. Take small steps such as public transport instead of a personal car for various reasons would be a lovely gesture.



For the time being, I couldn't find any specific challenges other than the common ones. But one thing is sure: whatever be the challenges, together with the community, I would definitely be able to overcome them.



What is your dream about St Paul Province, Bhopal, in the future?



To revive the mission spirit that we had had and to make our founder's dream come true.



Working for God and leading his people to Him.



The major concern for me is the declining vocations. And I dream our community will sort out the problem and grow to new heights.



I dream my province will be more vibrant like the earlier days. We were a bundle of resources at the time, but now we lack personnel who excel in many fields and can contribute. We should come to the frontlines to take initiatives that challenge the congregation to go to its roots, but definitely with progressive direction.



I also have a similar observation, during my initial stages of formation, I heard and saw that our province had been a lighthouse to thousands of people according to their needs of the time. But as the world and the people are changing, and of course, we have various threats from the side of society and the political parties, we are somehow withdrawing to our own comfort zones by blaming society and people. Like the former missionaries of the province, today we need courageous young missionaries to take up the challenges, live for the people, and attend to their needs. As the world grows, the needs of the people and society also change. Thus, we need to change the strategy and do mission work with more enthusiasm and vigor. And I hope and pray that our province will again become a lighthouse to thousands.

CREATIVE MOMENTS OF TRANSFORMATION IN FORMATION

Fr. Shepherd Thelappilly
Former Formation Coordinator

In order to see the “creative” moments of transformation in the formees, the formator must have the attitude of an “artist”. Transformation is not merely the change of the outer “form” but the discovery and growth of the inner person's potentialities. A formator must be able to see the “possible” (future) in the formee, looking beyond the “actual” (present).

What are the materials the formees bring with them to the formation house?

Positively they are: their personal qualities like hidden talents, spontaneity, dreams, and ambitions, attachment to family, cultural identity, love and care, flexibility, faith and devotion, their different images of God – as punishing, encouraging, loving, forgiving etc. their interest in the Word of God, positive qualities of behaviour, simplicity, openness, being holy and committed, expressive, sociable, active, energetic, hardworking, fearless, straightforward, compassionate etc.

Negatively they are: unloved experiences, insecurity, brokenness, stubbornness, psychological wounds, financial problems, anxieties, inferiority complex, worldly ambitions, trauma of physical abuses experienced in childhood, brokenness, particular tastes, likes and dislikes, lack of seriousness and responsibility, low self-image, pride in intellectual ability and physical appearance.

The formees may come without much awareness of their environment and context. They need to reflect on their actual situations and submit themselves to the work of the empowering Spirit. The rector needs to appreciate their values; he has to encourage their uniqueness, giving an atmosphere where they can express themselves and their talents. An opportunity given for sharing life history of senior members of the community would help to deepen one's call and will also help to create a sense of belongingness. Let the beginners read the lives of

saints. Motivational classes on vocation through inspiring stories would help the formers to move in the right track. Formator has to identify what raw materials they have got; spiritual direction must be inspiring and motivating and personal accompaniment must be reassuring. The rector must create an atmosphere to boost their confidence, to arouse community feeling; frequent outings, picnics, good food considering the tastes of their culture, and creating an atmosphere of feel at home will enhance their self-respect and maturity. The rector must give attention to all never showing partiality to anyone.

Jesus is the formator par excellence. Jesus did not condemn the person, looked with hope for the future of the person. By Jesus' encounter Pauls' imperfect

faith is turned into fullness of truth; Zaccheus' greed into generous sharing; doubtfulness of Thomas plunged into deep conviction; vulnerable Peter became the foundation of Church; sinful life and imagination of Mary Magdalene were transformed into holiness and she became the first witness of resurrection; Matthew the tax collector became – an evangelist; Samaritan woman's thirst for water became thirst for God. Jesus Christ was filled with God's love to bring wholeness in person, to heal and transform. Everything had an impact in the transformation of his disciples. "A community that cherishes the little details of love and whose members care for one another, becomes a beautiful parable of love" (Pope Francis).

REINVENTING RELIGIOUS FORMATION

| Fr. Jacob Peenikaparambil

Management experts recommend REINVENTING when an organization, either social or political or business, faces huge challenges. Reinventing means change in such a way that the organization becomes new or undergoes a radical change. The process of reinventing involves, according to the management guru Peter Drucker, three steps: 1) abandonment of things that do not work; the things that have outlived their usefulness 2) concentration on things that work or produce results and 3) adopting new strategies.

The two padayatras undertaken by the Congress Party under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi was an attempt to reinvent the Congress party, according to the party sources. Party leaders claim that through the padayatra the party could connect with the common people, understand their problems and plan its strategies (Lok Sabha election manifesto) to rejuvenate the party.

Religious life is essentially a way of life based on the teachings of Jesus and at the same time, religious congregations are organizations that manage many institutions and implement a lot of programmes in view of realizing their vision and goals. Religious life as a way of life and religious congregations as organizations are facing huge challenges both external and internal.

In the context of India, first among external challenges is opposition, harassment and attacks

from Hindutva organizations with overt or covert support of the governments, and harassment from the governments. The attitude and mindset of a large section of Hindus towards the minorities: Muslims and Christians have changed radically. They view Christians as agents for converting Hindus, especially the poor, into Christianity; hence they are anti-national. They perceive all social, charitable and development activities of Christians through the glass of religious conversion. Even if the government changes in the 2024 election, the mindset of the brainwashed Hindus and the enmity of the Hindutva organization may not change easily.

Some prominent internal challenges include alarmingly dwindling vocations, erosion in the quality of vocations, lack of communion among the members of religious congregations, increasing conflicts in religious communities/congregations and increasing scandals.

Taking into account the present and future challenges the formation process has to undergo certain radical changes. More than what is taught to them, the formees learn from the members of the congregation/province. Hence, along with the changes in the formation, changes have to take place in the policies of the congregations. The most important change required now at the congregation level is FOCUS on human resource development of members (motivation, character building and



competence development) rather than institutional and geographical expansion. The following policies could be adopted for reinventing religious formation.

From the very beginning of the formation, the formees are to be made to understand that religious life is a call to radical discipleship of Jesus to continue his mission and not simply to become devotees of Jesus or ritualistic priests. In order to become a radical disciple, one has to internalize the vision, mission and the way of life of Jesus through contemplation on the word of God. They are to be helped to understand the vision of Jesus as the reign of God, a situation in which God is accepted as father/mother and all human beings as brothers and sisters and the mission as bringing about individual and social transformation.

Contemplation on the person of Jesus and his words and deeds and applying insights from contemplation to their daily lives and mission should be the preferred form of prayer. Jesus' prayer was mainly contemplative prayer. Contemplative prayer made him a karmayogi different from karmamargi and bhaktimargi. A person who integrates the way of knowledge (jnana marga) with the way meditation (dhyanamarga) becomes a karmayogi.

As religious life is primarily a way of life, motivation of the candidates is to be tested properly from time to time and only those who have the call to become a radical disciple of Jesus are to be promoted.

The formees are to be assisted to evolve a personal vision and goals in tune with the vision and mission of

Jesus, taking into account the unique gifts they have received from God.

Human resources or human capital is going to be a crucial factor in the mission of the religious in the challenging times of today and tomorrow. Hence, equal importance is to be given on character formation and competence building. Honesty and integrity, sensitivity and compassion, justice and non-discrimination, inclusiveness, respect for different religions and cultures, care and concern for the environment and cleanliness are some significant values a radical disciple of Jesus should have.

Self-discipline and self-education are the two principles to be followed in the formation period so that in future the formees will lead a disciplined life without anyone's supervision and will be life-long learners.

The role of the religious in the coming days will be that of leaders and facilitators rather than service providers. Along with instilling in them leadership qualities and skills, special attention is to be paid to create interest in them to read books, newspapers and news magazines, write articles and books and to develop speaking skills. They should be proficient at least in three languages: English, Hindi and the local language.

The best way to be a radical disciple of Jesus today and tomorrow in any context is personal witnessing. Hence, the formees are to be taught to ask themselves, "if Jesus were here today, what would he do?"

FORMATION THROUGH THE EYES OF A FORMEE



Br. Linto Kuttikatil

During the formation period the formees are guided by many formators, and the final outcome is greatly influenced by their influences. Therefore, the role of the formators is very significant in the life of a formee. Only someone with love, care, compassion and without ego can effectively guide the formee to reach the ideal level necessary to become a fruitful missionary or religious priest.

I feel the formees should be helped from their first year onwards to learn something according to their interests, such as music, games, and other extracurricular activities. The first three years of formation and Novitiate are crucial times for priestly religious formation. Therefore, proper attention must be given to the integral development of the formees in those initial years. Along with the spiritual and

religious formation, care shall be taken so that the formees become proficient both in Hindi and English. This will help formees to get immersed in the life of the people.

Focusing too much on a candidate's daily routine and studies in a mechanical way may prevent the formators from noticing the true talents and calibre of the formees. Every seminarian must have a spiritual guide within their province who attends to their spiritual needs and assists in choosing their specific ministry and area of higher education. In my opinion care shall be taken to respect and love the formees. They shall be respected as individuals, irrespective of their academic performance. While not advocating equality with priests, they deserve humane consideration. They are on a unique journey

of learning and should be treated with dignity. As formees move towards higher stages of formation they shall be given more freedom with responsibility to take up initiatives.

The role of formators in helping students experience Jesus in their daily lives is crucial. It involves more than just imparting knowledge; it is about fostering a deep, personal connection with the teachings of Jesus. Formators guide formees to see the relevance of Jesus' message in their everyday experiences through prayer, reflection, community service, or simply living out the values of love, compassion, and forgiveness. Ultimately the aim is to nurture a profound understanding of the sacred call to follow Jesus, leading formees towards a transformative encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist.

OUR DEACONS



Dn. Jinil Koothur

Jinil Koothur was ordained as Deacon by Bp. Alex Tharamangalam on 21 March at Dharmaram. He will be doing his Deacon ministry in his own parish for two months and then in Arunachal Pradesh for three months. He has taken "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus" Phi 2:5 as his motto. Let us hold him in our prayers as he journeys towards priesthood.

Dn. Akhil Joseph

Akhil Joseph was ordained as Deacon by Bp. Alex Tharamangalam on 21 March 2024 at Dharmaram, Bangalore. He will be doing his Deacon ministry in Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar diocese for three months then in his own home Parish for two months. Let us accompany him with our prayers on his journey towards priesthood.



Dn. Vibin Vinson

Vibin Vinson was ordained as Deacon by Bp. Mathew Nellikunnel on 11 February 2024 at Samanvaya, Bhopal. He will be doing his Deacon ministry in Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar diocese for three months then on his own home Parish for two months. Let us continue to extend our prayerful support to him as he moves closer to the priesthood.





GOLDEN MEMORIES OF MY REGENCY EXPERIENCE



| Br.Bins Antony Kumbalamthanam

During my regency at Ashakiran, with the students I embarked on a journey filled with golden memories. Every moment spent with these vibrant souls remains etched in my heart. From assisting them in their studies to engaging in playful activities, from guiding them through school projects to providing academic equipment and stationery, I immersed myself in catering to their every need. Teaching them in various styles, I made sure to extend special attention to those who needed extra support, nurturing their weak areas and fostering their growth. But it was not just about academics; it was about being a mentor, a friend, and sometimes even a father figure to these children. They welcomed me into their lives with open arms, sharing their joys, sorrows, and aspirations. Their eagerness to learn English, seek advice, and confide in me about their struggles touched me deeply. In their laughter, in their tears, and in their relentless pursuit of knowledge, I witnessed the profound love, care, and concern that these students harbored for me. It was a testament to the bond we shared, one rooted in mutual respect and



admiration. As I reflect on my regency experience, I am humbled by the realization of God's providence guiding me every step of the way. Each day was a reminder of His divine plan unfolding through my actions. My regency was not just a period of service but a journey of self-discovery, gratitude, and fulfillment, as I strived to fulfill God's will in the lives of these remarkable children.

MY REGENCY DAYS

| Br.Francis Joshy Kadampattuparambil

Introduction

Throughout my regency time in our aspirant's house, I could dedicate my time fostering spiritual growth and community development. I've undertaken various responsibilities including catechism, intensive catechism, religious orientation, and parish ministries.

Catechism

In my role facilitating catechism, I've strived to impart essential religious teachings and doctrines to both youth and adults within our community. Through structured lessons, discussions, and pastoral guidance, I've aimed to facilitate a deeper understanding of faith principles, fostering spiritual maturity and a sense of belonging among participants. I've implemented innovative approaches, such as incorporating multimedia resources and interactive sessions, to enhance engagement and learning outcomes.





My Experiences with the Aspirants

As the regent in our Aspirants house, I've led by example in nurturing the spiritual and personal development of young individuals pursuing religious education. My mentorship, pastoral care, and advocacy for holistic growth have created a supportive environment conducive to academic excellence and spiritual formation. Organizing retreats, workshops, and community service initiatives have been a key part of fostering character building and instilling values of compassion, integrity, and service among students.

Parish Ministries

Engaging with parish ministries, I could act as a catalyst for fostering vibrant and inclusive worship experiences, pastoral care, and outreach initiatives. I believe that my presence in the parish coordinating liturgical celebrations, sacramental preparation, and

pastoral counseling have enriched the spiritual life of parishioners and strengthened the bonds of fellowship within the community. Collaborating with the volunteers and resources for social justice initiatives and community outreach programs empowered the parish to address contemporary challenges with compassion and solidarity.

Conclusion

My regency in our aspirant's house in Kerala was very enriching experience for me. It was a great time and I could interact with the members of other provinces too. Their hospitality and warmth have made me feel proud that I belong to CMI family. It has left a lasting impact on my religious formation. My ministry in the parish has helped to nurture my own faith experience and I could help the youth to grow in their faith too. I hope it has inspired our aspirants to live out the values of love, justice, and mercy.

CARMEL NIKETAN, JABALPUR



On 28th January St. Aloysius college had conducted a retreat for the Christian students of the college and to the students of the neighboring schools. Fr. Marian Pinto of Bareilly diocese preached the sessions. Brothers took initiatives to fill the day with blessings and energy through worship songs and action songs.

The Easter season was really a blessing for all of us. We prepared ourselves for receiving the Risen Lord through daily adorations, Lenten messages shared by brothers and observed Lenten abstinence. Brothers were also part of the Sneha Sadan parish choir for the whole holy week services.

As a part of building a robust relationship between teachers and the departments we had invited the professors to our home in the month of March. They were very curious to know about our way of life and

appreciated the community for our vital contributions to the college, whether it is in academics or any other co-curricular activities.

The Catholic diocese of Jabalpur saw a change in leadership on April 8th, as it received a new bishop Rev. Fr. Valan Arasu. The whole diocese was working together as a family for the success of his episcopal ordination. The Carmel Niketan family also proudly assisted the fathers and sisters in different departments including transportation, reception of the guest, mess department etc.

We would complete our exams by the mid of May and all the brothers are assigned with different duties. We will be rendering our quality time and talents in different houses of our province. Meanwhile brothers belonging to Bijnor, Rajkot and Bhavnagar have gone to their provinces for their vacation assignments.





RURAL IMMERSION PROGRAMME IN KHANDWA

| Br. Jibin Paulose Thaliyan



As part of my BSW course, I had a rural exposure programme in Khandwa. Forget the crowded streets and noisy cars! My train trip to Khandwa was like stepping into a whole new world. Wide-open fields bathed in sunshine greeted me – a far cry from the city life I knew. This wasn't just a visit; it was the start of an amazing Rural Immersion Camp! This camp wasn't about ticking places off a list. It was about feeling the heart of a village, understanding how things worked. We weren't just visitors, we got to help out! We talked to villagers, mapped their homes, and even learned about the problems they faced. Water was a big one – everyone worried about getting enough. One villager blew me away – Mrs. Budhiya Bai. This strong woman, a leader everyone respected, had an amazing idea to solve the water shortage. She planned to build a big pond to store water, even though some people doubted it would work. Her story showed me the incredible spirit of the people here. There were so many unforgettable moments: sharing meals under a sky full of stars, laughing with kids playing old-fashioned games, and seeing the determination in a woman's eyes as she walked to fetch water. It was a slower pace of life, but it felt good – a world where everyone helped each other out and lived simply. These weren't just experiences, they were eye-openers! Talking to villagers and seeing things firsthand made me realize the challenges they faced. Yet, they never gave up! They worked hard and found



clever ways to overcome problems. It made me appreciate the importance of understanding others and helping them out. Leaving Khandwa was tough. I was so grateful for the incredible things I learned, but sad to say goodbye to the new friends I made. It wasn't just an ending, it was a promise. A promise to remember the lessons of empathy, kindness, and helping those in need, no matter where I am. The Rural Immersion Camp wasn't just a trip, it changed me. It left a mark on my heart, reminding me to be a better person, someone who cares about others and wants to make the world a kinder place.





CHAVARA DHAM NOVITIATE



- 1. Arrival of new administrator:** After a long interval, on 10 November, 2023, we got our new administrator from Rajkot province. Rev. Fr. Jerry Malayilparambil reached Chavara Dham and took up the responsibilities. We gratefully remember all our interim administrators like Bro. Francis Chiramel, Fr. Danish Kannadan, Fr. Shepherd Thelappilly for their sincere and committed ministry at Chavara Dham. Big thanks to each and every one of you!
- 2. Classes in the Novitiate:** With sincere gratitude we remember all our professors who came here to take classes on many and varied subjects: Fr. Sebastian Elavathingal took classes on Art of religious life and creative growth in religious values; Fr. Anto Mundanmany took classes and practical on Yoga and integration of self; Fr. Shepherd Thelappilly took classes on Discipleship and Biblical themes and Religious Values; Sr. Anila Kizhakkekunnel SABS took classes on three vows and Community life; Fr. Tince Naduparambil CMI helped the novices in Basketball coaching, both theory and practice; Mrs. Theresa Hoarty from USA came and helped the Novices to learn English, sign language, Latin Language and Music; Fr. NaijuKalambukattu taught the introduction to Liturgy; Fr. Savio Thekkekkara took classes on Introduction to Bible; Fr. JosantoPurattukkara took classes on personality Development. Fr. Sebastian Pereppadan engaged classes on Community life and Prayer; Sr. Maria Augustine CMC took classes on Carmelite Spirituality, Fr. Amarnad animated brothers to take classes on 'Abide in Me.' He also took classes on Theological

Virtues, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, How to heal the inner wounds of our memories, POCSO and Sexual Abuse; Synodality of the Synod; Cardinal Virtues and Capital sins, Sacraments and Liturgy of Hours etc.

- 3. Brothers Taking Classes:** Our Novices were given opportunities to take classes on St. Theresa of Lisieux, St. John of the Cross, St. Theresa of Avila and Interior Castle, St. Edith Stein, Dining Etiquette, Good Manners etc.
- 4. Lay persons assisting Novices in Formation:** Mr. & Mrs. Santhos & Sali, parents of Novice Jonathan reached here from Faridabad and animated our Novice community. They through a retreat helped our Novices in their spiritual, developmental, and mental struggles. The four days were remarkable with the dynamics of prayer, reflection, group work and adoration. We gratefully thank them for their sincere and helpful efforts for the young Novices.
- 5. Christmas Celebrations:** As usual our 'Christmas Charming Star' was very solemnly hoisted on November 30. From the first of December onwards, we had a very heart touching programme like: Christmas Window; Christmas Hymn singing, Eclogue, 'One Day with Mary' the installation of our Lady's statue in each room of Novices with special prayers and hymns, Christmas monthly recollection etc. Novices also presented very beautiful Crib with commentary for outsiders and inside the Chapel they had a very attractive Crib with special decoration. Hundreds of people came to meet Jesus in the manger. On Christmas day many villagers arrived from nearby villages to celebrate the Christmas. The community gathered to exchange the gifts to





the Christmas friends and had a happy celebration with the Tombola game for the whole community.

- 6. Lenten Observance:** During our sacred Lenten season, our Novices had several spiritual programmes: Pasqualogue was meant for depicting the Biblical scenes about the passion and sufferings, prophecies of the Old Testament. Each day for 15 minutes focusing on Lent, Novices had the spiritual exercises of solemn procession of the Holy Cross, Singing songs from the Way of the Cross, Reading from the sacred scripture and prayer for the community. There was also Lenten Window which daily depicted meaningful thoughts and reflections. During this season each Novice was given a day of prayer, Novices had a three-day retreat preached by them, a monthly recollection on the meaning and practice of Lent etc. We had the celebration of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday

and Easter using the new Hindi Text prepared by Ujjain Diocese for North Indian Dioceses. Novices wholeheartedly learned all the hymns of the rituals and devotedly and solemnly conducted all the liturgical services.

- 7. Installation of Solar panels:** Indeed, it is a matter of great joy to acknowledge the support given from St. Paul's Province, Bhopal, that the provincial authorities took initiative to install Solar Panels over the roof of Chavara Dham. We have the problem of having no electricity and at least 30 times interruption in the flow of energy. By this installation, our Novices get in their rooms the uninterrupted electricity. During this summer season, this installation is a great consolation and blessing. Special thanks to Rev. Fr. Provincial, Cyril Kuttianickal and Financial Councilor, Fr. Paulson Muthipeedika and all the Rev. Councilors for this timely decision.

BISHOP CLEMENS STUDY CENTRE, BHAMORI



1. A Spiritual Milestone: Mother Mary Grotto Blessed and Inaugurated

The inauguration of our new Mother Mary Grotto, held on July 16th 2023, the feast day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, stands out as a truly momentous occasion. Witnessing the blessing and opening ceremony led by our esteemed Bishop Mar. James Athikalam was a deeply moving experience. This sacred space

serves as a beacon of faith and a place for quiet reflection within our community.

2. A Journey to Natural Splendor: Jabalpur, Bhedaghat, and Dhuandhar Falls

Our trip to Jabalpur was a breathtaking escapade into the heart of Madhya Pradesh, accompanied by the esteemed presence of Fr. Dominic Nattunilam, our superior. The warm hospitality of our fellow brothers enriched the experience even further. We were warmly welcomed at Kareli House for dinner and spent a peaceful night at Saccidananda Ashram. Our sincere gratitude goes to Fr. Varghese Manickathan, Fr. Stenin Puthuran, and Fr. Anto Mundanmany for their generosity and accommodation.

The next day, Fr. Nitish Rathappillil received us with open arms and treated us to a delightful breakfast at our house in Jabalpur. It was Fr. Nitish who then expertly guided us through the main course of our trip.

Sailing through the majestic Marble Rocks of Bhedaghat, the Narmada River unveiled its path, carving its way through these towering white cliffs. Witnessing the ever-changing shapes and the mesmerizing play of light on the marble was an experience that transcended words.

And then, the awe-inspiring Dhuandhar Falls stole our breath away. The sheer power of the water cascading down, shrouded in a mist that lived up to its name ("smoke flow"), was a sight to behold. The roar of the falls and the surrounding natural beauty left an unforgettable impression.

On our way back, we were once again hosted for dinner at our house in Khairi. Fr. Arun Thekkinyath, Fr. Babu Tharayil and Fr. Raphael Parambeth gave us a warm welcome. We are



incredibly grateful to all the fathers who made this trip not only a journey through nature's wonders but also a testament to the warmth and kindness within our community.

3. A Fond Farewell

Bidding adieu to our senior brothers was a bittersweet yet heartwarming event. It was a time to celebrate their achievements, reminisce about shared experiences, and acknowledge the strong bond we formed over the years.

The farewell function was a wonderful occasion filled with laughter, gratitude, and well wishes. It served as a reminder of the invaluable lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the memories that will forever remain etched in our hearts. We are confident that our brothers will carry these experiences forward as they embark on new chapters in their lives.

4. Academic Excellence: Stellar Performance in +2 Examinations

All of our brothers achieved good results, and for the first time in history of BCSE, 3 brothers secured the top positions, ranking 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. This remarkable achievement is a testament to their hard work, dedication, and the unwavering support of our community.

5. Guided by Faith: A Cherished Time at Yesu Ashram

Our orientation program at Yesu Ashram, led by the esteemed Fr. Jhon Shibu, was a transformative experience that resonated deeply within us. It was a time of profound spiritual growth, where we truly felt God's providence guiding us as we prepared to embark on the path towards pre-novitiate.

The program was filled with enriching activities that nurtured our faith and strengthened our sense of community. We were captivated by a powerful movie screening in the theater, and the visit to the national park and museum provided a welcome breath of fresh air and a chance to





connect with the natural world and delve into history.

Throughout the program, Fr. Jhon Shibu's guidance and Fr. Paul Pattath's support were instrumental in creating a truly meaningful experience. The warmth and camaraderie shared with our brothers during this time solidified the bonds of our community.

Looking back, these days at Yesu Ashram stand as a testament to the power of faith, preparation, and the joy of shared experiences. We are incredibly grateful to Fr. John Shibu, Fr. Paul Pattath, and all the brothers who contributed to making this orientation program a truly wonderful and unforgettable chapter in our journey.

FORMED TO TRANSFORM

| Fr. Paul Manikkathuparambil



The profound journey of sixteen and a half years traversing the spiritual landscapes of India left an indelible mark on my soul, shaping my understanding of Jesus and the essence of religion as I embarked on my sacred calling as a priest. Fuelled by myriad dreams and visions for my priestly vocation and the vibrant CMI congregation, I eagerly stepped into my pastoral ministry at the serene Kuriakose Elias Chavara Church in Harinagar.



Guided by the wisdom of our professors and the nurturing embrace of Fr. Thomas Kollikolavil CMI, along with the devout parishioners of Chavara Church, the metamorphosis from brother to priest unfolded meticulously. My initial tasks entailed assisting the parish priest through home visits, updating the parish directory, and invigorating youth engagement. The unwavering devotion and cooperation of the parishioners, predominantly from the toiling working class, illuminated my path and enriched my sacramental journey.



The invaluable exposure garnered at Chavara Cultural Center under the mentorship of Fr. Roby Kananchira broadened my horizons, fostering systematic growth in public engagement and interreligious dialogue. My tenure in Delhi was a crucible of growth, facilitating the seamless transition from brotherhood to priesthood.



Amidst the joys of pastoral ministry, a new chapter unfolded as I assumed the role of rector for the aspirants at Njalookara, Angamaly, brimming with plans and aspirations. However, the arrival of brothers from diverse backgrounds

presented unforeseen challenges, yet it was a delightful and enlightening journey. With the unwavering support of Fr. John Ollukaran, Br Francis, and the collective dedication of the brothers, we navigated through the initial hurdles to forge a harmonious community. The time spent at Njalookara also was a tapestry of spiritual growth and pastoral engagement. Through the celebration of sacraments, monthly recollections, and immersion in the vibrant parish life, I witnessed profound personal and communal transformation. Reflecting on this enriching chapter, I am filled with gratitude for the divine providence that guided me through this remarkable journey of service and self-discovery.

VOCATION PROMOTION

| Fr. Danish Kannadan



Vocation to religious life demands total commitment and self-giving. Vocation promotion is an important mission of our province as it helps to identify and promote good vocations to our province.

One of the ways that we took up this year to promote vocation to our province was a new initiative called *"deivavilliyudeapostolanmar."* This initiative was taken up to bring a new life in the vocation promotion in close collaboration with our parents and beneficiaries. WhatsApp group was created for daily prayers. We accompanied the members with prayerful support. They were very eager to introduce us to boys with a genuine interest for religious life. We could get in contact with some boys with genuine interest for priesthood from this initiative

through the generous help of the parents of our brothers. They continue to accompany us through their prayers.

As part of the vocation promotion, we visited 18 schools in and around Thrissur. We could also conduct an awareness program on drug addiction and its impact on the society. This program was conducted in collaboration with

Janamaithri police with the generous support of Fr. Solomon.

Pastoral ministries from different parishes were taken up which gave us an opening to many parishes which was helpful in many ways to come in contact with boys who were really interested in





becoming priests. During this year and last year vocation promotion department had conducted several camps namely Tejas 2024 and Lumia 2024 etc to promote vocation for next year. Around 6 came for the first camp and 30 came for the second camp. The final camp of this year was conducted on April 24th and we could select 8 students for next year Aspirancy.

House visits were one of the important ways to get in touch with students who are willing to join. Many fathers and brothers who are involved in other ministries in the province generously helped the vocation promotion process this year. I thank Fr. Provincial and his team for his great help to this department.

As part of vocation promotion, I visited many

parishes in Kannur, Kasargod, Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur.

After having worked as a vocation promotor of our province, I also reflect here on my experiences. I had some unpleasant experiences when I visited some houses as part of vocation promotion. There are some people who have lost the appreciation for priesthood either due to their experiences or due to media influences and this situation is really challenging. Even when we approach some parish priests, experiences are not always pleasant. All these points to the challenges that one faces in this field. A concerted effort from the community as a whole to promote good vocations to our province is the need of the time.

I acknowledge the generous support and prayers of Fr. Provincial and all the members of our province.



AI



| Br. Staines Joy Muithipeedika

Throughout history, humans have relied on technology to overcome life's challenges. From shaping pebbles for protection against wild animals thousands of years ago to the present day, where technology seems capable of achieving nearly anything. The inception of artificial intelligence (AI), initially a concept in children's comics, became a reality in 1957 thanks to computer engineers, marking a significant shift in technological history.

Today, AI has permeated various fields, from natural language processing to robotics. Notably, Sophia, a humanoid robot developed by Hanson Robotics in

2016, captured attention as the first "robot citizen" with human-like appearance, emotions, and communication abilities. As we transition into an AI-dominated era, leveraging this technology for evangelization becomes paramount.

Pope Francis has urged discernment in AI development, emphasizing its potential to either enhance human freedom and fulfillment or reduce individuals to mere data points. The Vatican, along with technology giants like Microsoft and IBM, endorsed a declaration promoting the ethical use of AI. This declaration outlines six guiding principles,

including transparency, inclusion, accountability, impartiality, reliability, security, and privacy.

The declaration underscores the importance of upholding human dignity and rights in AI development, emphasizing empowerment over exploitation and the protection of both humanity and the environment. Concrete recommendations include raising awareness of human-machine

interactions, using AI for empowerment, and employing it for environmental protection.

Church is trying to brace themselves for the coming AI era. We, as Catholics can't avoid its growing influence on us and it's up to us whether we should be influenced by it or we need to influence it. AI can be used in many diverse ways for our ministry. It's up to us to make use of that chance.

CIRCULAR-PROVINCIAL

Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers,

First of all, I wish you a very happy feast of St. Joseph the Worker and a relaxing time during the holidays. I hope this letter finds you well. As we enter the holiday season, I urge you to seize this opportunity for personal, spiritual renewal and growth. Consider participating in renewal courses and updates that will enrich your knowledge and skills, further equipping you for the challenges that lie ahead.

Let me also share with you some of the updates, news and information;

1. Our scholastics have returned to the province for the holidays. Organized under the theme 'Young Minds Gala 2024' and facilitated by Fr. Nithish Rathappilly, the scholastics convened from April 16th to 18th, 2024, at Yesu Ashram. Twenty-four scholastics spent three days together, sharing their experiences and strengthening their bonds. Currently, they are actively serving our communities and engaging in various activities. I trust their presence will revitalize and refresh both their zeal and our religious commitment. This year, seven brothers will commence their studies in Philosophy, while three will pursue their undergraduate degrees. One will undertake regency after completing Philosophy.
2. Perhaps for the first time, 12 brothers from our province will be entering the Novitiate. In this moment of gratitude, we fondly recall our vocation promoters, rectors, spiritual directors, teachers, benefactors, and well-wishers who have played significant roles in nurturing their vocations
3. Due to restrictions concerning individuals under the age of 18, we have made the decision not to relocate those from the North East to Madhya Pradesh. Instead, they will be directed to pursue plus-two studies in the North East region. However, the other students will continue their studies in Bamhori.
4. Fr. Joby Pulikkan was selected for the one-year Postdoctoral Research at the prestigious University of Virginia, US from March 2023 to March 2024. His task in the vaccine research lab was to develop a better bacterial chassis for antigen

	NAME	PLACE	COURSE
1.	Br. David Shaju	DVK, Bengaluru	Philosophy
2.	Br. Alwin	CCDVK, Bengaluru	Philosophy
3.	Br. Kishor Indwar	DVK, Bengaluru	Philosophy
4.	Br. Civin Varghese	Darsana, Wardha	Philosophy
5.	Br. Ngamreisang Razhama	Darsana, Wardha	Philosophy
6.	Br. Godwin Jaison	Darsana, Wardha	Philosophy
7.	Br. Sujjan Kerketta	Darsana, Wardha	Philosophy
8.	Br. Bristo Chirayath	Aspirants House, Kerala	Regency
9.	Br. Avin Thennadan	Jabalpur	Graduation
10.	Br. Nganingmi Moses Vashum	Jabalpur	Graduation
11.	Br. Yurngning Dominic Vashum	Christ, Bengaluru	Graduation
12.	Br. Staines Muthippedika	Khristu Jayanti Bengaluru	AI & Machine Learning

delivery. He achieved success in his bacterial engineering endeavors by transforming a pathogenic strain of bacteria into a non-pathogenic strain through the deletion of not just a single gene, but a large number of genes. Now, the results of his research have the potential to improve the gut microbiome, leading to qualitative enhancements in various diseases, including autism, which Fr. Joby holds close to his heart. On behalf of the Province, we congratulate Fr. Joby on this significant success and wish him all the best.

5. Many of our documents about land and buildings currently lack proper formalities and the assets are not reflected in the balance sheet of the accounts. As we prepare for the renewal of the FCRA next year, we must furnish these accounts, assets, and other relevant information from the past 10 years. We commend Fr. Jose Pariyadan for his tireless dedication, spending countless days and nights meticulously sorting through old bills and papers of the past decade to rectify them. Though much work remains, we place our trust in his perseverance and commitment.
6. Furthermore, under Fr. Pariyadan's guidance, several units and houses are actively working towards rectifying discrepancies in land and building documents. We express our gratitude to Fr. Antony Thattil for his efforts in rectifying the corporation tax of Sagar Bhavan. Similarly, Fr. Kelvin together with Fr. Vadakkumchery has strenuously carried forward the hard work undertaken by Fr. Praveen and has completed the demarcation of the land at Prasia.
7. The situation of Anchal remains the same and the Sanjeevani office is still under seal by the enquiry teams. By God's grace, we have received bail for Fr. Anil. Although the case has come up for hearing in the court, the trial has not yet started since the chargesheet has not been submitted by the police. The bail conditions prohibit Fr. Anil from directly or indirectly contacting any children and their parents. Presently, he is residing in a monastery in Kozhikode Province, away from Bhopal. The investigation team has not toned down their efforts to target us and their enquiry is being carried out. Hence, we need to continue to remain vigilant. Let us continue to keep Fr. Anil, Sanjeevani, and all associated with Anchal in our prayers. Under the leadership of Fr. Johnshibu, relentless efforts are being made to reopen the office for us.
8. Due to these developments, we experienced a slowdown in all our ministries and developmental works. As advised by our advocates, we had to proceed cautiously. Now, we are taking steps to fulfil the legal requirements and revive our ministries. Efforts are underway at Bahmodi, Parasia to recommence the day boarding school for the mentally challenged. We may also go for ministries for neglected senior citizens. We are also exploring the possibilities and legal requirements for our boarding facility in Silwani. Additionally, upon the return of new members after completing their higher studies, we aim to promptly initiate new endeavours and initiatives at our CMI House in Padariya, a responsibility that Fr. Limson will spearhead. Similarly, PACE will be strengthened with renewed vigour, and its various programs will be extended to locations beyond Silwani under the guidance of Fr. Thobith.
9. We have entered into a formal contract to purchase a plot of land with a building in Koratty (1 km away from the Forane Church) on the KorattyKathikudam road. This property will primarily be used for our first-year aspirants, for which we will need to construct an additional floor. We extend our gratitude to Chanda Province for allowing us to utilize their house at Karayamparambu for one year. The lengthy negotiations and complex paperwork were overseen by Fr. Jose Pariyadan and Fr. Johnshibu.
10. We have also formalized an agreement with the Diocese of Itanagar to acquire a plot of land near Ruksin. The initial steps have been taken under the guidance of Frs. Cejo Chakery & Martin Kallely, and the land has been surveyed, and the fencing of the land is underway and, it will be registered shortly after completing a few formalities.
11. We have received encouraging reports from the schools regarding the excellent performance of our schools affiliated with the M.P. Board. We



- extend our appreciation to our principals Frs. SebyPallissery, Satheesh Parathottu and RintoPoruthukaran for their selfless service and guidance. We also express our appreciation and gratitude to all our managers, staff, and students of these schools. We are sure that the results from our CBSE schools will also be as encouraging as they used to be.
12. The education department held a meeting of principals, managers and administrators. During the meeting, the external auditor conducted a session in which major concerns of accounting were discussed.
 13. Most of the schools have conducted the SMCs and I was fortunate to participate in all of them. I am happy with the enormous efforts put in by the school communities. Now the schools have been closed for the summer vacation. The encouraging results we have witnessed stand as a testament to our tireless efforts and commitment to our shared mission. I congratulate all those who are engaged in the Ministry of Education on their resilience and perseverance.
 14. Under the leadership of Fr. Danish, the vocation promotion ministry in Kerala this year has initiated several new steps, and his efforts have already begun to yield rich dividends. As he takes up a new ministry, we express our gratitude to Fr. Danish and all the other fathers who have contributed to this important ministry.
 15. I have completed the canonical visitation of all our houses in India. Although planned for January and February, I had to postpone it. However, I made sure that I stayed in all our communities for the visitation. Mostly our members are happy and lead a good life. There are several communities where the prayer culture is encouraging with many members regularly spending time in Eucharistic adoration.
 16. The jubilee celebrations and society meetings will be held on 18th May at Jerusalem Retreat Centre, Thalore. May I urge all of you who will be in Kerala to participate in them. It is a time of joy and community gathering, and your presence would undoubtedly contribute to the spirit of unity and fellowship within our community.
 17. Fr. Nithin Vaidyakaran has been attending the Wholistic Animation Programme an initiative of Fr. Prior General. Its last phase is arranged in Rome and Fr. Nithin is leaving shortly for Rome. We wish him all the best and success.
 18. Amid these festivities, let us not forget our civic responsibilities. With general elections underway, I implore each of you to exercise your right to vote. Your voice matters, and it is essential that we actively participate in shaping the future of our society through the democratic process.
 19. Our newly ordained priests are returning from their pastoral experiences and some of our members are going for studies. Some of our young priests have completed their higher studies in time and we offer our congratulations and appreciation to them. In light of this, we have made some necessary transfers and appointments to ensure the continued growth and vitality of our ministry.

	NAME	FROM	TO
1.	Fr. Satheesh Parathottu	Usri	MA in Guidance and Counselling, Philippines
2.	Fr. Xavier Puthookkara	St. Paul, Bhopal	Phulmar (Until CA Admission Bhopal)
3.	Fr. Lijo Baby Kalaparambath	Tuting	B. Ed, Arunachal
4.	Fr. Sebastian Thekkinieth	Usri	Pastoral work, Australia
5.	Fr. Geo KottolyProvincial	House	Vocation Promotor, Sagar Bhavan
6.	Fr. Benadict Kopli	Migging	Ass. Rector, Tuting
7.	Fr. SpeejoKachappilly	Provincial House	Administrator, Sanjeevani, Usri
8.	Fr. Danish Kannadan	Sagar Bhavan	Administrator, Migging
9.	Fr. Dhibin Thekkayil	MA Educational Psychology	Shanti Giri ashram, Parish Priest, Parasia & Teaching at Chandametta

	NAME	FROM	TO
10.	Fr. ThobithChirayath	MBA	Director PACE, Silwani & Manager, Phulmar
11.	Fr. Thomas Kollarettumattathil	Guna	Administrator, St. Paul & Christ College, Bhopal
12.	Fr. Martin Mandumpla	Bhamodi, Parasia	Superior, Principal Sanjeevani, Usri
13.	Fr. Thoams Kollappilly	Provincial House	Team Member, Vinayalaya, Bhanpuri
14.	Saju Kollannur	Silwani	Administrator, Kareli
15.	Cejo Chakeri	Tuting	Tuting, Rector, Additional Charge
16.	Limson Puthur	Provincial House	Director CIMS (Christ Institute of Media and Science) Padariya, Staff Christ College.

As part of our preparation for the bi-centennial of our congregation, we will be inaugurating 'the CMI Year of Family, Youth and Children' on 11 May 2024 at Mannanam. On this day the congregation wishes to bring together as many family members as possible to this function. To ensure participation our Prior General has suggested that family members of the priests ordained for the last five years and the parents of the scholastics shall be present. But at the same time, other family members are also welcome to this programme. Therefore, May I request you to contact the family members and inform Fr. Antony Thattil of the number of participants so that a vehicle can be arranged from Sagar Bhavan.

St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara regarded the Catholic family as the nursery of the Church, recognising its critical role in nurturing and fostering the faith of its members. He understood that the family is the foundational unit of society and believed that the values and practices instilled within the family environment greatly influence the spiritual formation of individuals and the overall well-being of the Church. He emphasized the importance of building strong Christian families that would serve as models of faith, love, and virtue. He encouraged families to be rooted in prayer, to cultivate a deep devotion to the sacraments, and to prioritize the transmission of the faith to future generations. By fostering a vibrant faith within the family, St. Chavara believed that the Church would be enriched and strengthened.

According to St. Chavara, the family provides a unique setting for the growth of virtues such as love, forgiveness, humility, and selflessness. It is within the family that individuals learn to live out their faith in practical ways, to practice mutual respect and support, and to nurture a spirit of unity and harmony. St. Chavara saw the family as a small domestic Church, where parents play a crucial role as the primary educators of faith for their children.

As we move forward, let us draw inspiration from the words of St. Peter (1 Pet 4:10), "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received".

Fr. Cyril Kuttiyanikkal

29. 04. 2024

Provincial

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee celebration of our beloved Fr. Michael Palamparambil, along with the Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Frs. Johnson Vadakkumchery and Vincent Chalakkal, together with the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Frs. Jain Padyattil and Sebastian Thekkinieth will take place on **May 18, 2024**, at Jerusalem Retreat Centre in Thalore, Thrissur.

The Society meetings of CMI Seva Sangh, St. Paul Society and Sagar Bhavan Trust will be held on **May 18, 2024**, at Jerusalem Retreat Centre in Thalore, Thrissur.

Our Prior General's visit to our province and his canonical visitation are scheduled from **October 26th to 29th, 2024**. This coincides with our planned Province gathering from **October 28th to 30th, 2024**.

Congratulations

Let us congratulate



Dn. Jinil Koothur who has bagged first rank in biblical viva, second rank in Moral Viva, and third rank in comprehensive viva in DVK Bengaluru.



Dn. Vibin Vinson is the first rank holder in the comprehensive viva in Samanvaya Theology college.



Bro. Staines Muthipeedika has secured second rank in comprehensive viva for diploma in philosophy in Darsana Wardha. **Congratulation!!!**

AN ENRICHING SUMMER VACATION

| Avin Davis Thennadan

As part of our summer holiday duties in the province, we got a beautiful opportunity to be part of a survey conducted in our parishes. During house visits I had a lot of learning for my future pastoral ministry. I would like to note down a few reflections on my experiences. The interactions that I had with our people in the parishes gave me the impression that our Parishners could be engaged more in the activities of the parish. We need to invite them for regular Holy Masses. If possible, the respective priest in charge may visit the families once in a month and pray with them, if possible, also dine with them. Our people appreciate very much our presence in their houses when they are sick or on special occasions. One of the youth told us "Abi missatho bore hone lagi". We should think how we can keep the youth and others interested in the matters of the church. If our families have regular family prayers, it will be a great blessing.

For me it also was an opportunity to have a foretaste of the pastoral ministry that I may do in future. And also, to know the challenges that we face in our times. But one thing is sure that we have a Lord who is beyond all these challenges and is our strong refuge in these challenging times.

MANIPUR MOURNS

| Br. Yurngning Vashum



It is said that a mother forgets her labour pain as soon as the child is born to her. While this is true in normal situations, what if a woman had to run for her life when she expects a child. When innocent and simple people are often killed on the streets and women are abused, if the government continues to be a passive onlooker, that is really painful. I am not writing about a theoretical situation but is a reality of Manipur, my home state.

Most often we become mute spectators and often forget that men and women with flesh and blood like us continue to suffer looking at a bleak future.

If you feel that I can do nothing for them because I'm not from that or those areas, let me invite you to place yourself in their situation of violence and uncertainty for such a long time in our motherland. Violence and indifference of government should come to an end. All must feel protected by the government.

Let us move out of our indifference and continue to voice our concern for the suffering brothers and sisters in Manipur. Let the governments work to bring justice without any hidden agendas. Let us work together to heal the wounds. Let the efforts to bring peace in the state be based on justice and compassion.

CARMEL ASHRAM

Njalookara, Angamaly, Kerala 683 577

1st Year Aspirants 2023-2024

CMI St. Paul Province, Bhopal



Albandoanlad Wahlang

Why you want to become a religious priest?

To proclaim the Good news to other, to help others, and to guide people to God.

Your favourite word of God

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6)



Ashil George

Why you want to become a religious priest?

I want to offer Holy Eucharist and I want to raise the body and blood of Jesus Christ. I want to become a good shepherd like Jesus. I want to guide God's people and I believe that Jesus called me.

Your favourite word of God

"There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." (Lk 15:7)



Gregorius Nongrum

Why you want to become a religious priest?

Because I believe that I am called by God and I want to proclaim the Word of God.

Your favourite word of God

"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Lk 6:27)



Jivan Soreng

Why you want to become a religious priest?

To serve the God and Church. To praise God and to spread the word of God to the ends of the earth.

Your favourite word of God

"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you" (Mt 7:12)



Jobitto Poulose

Why you want to become a religious priest?

I like social work. There are many people who does not have good food, dress, home, and education. Many are suffering in their lives. I want to help them, because our Father told to live others. I want to help them and proclaim gospel. If any human being have a problem then as a human being we share it.

Your favourite word of God

"Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy. For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God." (1 Cor 14:1)



Gregorius Nongrum

Why you want to become a religious priest?

To proclaim the Gospels, to do good to others, and to carry all the people to God. I want to become a good priest like Jesus and his apostles. I want to make disciples for Jesus. I want to spread Gospel.

Your favourite word of God

“Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Mt 16:24)



Thomas Vincent

Why you want to become a religious priest?

To become another Christ by doing His works of love and services to the people around.

Your favourite word of God

“Now I was the last to keep vigil; I was like a gleaner following the grape-pickers; by the blessing of the Lord I arrived first, and like a grape-picker I filled my wine press.” (Sirach 33:16,17)



Wansukupar Pharik Sohphoh

Why you want to become a religious priest?

Because I want to serve God and his people

Your favourite word of God

“You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” (Mt 22:39)



A vocation, while a gift, will undoubtedly also be demanding. God's gifts are interactive; to enjoy them we have to be ready to take risks. Yet the demands they make are not an obligation imposed from without, but an incentive to let that gift grow and develop, and then become a gift for others. When the Lord awakens a vocation, he thinks not only of what you already are, but of what you will one day be, in his company and in that of others.”



-Pope Francis



| Francis Joseph Chiramel

Hai Dear Fathers and brothers, I am Francis Joseph doing my degree studies (B Arch) at SCMS school of architecture Palissery. My course is all about how to build a structure with aesthetic appeal. Apart from civil engineering, the course I pursue emphasizes more on designing aspects. Being part of such an interesting course and college I am excited and enthusiastic about the coming years. Last year I stayed in Carmel Bhavan, Karayamparambu in our Aspirant's house and attended the college. Both my community and my friends were really supportive. By grace of God, I could achieve a lot. I could actively participate in the MG University youth festival representing my college. Recently my team got shortlisted for a national level design competition which is for sustainability and environmental friendly design concepts.

Very recently I have started living with the Christ the King Monastery community at Karukutty. The community is very cordial and supportive. I enjoy the stay here. I am really grateful to God and all my

authorities who have helped me to pursue my dream by studying Architecture. I hope and pray that I may complete this course fruitfully and serve God and His people.

Seeking your prayers and blessings.



NEWLY PROFESSED SCHOLASTICS-BANPURI-THEIR VESTITION AND THEIR FIRST PROFESSION- OUR NEWLY PROFESSED SCHOLASTICS IN THE PROVINCE



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