



Anugrahavani

THE NEWS LETTER OF CMI ST. JOHN'S PROVINCE, BIJNOR
VOL. XXXI - NO. 1 FEBRUARY 2021

Provincial's Message

The Kings and Shepherds

The star appeared on that special night for the whole world. But only the people of one hemisphere, that is, half of the world could behold the special sight. The north-eastern hemisphere has the largest concentration of people living as it contains three of the seven continents. The whole of Asia and Europe and the major part of Africa fall in this particular hemisphere. Incidentally, it is in these continents that the "good tidings" were given initially. However, only a number of these north-eastern hemisphere dwellers, say, half of them would have cared to look up at the night sky and see the unusual star shining there.

Again, only half of them would have wondered curiously why such a unique star had appeared in that night sky. Only half of these wondering night-sky gazers may have thought of the significance of the star. Only half of these may have let the star whet their inquisitiveness. Only half of these inquisitive people may have cared to consult the ancients who had left hermeneutical clues of the heavenly portent. Only half of these researchers may have understood what the heavens were trying to tell them.

Having been informed of the great significance of the signifying stars only half of them would set out to find what it signified. And only half of those who set out in search of the king would reach the destination. Like Artaban of Henry van Dyke's *The Other Wise Man*, may find very positive distractions on the way. Like the real wise men, some would foolishly discard the signifier and wander into the glitters of the palace.

All these notwithstanding, what is really important is that we search the destination and offer what we have been carrying all along. Should you be illiterate, without access to the astronomers'/astrologers' club, interpret signs; should you be sleeping in the field, or keeping a watch over your flock, there is always an angel nearby to give you the tidings laced with a little music from the angelic choir.

Rise from the slumber, look around, follow the light, find the Babe in the manger. New Year Blessings to all of you.

— Fr. Benny Thettayil CMI
Provincial Superior



Newly Elected Provincial Team



Congratulations! Prayers and Best Wishes to the newly elected Provincial Team



3rd Session of the Provincial Synaxis

The Third Session of XI Ordinary Provincial Synaxis for the planning of the apostolates and various aspects of the Province was held from 29 to 31 October 2020. Since the gathering of the members in one place was impractical given the pandemic, the Synaxis was held online. The members gathered between 5 pm and 8 pm each day of the Synaxis. All the members participated from their own places via Google meet facility.



TO THE HEAVENLY GLORY



Fr Jayin Kalamparambil CMI (1984-2020)

Jayin lived a life to the full. He loved his people and this love was expressed through the language of that people of the land that he fell in love with. He was a Hindi pundit and the flow and the beauty of his literary expressions were captivating. Sometimes, without a prophetic deviation from norms, progress is not possible. Jayin believed in the positive violations of normalcy to explore something new.

Jayin was born on 1 November 1984 in Neeleeswaram in Ernakulam district as the sixth son of Late Mr. Lazer and Mariyam. He has three elder brothers and two elder sisters. He joined the CMI congregation on 26 June 2000 as a candidate. He did his higher secondary education from Casmiya Inter College Najibabad. On 19 March 2005, he made his first profession at Anudhavana Novitiate house, Mancherial. He completed his philosophical studies from Darsana institute of philosophy. Following his graduation, he completed his theological studies from Samanvaya Theology College. He was ordained on 7 February 2016 at Najibabad.

As an ordained pastor of the Lord, he chose the less trodden paths and pioneered to be a frontier minister of the Lord. Thus he took up various frontier missions in different mission lands of India like Prem Dam, a home for the physically and mentally challenged at Najibabad, Bosco Mane, Bangalore and Kutch Vikas Trust, Gujarat. Having been enriched by frontier experience and spirituality, he proceeded to the virgin mission land of Nepal where he worked till this day, with all vigour and vitality.

Jayin (36) who was a missionary to Nepal, had come home as a delegate to the Provincial Synaxis. He was residing at the Provincial House ever since the lockdown. For the last two days he was organizing his passage to Nepal. On 12 September 2020, he had his supper with the community as usual. After the meals he suffered a massive cardiac arrest and he was rushed to St Mary's Hospital, Najibabad. The doctors at the hospital made a thorough and detailed examination. Their efforts failed to revive him. He was declared dead at 9.40 p.m.

Jayin was brought to the Provincial House, Najibabad, where he remained until the funeral rites. As the COVID-19 protocols were to be followed, and in order to prevent the place from getting crowded, religious communities around the Provincial House and priests from the diocese of Bijnor came in separately and paid their homage.

Bishop Vincent Nellaiparamapil of Bijnor, together with Bishops Emeritus Gratian Mundadan and John Vadakel led the funeral rite. Bishop John Vadakel gave the funeral homily. After the requiem, the condolence messages from Rev. Fr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI, the Prior General and His Excellency, Bishop Paul Simick of Kathmandu, Nepal were read out. We are glad that Jayin has left a practical as well as a simple legacy for all of us to follow. Jayin was interred with all his departed CMI brothers at Najibabad.



Fr. Varghese Kottor CMI (1940-2020)

Rev. Fr Varghese Kottoor (80) was a man who went around making his confreres, colleagues, students, parishioners and friends smile. He was an apostle of wellness with his 'mission' of inner smile. His spiritual outlook was so contagious that he infected everyone with relaxation and made their faces beaming with smile.

Fr Varghese was born of late Shri Mathai Varkey and Elamma Varkey Kottoor on 31 July 1940 at Udayamperoor in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. He made his First Profession in the CMI congregation in 1961 and was ordained priest in 1969. He did his theological studies at Dharmaram College, Bangalore.

Fr Varghese began his priestly ministry at Kalamassery, where he was in charge of the school-going young people and later opted for Bijnor Mission. With an MA in English, he enhanced the linguistic ability of both his confreres and the students in formation. In the Bijnor mission he served as the Director of the Apostolate of Education, and served the diocese of Bijnor in the capacity of the Vicar General for a long time.

It is in his stint as the Priest-in-charge of the Catholic community at Bijnor that he mentored Bl. Rani Maria, who was a member of the Franciscan Clarist community as a Junior Sister.

A man full of life and childlike innocence, he left an indelible mark on everyone he came in contact with.

He was known as the apostle of smile. The vibrant and lively nature of Fr Varghese Kottoor was enhanced by his unique apostolate of inner smile.

His final years could be spent ever more fruitfully at Masih Vidyapeeth, the Regional Philosophy College, Agra with young philosophy students of various north Indian dioceses as their Spiritual Director. While serving there, he fell ill and was brought to Ghaziabad for medical treatment. While under medical observation, he suffered a respiratory failure and passed away on 01.10.2020.

On the same day, he was brought to the Provincial House at Najibabad. Following the demands of the protocol placed by the state, in the wake of the pandemic, he was given a quiet farewell. The small community that gathered to bid him the final farewell stood in contrast to the large number of bishops, priests, religious and laity who knew him well. He was interred at St John's Provincial House Cemetery, Najibabad.



Rev. Fr. Tom Jose Verumkal CMI (1933-2020)

Rev. Fr. Tom Jose Verumkal CMI of St. John's Province, Bijnor was called for his eternal reward on 14 December 2020 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Ghaziabad at the age of 87. He was a member of CMI Sanjo Bhavan, Mariam Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. The obsequies took place at St. John's Provincial House, Najibabad at 3.30 PM attended by a modest number of priests and religious, following the protocol of the pandemic. His confreres and other religious and priests and acquaintances paid him homage in groups as is practised during the Covid-19 pandemic. Rev. Fr. Mathew Thenamkalayil CMI, the Prefect of the Provincial House initiated the funeral services while Bishop Vincent Nellaiparambil of Bijnor Diocese presided over the Eucharistic celebration with the Provincial and the Councillors, in which Bishop Emeritus John Vadakel CMI of Bijnor Diocese paid fitting

tributes to the unassuming, dedicated and jovial pioneer missionary of Bijnor Mission. Fr. Benny Thettayil CMI, the Provincial Superior interred the mortal remains of Fr. Tom Jose in the cemetery on the premises of the Provincial House in the presence of a moderate gathering of his confreres and missionaries.

Fr. Tom Jose was born on 20 September 1933 at Kudayathoor parish of Pala Diocese. He joined the Sacred Heart Aspirants' House, Aluva in 1957 after his pre-degree studies at Sacred Heart College, Thevara. He made his first profession on 16 May 1960 at Christ the King Novitiate, Karukutty. After his studies at Dharmaram College, Bangalore, he was ordained priest on 17 May 1966. His first appointment was at Sacred Heart Monastery, Thevara and was given the charge of the farm in Kakkanad where the Rajagiri College of Engineering and Social Sciences is established. His effective management of the farm paved him the way to the estate at Niravilpuzha.

In 1973, Fr Tom Jose came to Bijnor Mission and began to work as a pioneer missionary in the infant mission. Initially, he served at the mission stations of Bijnor, Padampur and Kalagargh for a short stint before he was entrusted with the assignment of launching a new mission at Pauri, which is the district headquarters of Pauri-Garhwal. Short in stature but proficient in the local language, he found his own method of acquaintance with the people. Not waiting to be greeted, he greeted people on the way with a few words in Garhwali, the local dialect, and saluted the bus and truck drivers. Generally, they returned the salutation the following day and thus he made a good rapport with the people. In those

days, 'like the tents of the shepherds' (Is 38:12), he moved from one rented residence to another. He walked the Himalayan terrain visiting villages. The more he walked the more he established contacts with the people. Having established the first mission station in the Garhwal Himalaya complete with a presbytery, convent and school, he moved to Lansdowne, another hill station in the Bijnor Mission. Subsequently, he served at the missions of Chandpur, Nagina, Satpuli, Srinagar and Anugrahalayam, the transit house of Bijnor Province, at Aluva.

While at Aluva, Fr Tom Jose was available to the retreat centres around Kochi and Trissur for confessions any time of the day until his health deteriorated. Gradually, he was moved to Sanjo Bhavan, Ghaziabad where medical care was available nearby. With malice towards none and love for all, Fr. Tom Jose cracked jokes, told stories and recited old poems to enthuse the visitors, never complaining of any discomfort of his illness or inconveniences of age. His 'contented life was a continual festival' (Prov 15:15). His presence in the community was a joy for all members, the neighbours and visitors, reminding them "How good, how delightful it is for all to live like brothers" (Ps. 133:1).

Fr. Tom Jose was a jovial religious who lived his life joyfully. Everyone who came in contact with him remembered him fondly. He was a person who enjoyed community life. He was known for his terse humour and joyfully he got along with the younger members of the community, who made him reminisce his youthful days; this he enjoyed thoroughly. His characteristic joy was visible even towards the end of his days. Even while he was under medication and was battling for his life in the Intensive Care Unit, he sang one of his poems and gladdened the otherwise monotonous life of the nurses and other staff of the unit. He lived a life that was full and met his end well.

PROVINCIAL HOUSE NEWS

THE 1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. ANTO PUDUSSERY CMI

The 1st Death Anniversary of Fr. Anto Pudussery CMI is commemorated on 12th of November. Solemn Eucharistic celebrations were offered in the Provincial House Church, Bijnor (where his mortal remains) and in Jaspur mission station (where fr. Anto was serving while he was called to the eternal rest). Bp. Ignatius D'souza, Bishop of Barreilly Diocese was the main celebrant for the commemorative mass at Japur.

PASSING THE BATON

Provincial house has got a new superior in the person of Fr. Mathew Thenamkalayil. He came from Dharmaram College Bangalore on 5th October 2020. After two weeks of quarantine he took the duty of house administration from Fr. Johny Purakkattu. Fr. Johny, while holding the duty of Prefect of the house, served as the councilor of finance to the Province and he saw that the new quarters of the provincial house be completed while pursuing and successfully completing his doctoral studies in computer science. After three and half years of service at the Provincial house he left for Sitapur on 09th November 2020 and he was given a sendoff on 08th November 2020. The provincial house community is thankful to him for his wonderful service.

SENDOFF TO BRO. JOYAL

After one and half years of sincere service as a regent Bro. Joyal Vezhaparamban left for his theological studies at Pune on 06th January 2021. He was given a modest sendoff on 05th January 2021. Bro. Arun Eyyalil was given the duty as the regent of provincial house and he took up the charge on 16th August 2020.

RENEWAL TEMPORARY PROFESSION

The seminarians Bros. Joyal, Arun, Naveen and Amal had a renewal programme at Natewaly as part of their renewal of the vows. Fr. Sebastian Chowaran was the retreat master. The Nathewaly community under the leadership of Fr. Michal Poovathumkudy took special attention to make the programme, a successful one. All the three fathers Fr. Michal, Fr. Yeshudas and Fr. Vijay took so much trouble and so that everything goes to the best satisfaction of the participants. Fr. Vijay the celebrity chef parted with his official duties managed the kitchen to prepare homely food.

JAIL MINISTRY

As part of Christmas celebration Fr. T.A. Antony, Fr. Shibu of Premdham and Sister Liya Peter CHF from Nangal Pithora and few of the CHF sisters visited jail authorities at Bijnor on 22nd December 2020 and distributed laddu to the jail inmates and presented cakes to the jail authorities. Due to Covid-19 situation the celebration was so much restricted.



The fathers and sisters with Shilender Sing, the jailer, and jail superintend.

NEW PRIESTS



Congratulations, Prayers and Best Wishes to the newly Ordained Priests; Fr. Naibin Kolenchery CMI and Fr. Anoop Vadakkumchery CMI

FIRST PROFESSION



Congratulations, Prayers and Best Wishes to the newly Professed Members; Bro. Joepaul Manavalan CMI, Bro. Josephkuttu Kunnumpuram, Bro. Milen Kunnemuriyil, Bro. Ribin Malekudy, Bro. Tinto Thekkekunel at Budni and Bro. Julius Harrison Kodjo Ahlidobu, at Kenya

CSS NEWS



**Newly elected Councilor for Social Apostolate
Fr. Cyriac Kizhakkayil CMI
is welcomed at CSS, Jalalabad**

1. Mr. Harender Kumar the Coordinator of Chavara Seva Samaj attended a meeting at District Headquarter called by the DM of Bijnor to evaluate the steps taken to deal with the Covid 19.
2. CSS distributed masks to the daily workers
3. Awareness programmes on Covid-19 were conducted in the villages for the SHGs by our coordinators and animators
4. Chavara Seva Samaj celebrated the Independence Day keeping the restrictions of the Corona Pandemic.
5. Rev. Fr. Cyriac Kizhakkayil CMI the newly appointed Director of Chavara Seva Samaj was given a warm welcome at the centre, Jalalabad along with a sendoff to Fr. Mathew Kurisummoottil CMI the former Councilor for Social Apostolate and the Director of Chavara Seva Samaj.
6. Fr. Cyriac Kizhakkayil made a visit to Maria Bhavan Nathewaly and Chavara Sadan Nagina to make a study of the ongoing social programmes.

**Congratulations to
Rev. Dr. Fr. Johny Purakkattu**



Fr. Johny Purakkattu CMI, St. John's Province, Bijnor has successfully defended his doctoral thesis in the department of Computer Science on ***Design and Development of Privacy Preservation Techniques for Big Data*** at Bharatiyar University on 4th of November 2020. Congratulations to Fr. Johny and good wishes for his future ministry.

SANTHOME ASHARAM, KHATAULI

October 11, 2020: Today the **new team** of Bishop John Vadakel, Fr. Moses Vazhayil and Fr. Majo Kolenchery, has taken the charge of the station. Bishop Vadakel as the Director, Fr. Moses as Principal and Fr. Majo as the Bursar have already been appointed. On October 08 Bishop John accompanied by Rev. Fr. Shaju from Kotdwar and Fr. Moses accompanied by the Sisters of Chanba had reached Khatauli. Fr. Majo came only on 18th October from Aluva

The **outgoing team members** were Rev. Fr. Sunney Kunnathuparambil, Director, Rev. Fr. Jimmy Kallupalathinkal, Principal and Rev. Fr. George Edathiparambil, Bursar. On October 14, Fr. Jimmy left for Jahangirabad, on October 15 Fr. Sunny Left for Gaziabad and Fr. George Edathiparambil left for Gadarpur on October 16.

On October 13. **Most Rev. Francis Kallist** visited to meet the new members of the Ashram and appointed Bishop John the Parish Priest of St. Thomas Parish, Khatauli.

As per the directives of the Government of U.P. **classes were to be restarted** for IX, X, XI and XII students. As the semester examination was on, we could start the classes only from October 26 with a few students in every class. The classes are regularly being conducted and the same classes are also being sent, on line, for the students who are not attending the classes.

From October 22 to 31, ten days **Rosary Devotion** was conducted in the Church.

Mission Sunday was postponed and it was observed on October 25. We could collect some Rs. 18,000.00 for mission in the form of donations and auction.

Visitors

On October 28 Fr. Benny Thettayil, Provincial, with Frs. Joseph Peedikahadathil, Vice Provincial and Saji Ellickal, Secretary for Education, visited the Ashram on their way for the third session of the 11th Provincial Synaxis to be conducted, on line, from Christ College, Gaziabad.

On November 03, Bishops Francis Kallist, Bishop Vincent Nellaiparambil and John Vadakel together went to Agra to take part in the **Agra Regional Bishop's Meeting**.

The construction of the K.G. School building is progressing. We hope to complete the ground floor before April 2021 to make available space for the K.G. Students. The students had been accommodated in the existing building using the entire space without sparing any space for other essential functions of the school.

GADARPUR NEWS

FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Carmel ashram community bid farewell to dear fathers Joseph Peedikathadathil, Zacharias Moorkkatil and Michael Poovathumkudy. Dear fathers, your support and encouragement during the difficult times were inseparable. Your contributions to this community have been immense and tremendous. All the best for your new endeavors

It was long awaited dream to change and challenge the world. The time has come. Every newly appointed members Frs Cyriac Kalampatt, George Edathiparambil and Jomon Thekkekudiyil of community entrusting their responsibility to other members

SOLEMN ROSARY

The conclusion of the month of holy Rosary solemnized on 31-11-2020 with sung rosary prayers and with procession with limited number of faithful.

REOPENING OF THE SCHOOL

After the outbreak of Covid school has partially reopened on 05-11-2020. Students are coming to the school keeping all the rules and regulation given by the government. As school doors reopen we do keep strictly, measures like hand washing stations, physical distancing, mask wearing and temperature checks are being integrated into school life.

VISITORS

Rt. Rev. Bp. Ignatius D'souza, Bp of Bareilly diocese, Frs Vivian Fernadez, Julian D' Souza, Nobert Rodrigous of Bareilly Diocese, Faustin Pinto of Meerut diocese, K.O. Francis, Jimmy Painumkal, Binu Palakkatt of Bijnor diocese and CMC community of Maniarkhera visited us Thank you for meeting with us, and we look forward to seeing you back in the future. Thanks again for choosing to come to our community. we were honored that you decided to bless us with your presence.

COMING BACK

Fr Jomon Thaiparambil is recovering from Covid infection. He goes for regular health check up and able to return to his service again.

UPDATING FROM GHANA

By the grace of God Br. Julius Harrison made his first profession on 8th December, 2020. He is the first candidate from Ghana to be a CMI religious. He joined CMI fathers in 2016 and started his religious journey. After a year of formation he had to discontinue due to the health issues especially with the eyes. He came back after the medication and joined Carmel School as a teacher and later seeing his spirit and enthusiasm he was received back to CMI formation.

CMI Marriet School, Kwamang, is getting ready to receive Kindergarten children. The work at the school is ongoing, we expect to add a class every year and to grow gradually. After covid protocol the school is expected to open by January 2021.

Fr. Jomi Pathikulangara is doing well with the quasi parish and he is been helped by Propaganda Fidei for the construction and development of the outstations.

We are expecting to receive a plot of land at Kobreso, in the Archdiocese of Kumasi. Fr. Jomat John has expressed his willingness to take up the new mission. Initially, he would look after a rectorate caring for the pastoral needs of the people of the locality until everything is set to begin a school in the land.

Fr. Lijin Chakkanatt CMI



NEWS : BIJNORIANS, DHARMARAM, BANGALORE

Province Gathering

We had Holy Mass in the morning for the Bijnorians at Dharmaram College in commemoration of the departed soul of Fr. Jayin Kalamparambil CMI especially, along with thanksgiving Mass of Fr. Mathew Thenamkalayil CMI our former Nominee, *Shashtipoorthi* of Fr. Paulachan Kochappilly CMI, feast of our Fr. Mathew, and welcome to Fr. Martin Onasseril CMI. We had the Holy Mass in the morning at Research Center. The main celebrant was Fr. Mathew. In the introduction for the Mass Fr. Sebastian Payyappilly CMI our then Senior Tutor pointed out that this Mass is not something to be mourned rather it is a celebration of the departed that Fr. Jayin was leading such an exemplary life here on earth. Also he reminded us of all the intentions of the day. We were six in number for the Holy Mass along with Bro. Abin Vadakkumthala. Homily was preached by Fr. Vinod Padijarekaithackal CMI.

We had Province gathering in the evening at 7 o'clock at the Research Center. Bro. Abin Vadakkumthala was the MC of the day and he wished everyone all the greetings of the day. Fr. Sebastian, our senior tutor, wished everyone by exchanging the flowers. All were speaking good of and wishing Fr. Administrator. There after we had delicious food arranged by Fr. Sebastian. All were filled with joy and communitarian love.

New Tutor and New Nominee

We have now as our new senior tutor, Fr. Paulachan Kochappilly and new nominee as Fr. Josin Kaithakulam. We remember with gratitude Fr. Sebastian Payyappilly and his services as our previous senior tutor. Also the services of Fr. Mathew Thenamkalayil our former nominee is remembered with thanks. Bro. Mridul is appointed the new dean of brothers. We hope to see new days ahead by the grace of God.

Requiem offered for Fr. Varghese Kotoor

On 30th October, we gathered together to commemorate Fr. Varghese Kotoor and Holy Mass was offered in view of the same. Fr. Vinod Padijarekaithackal preached the homily during which he shared Fr. Kotoor's view of Hindu religion. Fr. Varghese had a sympathetic attitude towards Hindu religion and he would term it as a "wounded civilization." Later we also had a short gathering and we made it a point that our further gatherings will proceed in Hindi language.

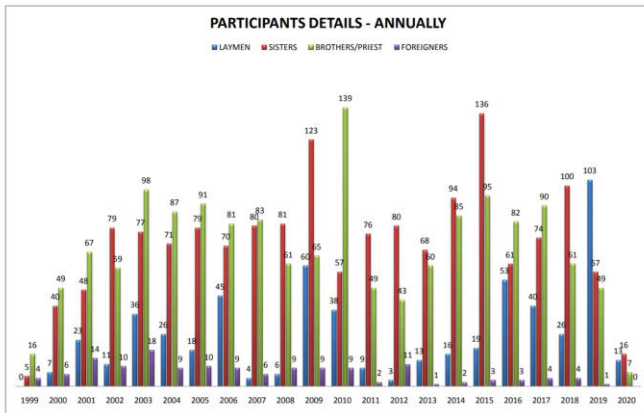
Brothers' Achievements

Bro. Abin was awarded best footballer award, in the recently held football matches between sections. In the decennial souvenir of ASWAS, the social initiative of Dharmaram, there appeared an article written by Bro. Mridul. Bro. Mridul also showed his participation in the online webinars on Fratelli Tutti conducted by DVK.

JEEVAN DHARA ASHRAM, JAIHARIKHAL, UK

Father John Chakkanatt CMI

I am happy to observe that Jeevan Dhara Ashram, Jaiharikhal, although it is perhaps the humblest of our houses with minimum investment of finance and personnel, deserves the pride of place in the province. This is the 21st year since we accepted from the diocese the responsibility of its running. We should appreciate that all these years the Ashram has remained as a *bes-rauma* and *punya-samketam*, maintaining the atmosphere of silence, solitude and prayer coupled with the ideals of ashram life such as openness, simplicity, and the love of God, neighbour and nature. This is attested by the reports of canonical visitation by the provincials one after another. For example the latest one dated 27 February 2020 reads: "...It is edifying that the members come together for community prayers every day... There is a good rapport between them, and their simplicity is remarkable... The chronicle is properly written,... the Ashram surroundings are kept clean and tidy. I greatly appreciate the spiritual service given to many... the occasional *satsangs* with the participation of local people are highly appreciated."



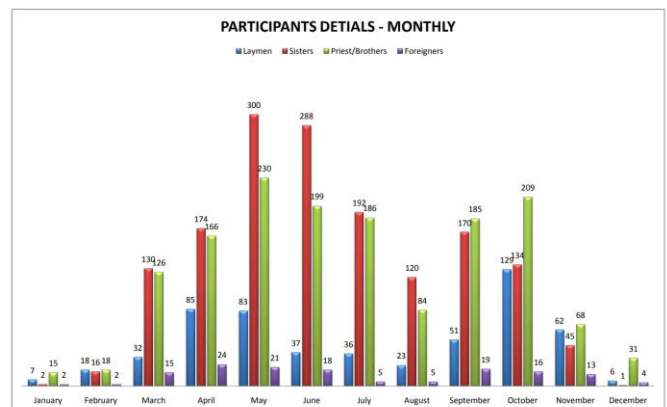
It is worth mentioning that for the past more than three years they are using the English version of the *Liturgy of Hours* of the Syro-Malabar Church. Not yet familiar with the tunes of hymns, they rather chant them. Each session of the prayer takes only 20 minutes on an average. All the participants, including the visitors of different Rites and languages, find it practical and meaningful, although there is room for improvement. They hope that with the passage of time it will be still more beautiful. It may be good that we try it in all our communities.

Regarding the financial matters, they continue to meet the ordinary expenses with the donation from the visiting *sādhakas* and the remuneration for the off-campus ministries by the members. During the previous provincial term, however, the income from these sources being comparatively less, they

received from the provincial funds an extra allowance of nearly Rs 1,50,000.00 per year. This is in addition to Rs 2,90,000.00 that the province spent there for some repair and maintenance work and the improvement of gardens during the same period.

The major expense is the salary for the domestic staff. There are two of them, Mr Sony Brijun and Mr Sunil Kumar, both from the far off village of Ghat in Chamoli district. They have been serving the Ashram faithfully for the past 15 or more years. They are paid, including the full board and lodgings, and the bank-savings of Rs 15,000.00 and Rs 14,725.00 respectively per month; and they get one month's annual leave with payment, and casual leaves as required for urgent reasons. With the generous help of our Provincial Department for Social Apostolate the Ashram also meets the expenses for their children's education, the medical care of theirs and the family members and the repair and maintenance of their houses. They are also welcome to participate in the prayer programmes, especially the daily Marian Rosary. They are happy and grateful for the help they receive.

The Ashram community provides the *sādhakas* with spirituality courses, retreats, personal guidance and library facilities. Of late they take more care that the courses and retreats are conducted by all the resident members, jointly as a team. They also accept requests for pastoral ministries elsewhere, without interference with the Ashram schedule. Fr Mathew Valiakandathil's retreats and prayer programmes for the faithful in the mission stations are well appreciated. Fr Tom Mundadan renders his expert assistance to our schools for scientifically setting up the libraries; he also occasionally goes to give retreats and courses to religious groups. Acharya Thomas usually spends the winter months for giving courses and retreats in different formation centres. Father Mathew's characteristic ease and charisma in dealing with the common people is very helpful in maintaining good relations with the neighbourhood. His friendly visits to the families, especially when they are in some need or difficulty, evince his pastoral spirit. The occasional *sat-*



sangs/bhajan-mandalis that he conducts are well attended by people irrespective of caste and creed, especially the womenfolk. The Ashram also has good understanding and cooperation with the parish community of Lansdowne, including the priests-in-charge, the religious sisters and a few floating lay-faithful. There are occasions of their get-togethers for some simple celebrations, sharing of ideas and experiences and spiritual help like confession and guidance. They also enjoy joint celebrations of events like the Holy Week services, sometimes in the *Ashram Mandir* and other times in the Parish Church.

There is no doubt that people, though not numerically so big, do benefit from the ashram ministry. This is testified by the fact that most of the *sādhakas* while leaving the Ashram express their desire to return, and in fact many do return and some do so repeatedly on a regular basis! This is, therefore, a mission that we must by all means continue. What is most required for it is that at least a few of us venture and are encouraged to venture into the ashram style of life—it is indeed more a matter of life than performance. The present Acharya feels it is high time that someone else took over from him the responsibility of heading the Ashram, while he would be happy to continue his stay there, offering all possible help, if needed.

HEROES OF THE TIMES

Fr. T.A. Antony CMI

We meet celebrities in life. Through their physical, artistic talents or their positions in the society they climb the ladder of fame. One cannot easily get the fame of celebrities. Though we cannot reach such enviable positions in the society anybody can be noble and honest and can get over the meanness of character. Whenever we try to be human in complex and trying situation we exhibit the noble caliber of our character; we become simply human.

These times of Covid we could meet few such characters. They encourage us in our struggle of life.

It is the *Matrubhumi* daily which brought out the person of Steffy Simon. She is a staff nurse of Vandanam Medical College at Alappuzha. During the course of her duty she found a Covid-19 patient with a state of mental imbalance. He was not eating properly and regularly and looked hungry and famished. Steffy took the risk of feeding him with her own hands when many fear to venture out for fear of contracting the virus. Steffy is a shining example of heroism.

More touching is the heroism of an ambulance driver, Aarif Khan, who sacrificed his life on the altar of Covid-19 at a youthful age of 48. *Indian Express* New Delhi edition on 11th October, 2020 brought out his story amazing as it is. He was an ambulance driver employed with Shahid Bhagat Singh Seva Dal, which provides free emergency services in the Capital. He was ready to part with the paltry sum he had for his upkeep, for the family in need to do the last rites for the deceased member of the family. He was on duty 24x7. He saw that others get a decent burial but his family couldn't attend his own burial. He was attending the duties without taking any leave the whole period of Covid season. He himself died infected with the same disease. The family bid farewell to him from afar for few minutes.

In our own Congregation we find few people courageously took up the challenge of their ministry in spite of the threat of infection by the disease. Fr. Justin Akkara CMI, the provincial of Bhopal Province has gone out with a team of forty volunteers to identify the people and infected containment zones or the possibility of the infection by the Corona Virus at the request of the civil authorities. They were very much supported by the Archbishop Leo Cornalius of Bhopal.

So also we have the courageous example of Fr. Thomas Kalampatt CMI, in America, who by sheer dint of his spiritual vigor took up the duty of sacramental administration to the dying Covid-19 patients. It was reported by Fr. Davis Kavunkal CMI. Let us greet these gallant frontline soldiers who fought a heroic war against the threat of this Pandemic.

OUR BRETHREN'S DEPARTED FAMILY MEMBERS

- ❖ The eldest sister of Rev. Fr. Augustine Keemattam CMI, Mrs. Mary Sebastian Perumpallithanath (85), was called for eternal reward on 31 January 2021.
- ❖ The beloved sister of Rev. Fr. Benny Thettayil CMI, Mrs. Mary Devassy Padayattil (63), was called for eternal reward on 30 January 2021.
- ❖ The brother-in-law of Rev. Fr. Paulachan Kochappilly CMI, Mr. Xavier Pallipadan (65), was called for eternal reward on 21 January 2021.
- ❖ The brother-in-law of Rev. Fr. Varghese Kaitharan CMI, Mr. Thomas Parackal (86), was called for eternal reward on 14 January 2021.
- ❖ The beloved mother of Rev. Fr. Anil Cheyazhath CMI, Mrs. Lilly Mathai Cheyazhath (88), was called for eternal reward on 01 December 2020.
- ❖ The beloved mother of Rev. Fr. Sabastian Vettickal CMI, Mrs. Eliamma Sebastian, was called for eternal reward on 07 February 2021.

1. Fluid Cross: Expanding theological horizons

Edited: Benny Thettayil CMI

Dedicated to: Fr. Anto Karokkaran CMI

Poornodaya Mission Research Series I

Dharmaram Publications

In this opening volume of PMR series there are dialogues between the Bible and the context and between formation and the mission.

2. Fragmented Cross: Expendable Theological Visions

Edited: Benny Thettayil CMI

Dedicated to: Dr. Thomas Manickam CMI

Poornodaya Mission Research Series II

Dharmaram Publications

In this search and research Poornodaya Mission joins hermeneutical exercise of conversation between the text and the context. The text is in conversation with the plural contexts of Indian reality.

3. Versatile Cross: Mission and Vision

Edited: Benny Thettayil CMI

Dedicated to: Joy Elamkunnappuzha CMI

Poornodaya Mission Research Series III

Dharmaram Publications

The book is inviting us to look at the mission from various perspectives. The focus of the reflection is the evangelization in our lands.

4. The Story of Divyodaya

Fr. John Peter Muringathery CMI and Fr. Pauly Payyappilly CMI

Preshitha Communications, Coimbatore

5. Daivavum Manushyarum Evarkku Swantham (Malayalam)

By Mani Pius

Published by Chavara Central Secretariate

Dharmaram Publications

A popular history of CMI congregation prepared by a prolific writer Mr. Mani Pius

6. Let my people go: Bishop Jonas Thaliath, CMI

A legendary leadership in the Church

Edited by: **Paulachan Kochappilly CMI**

Dharmaram Publications

God sent a man to lead the CMI congregation and the Syro-Malabar Church beyond the territorial boundaries of Kerala. The Mosses of that exodus was the late Bishop Jonas Thaliath.

7. A Kenyan Psalmody: Evan Ente Priya Puthran (Malayalam)

Mani Pius

A book in Malayalam about legendary Kenyan Missionary Fr. Jose Kallely CMI

Intimate Books, Thrissur

8. CMI Saba Adya Dashakangalil: History of the CMI Congregation from 1829-1908 (Malayalam)

Fr. Bernard TOCD

Chavara Central Secretariat

Dharmaram Publications

9. Fostering Feminine Genius

An Empowering Theology of Women from Kuriakose Elias Chavara

Jossy Maria CMC

Dharmaram Publications

This is an insightful book on theology for women based on the writing of St. Chavara

10. Celestials of Gangakshetra

Glimpses of the
Meteors and the
Luminaries of Bijnor

Naiju Jose

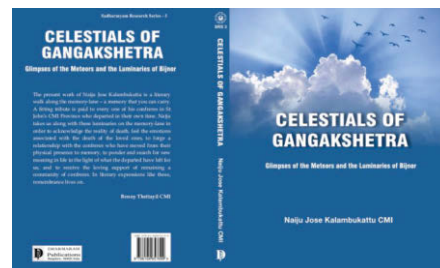
Kalambukattu CMI

Sadarmyam

Research Series-3

Dharmaram

Publications



This work is a literary walk along the memory-lane- a memory that you can carry. A fitting tribute is paid to every one of his confreres in St. John's Province who departed in their own time.

11. Our Common Home: Promoting Collective Responsibility to Care, Nurture and Sustain for a Healthy Environment

Co-edited: Fr. Sony Chundattu, CMI and Fr. Thomas Karimundakkal, S.J.

Christ College-Pune Research Series (CCPRS)

The book proposes an integral ecology which respects our unique place as human beings in this world and our relationship to our surroundings, and an eco-spirituality that can motivate us to a more passionate concern for the protection of our environment.

12. The Breath of Earth, Depth of Life: Scientific and Spiritual Dimensions of Ecological Crisis and Solution

By: Fr. Sony Chundattu, CMI

Christ College-Pune Research Series (CCPRS)

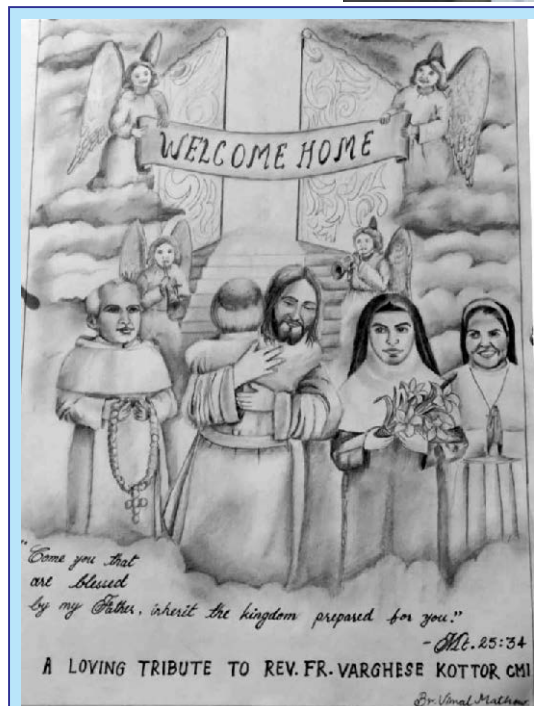
This book was inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato Si and it proposes an ecological conversion, a moral rootedness and spiritual depth, which in turn, would lead us to religious openness, economic restructuring and political commitment.

13. Empowered Women, Ennobled Humans: Enabling Dignity and Equality

Co-edited: Fr. Sony Chundattu, CMI and Fr. Thomas Karimundakkal, S.J.

Christ College-Pune Research Series (CCPRS)

The book reflects upon the challenges faced by contemporary women in society. The papers of this book shows that empowerment of women cannot be merely reduced to their socio-economic-cultural progress, but rather it is a progress to attain their personal, communitarian and cosmic wholesomeness.



**Drawing honoring late
Fr. Varghese Kottor CMI**

On the Notice Board of the Seminary,
Masih Vidyapeeth at Agra.



V. Rev. Fr. Provincial Benny Tettayil, preached the annual retreat for priests in the Diocese of Bijnor from November 22-27 at Ujala

IN THE FIELD OF MUSIC (Fr. Phinil Cyriac CMI)

I am grateful God Almighty for this music ministry for the last 11 years. I could compose around 275 songs in Malayalam, Hindi and one in English. I am extremely happy that in this Christmas season I could compose some songs through which I believe that you all will enjoy and praise the glory of God.

Some of my recent works are:

1. *Pon dinam* (Lyrics: Bro. Joby CMSF, Music Fr: Phinil Cyriac CMI, Singer: Wilson Piravom)
2. *Ellam Marakkam* (Lyrics: Fr. Vineeth Vazhekudiyil CMI, Music Fr: Phinil Cyriac CMI, Singer: Kester)
3. *Rani Mariya* (Hindi, Lyrics: Fr. Paulachan Kochappilly CMI, Music Fr: Phinil Cyriac CMI)
4. *Manjupeyyuma punyaravil* (Lyrics: Jojo Kuzhikkattil, Music Fr: Phinil Cyriac CMI, Singers: Nurses from AIIMS, Delhi)



VOCATION, FORMATION AND PROMOTION: JUST FOR REFLECTION

Recently a young religious sister told a priest in a pathetic mood that almost five youngsters left their congregation. The priest told her that they might have left the community not because religious life is bad or difficult but because most probably they could not find love in the community. Nobody will leave a community where he/she feels that he/she is loved and wanted. As a community of men religious we the CMIs have to ask ourselves how can I promote vocations and sustain the vocation of others in the community. Do I own my brother in the community? Sometimes the younger generations in our communities lament "nobody owns us." But in some other CMI communities the youngsters expressed the joy that they are people that are wanted by the province. We can lose our vocation not only when we leave a community but living in the community we can lead a life of lost vocation. Youngsters are to be corrected but they also must be encouraged. Many youngsters suffer humiliation sometimes to the extent of exploding within themselves. Priests want to get all the services of the seminarians but at their real or imaginary failures they are thrashed left and right; all in the name of formation and discipline. No formation happens in this type of disciplinary hypocrisy. Team Mathew Pedikkat with powerful assistance from youthful Gijo Mavely and Phinil is trying their level best in promoting vocation in the grass root phase in Kerala. Let us, elderly people, try to own our younger generation encouraging and promoting their vocation in a tangible manner.

Constitutionally speaking :

The candidates, however, discern the working of the Spirit under the guidance of those put in charge of their formation, who with the whole community, present to them our special mode of consecration to Christ. (C 80a)