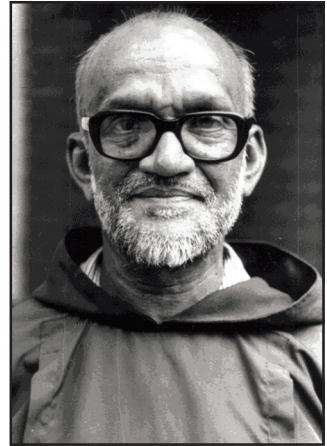


Br. Armond born on November 25, 1930 at Palackattumala in Kottayam district (later settled at Nadavayal, Manathavady diocese) made his profession in the Order on May 13, 1957 and was ordained priest on March 25, 1960. He died on January 12, 2001 and his mortal remains were laid to rest at Vimalagiri Ashram, Iritty.



Br. Armond started his life as a community member in Nazareth Ashram Aluva. Later he served as director of Third Order Franciscans at Loreto Ashram Muvattupuzha and then as Rector of the Seraphic Seminary at Bharananganam where he later became the director of the charismatic retreats for a quarter of a century. It was Br. Armond who started in Kerala the first Malayalam Charismatic Retreat at Bharananganam with official ecclesiastical approval. Several years later he sought permission to go to Iritty to continue the same ministry.

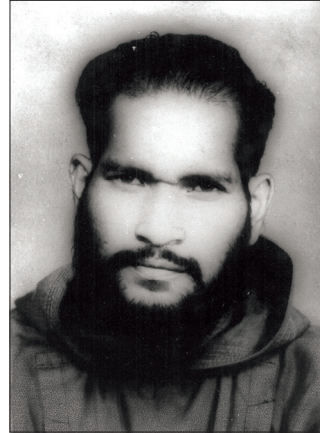
Though Br. Armond spent the rest of his life in organizing charismatic retreats, himself started preaching quite late until he received the special grace for it from the Holy Spirit. He was known to be a man of prayer. All through his life he kept up extra hours of personal prayer both very early in the morning and late in the night. His profound devotion to the most Blessed Trinity inspired him to write several articles on Trinitarian spirituality and conduct special retreats of Trinitarian experience. Because of his deep spirituality he could calmly face oppositions and hurdles with confidence in God's power. He lived a life fully resigned to God. In this respect his life at Aluva, Muvattupuzha, Bharananganam and Iritty provides shining example for us.

Br. Armond had unshakable confidence and trust in the loving providence of God that guided him buildup the Assisi Renewal Centre and start the project at Iritty. He was never heard uttering a negative word about others all through his life, and he remained always cheerful and happy. Br. Armond's end came with lung-cancer and he passed away surrounded by charismatic core-group that was praying around him.

BR. ANTONY THATTAZHAM

JANUARY-23

Born on January 5, 1934, at Kainakary in Changanachery Archdiocese, Br. Antony Thattazham, the younger brother of our Br. Valerian Thattazham made his first profession in the Order on June 24, 1969 and pronounced his perpetual vows on 22nd May 1972. He died on January 23, and his body was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



Br. Antony entered the religious life at a mature age of 34. During his formation he spent one year at Monte Mariano in Mangalore and two years in our Friary at Kollam before being assigned to Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha to be in charge of the garden. Here he worked very hard in cultivating and improving the vegetable garden and was of great service to the community.

In 1975 he was transferred to St. Thomas Ashram Kavalam, where single handed he looked after the material needs of the Ashram with dedication until death. Sister death visited him without any premonition. Early morning as usual he rang the Angelus bell, and on returning to his room he had a severe heart attack. Within a short time Br. Antony breathed his last in the hands of his confreres, giving his life to God without causing the least trouble to anyone and serving the community literally to his last breath.

BR. EPHREM PADIPURACKAL

JANUARY -26

Born on 22nd September 1914 in St. Ephrem's parish at Chirakadavu in the present Kanjirappally diocese, Br. Ephrem Padipurackal entered the Capuchin Order and made his religious commitment on 3rd March 1940. He was ordained priest on 30th March 1946. He died on 26th January 1999 and his body was interred in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



One year after his ordination Br. Ephrem was sent to Monte de Guirim, Goa and he stayed in our Ashram there and worked as a gifted Maths-teacher in the school. He functioned as Boarding Rector and later became the Headmaster. During the division of the Indian Capuchin Province in 1972, he opted for KGM Province and from then on he stayed at Kengery in Bangalore. However in 1979 he joined his native Province of St. Joseph and became a member of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

Ever since his brain surgery in Goa Br. Ephrem had very little sleep. But he used the wakeful hours most fruitfully. He followed a daily personal timetable that included in it meditation, Way of the Cross-, Holy Mass, tuition classes, garden work, listening to classical music and joining the community exercises. Christian and non-Christian boys and girls came to him from far and near for tuition classes. Along with his classes Br. Ephrem imparted to his students high spiritual values. Many of his former students used to visit him from abroad with families. They regularly kept up correspondence with this their one special guide who touched their lives. Towards the end he was bedridden for few months and on January 26, 1999 Br. Ephrem passed away to eternal rest.

BR. JOHN BAPTIST TIRANNANZI

JANUARY-27

Br. John Baptist was born in Italy, on March 20, 1869. He became a Capuchin in the province of Tuscany on January 4, 1887 and was ordained priest on October 11, 1891. In 1894 he came over to India and later became the first Commissary General of the Indian Capuchins. He expired on January 27, 1949.



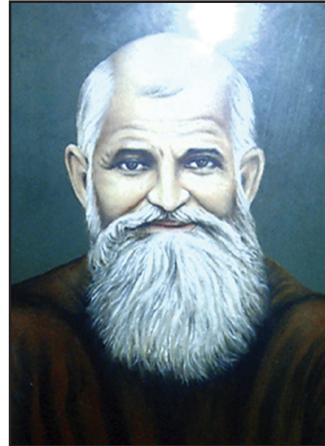
One cannot think of the Indian Capuchin province without calling to mind the untiring and dedicated works of its founder and first superiors. It is Br. John Baptist who took the lead in preparing the ground for the implantation of the Order in India. He can therefore be rightly called the 'Father' of the Indian Capuchin province.

In 1894 Br. John Baptist came to the Archdiocese of Agra to carry on the evangelization work in which friars from his province were engaged for several decades. He became the Superior Regular of Agra Mission. In 1922 when the novitiate house was opened at Sardhana, he was appointed the first commissary. Br. John Baptist, known to be a holy man, carried on his work quite efficiently until 1926 after which he resigned from the office of Commissary General due to ill health.

In July 1927 he was appointed Vicar Apostolic of Arabia with the episcopal seat at Aden. Due to extreme climate his health broke down. He was obliged to resign from that office and return to his native province where he expired at the age of 79.

Br. Armand was born on March 16, 1877. He was vested in the Capuchin Order on August 15, 1898, and ordained priest on June 17, 1905. On the 4th of February 1953 he passed away.

Just one year after his priestly ordination with an ardent desire to become a missionary, Br. Armand came to Ajmer in India on December 7, 1906. This young Capuchin missionary quickly mastered the language of the people and learned their customs, and soon he was judged fit to be at the helm of a new mission station of Bhavanikera. Here his piety, zeal and charity were instrumental in winning over many souls for Christ. In 1921 he was chosen as Superior Regular of Ajmer Mission, and he held this post for twelve years. He was at the same time made the Vicar General of Ajmer diocese.



In 1927 Br. Armand was appointed the first French Commissary General of the Indian Capuchins. It was during his tenure that the Indian Capuchin jurisdiction made steady progress, and as a result the Novitiate was shifted from Sardhana to Farangipet at Mangalore. It also goes to Br. Armand's credit that a Major Seminary for the Indian Capuchins was opened at Kollam in 1932.

On being relieved from the office of Major Superior, he functioned as the Rector of St. Anselm's school at Ajmer. Because of his ill health Br. Armand relinquished this post and returned to his native place where he was called to eternal reward.

Br. Urban, born on February 2, 1906 at Lonarvilly in France, joined the Capuchin Order in the province of Paris. He made his religious profession on Sept 8, 1929 and received his priestly ordination on March 28, 1932. In 1939 he was appointed Commissary of the Indian Capuchins. He was made Bishop in 1955. He died on February 10, 1993 in Paris and his mortal remains were laid to rest in the Capuchin cemetery there.



After his ordination Br. Urban went to Oxford University for a year's intensive study and in 1933 he joined the Indian Capuchins. He rendered us services as Commissary of the Indian Province, Guardian and Rector as well as Professor of our Major Seminary at Kollam and Amalashram. In 1941 he took over the institution in Goa and started the Ashram there. Similarly in 1943 he got the Villa at Sreerangam, Trichy and converted it into Amalashram. In 1939 he was appointed the Commissary General and he continued in that post for three consecutive terms. Br. Urban was an accomplished scholar of rare qualities as a great speaker, writer and retreat preacher all over India. His regular columns like, *Juniper Speaks*, in the Journals were admired by the readers. Within six months of his arrival at Kollam he picked up Malayalam fairly well and exercised ministries to our people here.

Br. Urban, even though a scholar of great achievement, remained all through life true to the genuine Franciscan ideal of humility, simplicity and poverty. Like a poor humble Capuchin, he did hard manual work in the house as well as in the garden. He lived the most austere life till the end. A man of prayer and deep contemplation Br. Urban spent himself without reserve throughout for the formation of the Indian Capuchin friars. He longed to adapt the Capuchin life here to the standard of the poor in this country and he showed it by his own personal life. Br. Urban loved the brothers and they in turn loved him

most sincerely. During his years as Commissary Provincial, he had to put up with many difficulties. He could not get any help whatsoever from his own country – France that was at that time ravaged by the Second World War and run over by the German Nazis. Yet he had no reluctance to give up the Assisi Friary at Aluva in favour of the Poor Clares who were in greater need. In 1948 Br. Urban was asked to go to Ethiopia and in 1955 the Holy See made him Bishop there. In 1982 he resigned his Bishopric and returned to the Order spending the rest of his years in holiness in the Nazareth fraternity in Ethiopia, guiding the Capuchin Formation and helping other religious there in a very edifying manner. At the 77th year of his religious life, in 1993 Br. Urban made a visit to Paris, and on the 10th of February night while absorbed in reading our Constitutions, this holy man passed away to the heavenly kingdom. Br. Urban ever remains as the most fascinating and inspiring personality in the Indian Capuchin history.

Br. Cyril Andrade, born on 20th November 1904 at Bendore near Kalyanpur in Mangalore diocese, entered the Capuchin Order, made his religious profession on 30th May 1926 and received his priestly ordination on 15th July 1933. He died on 13th February 1996 and his mortal remains were interred in Farangipet Ashram cemetery on the following day.



After completing his studies in St. Aloysius High School, Mangalore Br. Cyril entered the diocesan seminary at Jeppu. While some Jesuits were trying to draw him to their society, encouraged by Bishop Perini he joined the Capuchins. He completed his Novitiate at Sardhana in Meerut and made his first profession on 30th May 1926. He was then sent to Holland and France for his priestly studies. Br. Cyril made his perpetual profession on 1st June 1930 and was ordained priest on 15th July 1933 at Nantes in France.

Br. Cyril returned to India in 1934 and served the Indian Capuchin jurisdiction as Vice-Novice Master at Farangipet and as Professor of S. Scripture and Canon Law at Kollam. He was also Guardian of St. Anns at Mangalore, St. Fidelis at Farangipet, Amalashram at Trichy, Alverno Friary in Goa and Fatima Friary in Bombay. In 1954 Br. Cyril was nominated the first Indian Commissary Provincial until 1957.

Br. Cyril appeared to his contemporaries as a man God with deep faith and contemplation. He discharged his duties excellently with personal discipline and strict punctuality. Even in his old age he accepted joyfully the tasks entrusted to him to be the parish priest attached to the Ashram Churches at Brahmavar and Belgaum, and in the later stages as the Spiritual father of the Novices at Farangipet and at Bangalore. After 56 years of humble service to the Order, in 1990 he had a stroke affecting his speech. Later taken to Mysore for speech therapy and rest, he spent his days at the Kripalaya Theologate in continuous prayer, helping the librarian in spare moments and edifying everyone in and around. In 1996 Br. Cyril underwent treatment at Muller's hospital in Mangalore and on 13th February midnight he departed from this world to be ever in contemplation with the one Triune God.

BR. JEROME SRAKATH

FEBRUARY -14

Born on March 24, 1908 in Kozhuvanal in Pala diocese, Br. Jerome completed his studies at Changanachery and Mannanam and joined the Capuchin Order. He made his first profession on January 12, 1932. He pursued his clerical studies in Paris and completed them in Kollam where he was ordained priest on April 2, 1938. He died on February 14, 1965 and his mortal remains rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

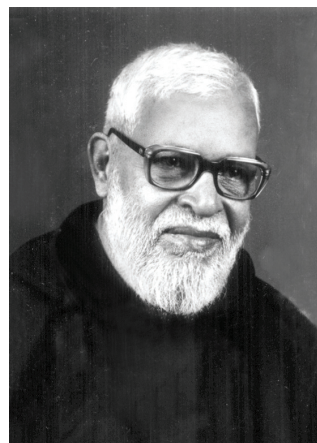


Br. Jerome was the last one to enter the Novitiate at Sardhana in Meeret and the first to complete the Novitiate at Monte Mariano. After his ordination Br. Jerome worked for three years at Kunnam, Mavelikkara, and then in response to an urgent request from the Delhi Archbishop he was sent there and he worked at Khera Khurd and in the Hissar Mission in Haryana. Later he served as Military chaplain and parish priest in Simla, Ambala, Ferozepur and Delhousie. While at Delhausie he was instrumental in admitting candidates from Kerala into the Congregation of Charity of Jesus and Mary.

Because of acute asthma Br. Jerome was obliged to return to the province in the South and he rendered his service in various capacities in our Ashrams at Trichur, Bharananganam and Muvattupuzha.

Br. Jerome was a veteran Missionary in North India for nearly 20 years. Gifted with understanding, sense of humour and joviality, he was inspiration to the community and a model of prayer life. Wherever he worked he identified himself with the poor and the downtrodden. People loved him. In 1964 he found himself seriously ill with cancer in the advanced stage. Fully resigned to God's will Br. Jerome peacefully slept in the Lord at the age of 57.

Br. Gerard Kallidukkil, the younger brother of our late Br. Angelo Devadas, was born on 18th November 1917 at Anthinadu in Pala diocese. He entered the Capuchin Order on 20th November 1937 and made his profession on October 4, 1940. He was ordained priest on March 30, 1946, and he expired on March 2, 1998. His body was interred in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

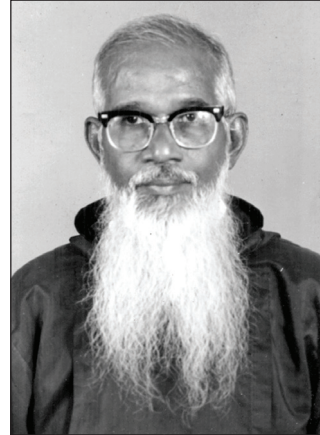


Br. Gerard worked in our Ashrams at Kollam, Bharananganam, Farangipet, Coimbatore, Trichur, Elanjipra, Changanachery, Balaramapuram, Kattappana, Palakkad and Perambra. It is he who built the Ashrams at Trichur, Elanjipra, Changanachery, Kattappana and Palakkad. He was the guardian in our fraternities of Coimbatore, Trichur, Elanjipra, Changanachery, Bharananganam, Kattapana and Perambra.

Br. Gerard was sent to serve the Capuchin Missions in Malaysia in 1963 and there he founded the Gethsemany Ashram at Kuala Lumpur. On his return in 1965 he was appointed chaplain to the Malayalees in Bombay where he successfully organized the Kerala Catholic Union. Br. Gerard was chosen Provincial Definitor in 1972 and elected Vicar Provincial in 1978. When the then Provincial was chosen Definitor General, it was Br. Gerard who took charge of the province for the rest of the term.

Br. Gerard was known for his pioneer works, as many of our Ashrams owe their origin to his hard labour. Yet his humility of heart never permitted him to parade all his achievements or seek recognition on the basis of all that he had done for the province. He was a good religious with charity and compassion towards all. His regularity in prayer, devout celebration of the Mass, soul-stirring sermons were all remarkable. He had particular concern for the poor. Anyone in need could always approach him and get a substantial help. In all his financial undertakings he was scrupulously guided by a sense of accountability. Br. Gerard's end came without any premonition to others. He died of heart attack at about 4 P.M. on March 2, and went for his eternal reward at the age of eighty-one. Br. Gerard, though dead, still lives in the hearts of many that had come to know him both in India and abroad.

Br. Cuthbert Kaliyanil, born on November 29, 1924 at Vallamchira, Manimala in Changanachery Archdiocese, entered the Capuchin Order and made his religious commitment on May 18, 1946. He received his priestly ordination on March 29, 1952. He died on March 5, 1992, and his body was interred in the Ashram Church at Mukhathala.

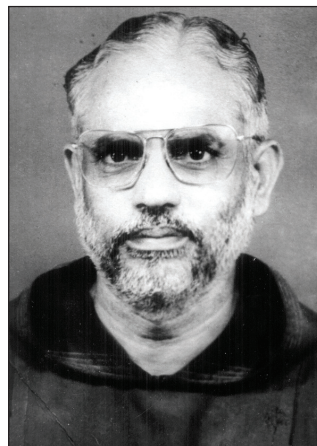


Most of his life Br. Cuthbert spent in the Syro-Malankara Church and worked laboriously for the reunion movement. Even though he was born and brought up in the Syro-Malabar rite and received all the training in Latin rite, he adopted Malankara rite for his mission and developed himself in Syro-Malankara liturgical culture and tradition with its richness and greatness.

Br. Cuthbert was the founder father of St.Jude's Ashram. He established several Churches, sub-stations and other institutions in and around Mukhathala. For a brief period he worked as a missionary in Andhra Pradesh at Avutapally. In the early days of his missionary work in the Malankara Church Br. Cuthbert put up with poverty and hardships, travelling long distances daily on bicycle daily with a course heavy sling bag on his back. He had a unique spirit of simplicity, love and concern for the poor who flocked to him in their spiritual and material needs. People from different walks of life, parishes and institutions bear testimony to his generosity.

In January 1992, Br. Cuthbert fell ill and he was treated at Perumpuzha hospital near Kundara. As his end approached he wanted to meet as many friars as possible to talk on spiritual matters and he asked forgiveness and prayers from all. On the 5th of March he peacefully passed away for his eternal reward. His body was laid to rest in St.Jude's Ashram Church, Mukhathala as he had requested.

Br. Thomas Mulackal was born on February 2, 1936, in the biggest parish of Kottayam diocese, namely Uzhavoor. He entered the Capuchin Order and made his first profession on May 1, 1962 and final profession on May 1, 1965. He died on March 5, 2000 and his body was laid to rest in the vault of the Capuchin Vidyabhavan at Thellakom.



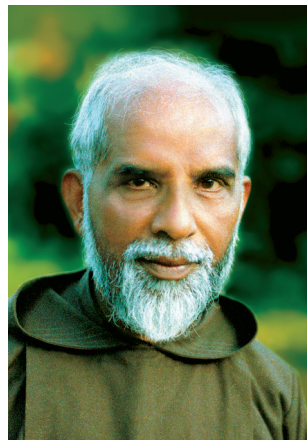
After joining our Order Br. Thomas was in the service of the Lord and his brothers in different capacities. He proved himself quite efficient in doing the household duties, bringing up and maintaining the vegetable garden, taking care of the sick and the aged etc. in our various Ashrams like Kollam, Trichur, Muvattupuzha, Kavalam, Bharananganam, Aluva and Thellakom. Wherever he was, he conducted himself to be a happy brother, quite content with his state of life. He was very considerate and cordial to all, and people loved him because of his loving nature and hardwork. Priests and Bishops, and Catholics and non-Catholics alike appreciated Br. Thomas. Many people used to speak highly of him as a man of simplicity and humility and never speaking ill of anyone, superiors or confreres.

Br. Thomas as a member of the Capuchin Vidyabhavan used to take medicine for his diabetics. After receiving an insulin injection from the nearby Caritas hospital he walked back to the Ashram, and while crossing the railway track, he was accidentally hit by a train, damaging one shoulder and some ribs. He was immediately rushed to the Medical College hospital where he breathed his last. A chosen bud in the process of growth, as his family name signifies, Br. Thomas Mulackal blossomed forth fully at his death, and he remains alive in the minds of many in our State.

BR. JOHN BERCHMANS PUTHUPARAMBIL

MARCH-16

Br. Berchmans Puthuparambil was born on the 1st of January 1916 at Chirakadavu, in the present Kanjirappally diocese. He entered the Capuchin Order and made his religious commitment on the 3rd of May 1939, and received his priestly ordination on the 30th of March 1946. He passed away on the 16th of March 1987. His mortal remains were laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram at Bharananganam.



Br. Berchmans served the Order in the ministry of preaching and teaching and handled the responsibilities as Guardian of our fraternities, Rector of Major Seminary and Major Superior of the Indian Capuchins to the satisfaction of all. Our Ashrams at Kollam, Bharananganam, Coimbatore, Kotagiri, Kattapana, Sultan Bathery were the places where he rendered his services. He admirably fulfilled the role of *Promotor Fidei* of the Diocesan Tribunal for the cause of the beatification of Blessed Alphonsa.

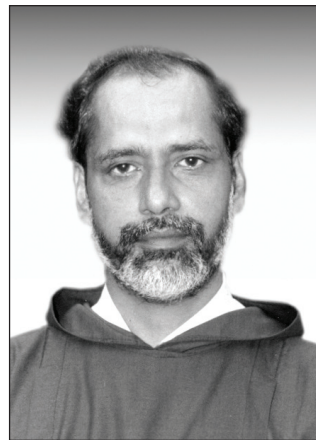
Br. Berchmans was chosen to be the Provincial Definitor in 1957 and 1960. He was made the first Indian Provincial of the Indian Capuchin Province in 1963. He got re-elected to the same office in 1966. His term of provincialship was troublesome years. The newly nascent Province had to tackle problems with civil authorities at the Centre on the one hand, and internal problems of regionalism as well as the post Vatican II unrest that ravaged the life of a good many religious on the other. Fr. Berchmans tackled all these problems wonderfully in a quiet manner with wisdom and with his prayerful, calm, simple and gentle nature after the example of our Blessed Father Francis. Br. Berchmans was a voracious reader all through his life. He had gone through practically all the classics of Western as well as Indian literature. These all refined his personality to be more human and gentlemanly. At times he composed verses which breathed mysticism. In the earliest days he used to write erudite articles. Yet he presented himself as a simple uneducated person. Br. Berchmans had his own interior and exterior sufferings, of which he never uttered a word of complaint. On the other hand he loved to identify himself with the sufferings and trials of others. During his retired life people flocked to Br. Berchmans for guidance: people from far and near, young and old, priests and religious and laity. All the people, including the friars, who came into contact with him, felt that they were all particularly cared for and loved by him. His mature outlook on life, lively conversation, serene countenance, and above all, the inspiring father figure endeared him to all.

During his last years Br. Berchmans was suffering from blood pressure, diabetics and finally coronary disorders, and he died of heart attack in serenity and peace. Though Br. Berchmans is no more now with us, he remains still as a wonderful, grace-filled, unique personality for all time.

BR. JOSEPH KANDATHIL

MARCH-21

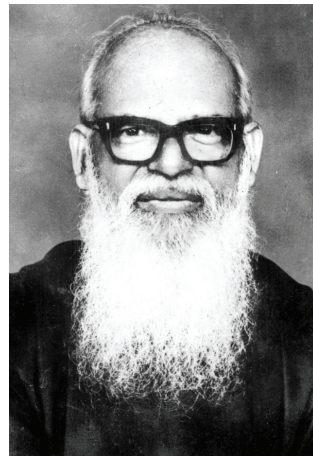
Br. Joseph Kandathil, born on February 21, 1951 at Neeloor in Pala diocese, joined the Capuchin Order and made his religious profession on 13th June 1976 and received priestly ordination on 5th May 1979. He expired on March 21, 2003 and his body was laid to rest in the vault of the Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom, at Kottayam.



After the priestly ordination Br. Joseph Kandathil was assigned to teach in the Seraphic Seminary at Bharananganam. Later he was sent for higher studies in Sacred Scripture at the Biblicum in Rome and completed his studies between 1982-85 & 1990-91. He was a resident professor of S.Scripture at Vijnananilayam in Eluru and at the Capuchin Vidyabhavan at Thellakom. He functioned as provincial secretary and as editor of *Inter Nos* for four years in between his higher studies.

Br. Kandathil spent most of his time teaching in our Seminaries. As a visiting professor he gave lectures in several institutions all over India. The students always appreciated his well-prepared classes. As provincial secretary and archivist, his performance was one of the best the province had ever seen. He was known to be one without guile, ever ready to do service to others despite his poor health. He led a hidden and simple life, being satisfied with the bare necessities of life. From June 2002 he was relieved of teaching for the sake of rest and treatment and was a member at the Provincialate at Kottayam. He had all through health problems connected with his acutely painful kneecap and the consequent inevitable use of painkiller drugs for years. Death came without premonition and due to a massive heart attack he passed away at the age of fiftytwo in the early hours of March 21, 2003.

BR. IGNATIUS WAS BORN ON 4TH October 1910 at Mannackanad near Kuravilangad in the present Pala diocese. He made his religious profession on 18th October 1932. He was ordained a priest on 2nd April 1938. He passed away on 22nd March 1997 and his mortal remains were laid to rest in the vault of Nazareth Ashram, Aluva.

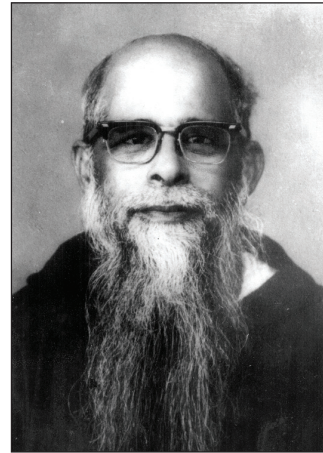


An year after his priestly ordination Br. Ignatius was appointed vicar of the then Assisi Friary at Aluva that presently is the Poor Clares' convent. He was also the Rector of the Seminary there until he was transferred to Monte Mariano at Farangipet to be the Rector and later the Novice Master. In 1948 Br. Ignatius was made the guardian of the friary at Kollam. In 1954 though he was appointed to look after the construction of the present Calvary Ashram, Trichur, soon he was called to Monte de Guirim, Goa to take up the offices of Guardian of the fraternity and the Principal of the school. Later he came to Assisi Ashram Bharananganam from where he took the initiative to find a suitable place for Nazareth Ashram at Aluva. He was entrusted with the construction of the Ashram there and during this period he found out a suitable plot of land at Muvattupuzha for Loreto Ashram. Since 1960 he served the Province as the guardian of Nazareth Ashram thrice and remained there until death by a heart attack.

Br. Ignatius had a wide contact and friendship with people of every section, caste and creed. Both the elite and the poor came to him for guidance and help. Superiors could count on his effective assistance when faced with any important missions or nagging problems. His pastoral zeal and concern for the integral development of the people of the locality prompted him to initiate many social projects. Hence he founded or organized many reputed institutions in Aluva such as Aluva Friendship Club, Aluva Ladies Club, Dharmadeepti, Nazareth School, Aluva Press, Friendship Gymnasium, Karate Centre, Nazareth Club, Aluva Social Centre, San Joe Hospital, Perumbavoor etc. and a number of housing colonies like Assisi Nagar, Nazareth Nagar and Padua Nagar. A good amount of similar projects he had accomplished earlier in Kollam when he was Guardian there.

Br. Ignatius was a great Capuchin. He loved his vocation, which he nurtured through deep prayer life. He made use of every talent that he had received, for the glory of God through his selfless service of the poor around him.

Born at Kanjiramattam, in the present Pala diocese on September 11, 1906, Br. Athanasius entered the Capuchin Order, made his religious profession on December 22, 1930, and received his priestly ordination on 19th December 1936. He died on April 7, 1977 and was buried at Calvary Ashram, Trichur.

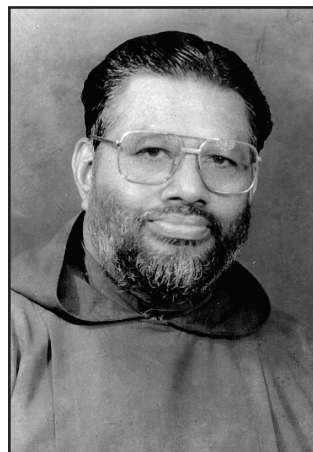


Br. Athanasius was the first Malayalee to join the Capuchin Order and he held many important offices mainly as Superior and Provincial Councilor. He served as Guardian of the fraternities at Kunnam in Mavelikkara, at Amalashram in Trichy, Calvary Ashram at Trichur, at the fraternity in Malaysia and finally at the fraternity at Elanjipra near Chalakudy. He was one of the Provincial Councilors from 1948-1951.

An able and talented organizer that he was, Br. Athanasius completed the main part of the Ashram and the Chapel in Trichy and built a part of Calvary Ashram at Trichur and the whole Ashram at Elanjipra near Chalakudy. He was a good and happy religious and he endeared himself to all the people who met him. Br. Athanasius was known to be a zealous pastor and always at the service of the people who needed his guidance.

The 6th of April 1977 being Wednesday in the Holy Week, he had been hearing confessions the whole day in the Confessional at Vadanappally in Trichur. On 7th April morning as he was preparing for the Maundy Thursday Eucharistic celebration he collapsed due to a sudden heart attack. Before the doctor could rush to the spot he breathed his last. Br. Athanasius was 71 years old when he died, and had been a Capuchin for 48 years.

Born on 13th February 1930 at Cherpunkal in Kottayam diocese, Br. Ruffino became a Capuchin and made his first profession on 19th May 1960 and the final profession on the same date in 1963. He died on May 15, 2000 and was buried in the vault of the Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom, at Kottayam.

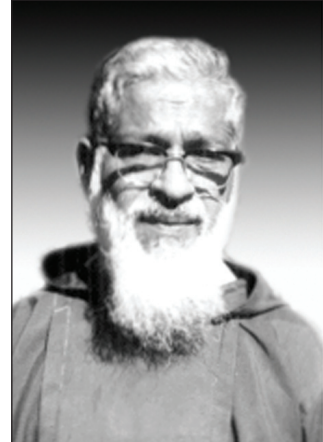


Even though Br. Ruffino had to discontinue his studies at home and shoulder family responsibilities, he was cherishing the desire to become a religious. At the age of 23 he had a dream: An old woman appeared to him and asked him to go to Barananganam Ashram. Accordingly he went there with hope and met Br. Berchmans, who welcomed him to the Capuchin Order.

With devotion and dedication Br. Ruffino served our fraternities to run the household duties especially as guestmaster, porter, etc. He was very serviceable and generous towards all, with the motto: "Your happiness is my joy." Always busy with one work or the other, he lived a joyous life in simplicity and prayer.

On February 7, 2000 Br. Ruffino was taken ill and he was found suffering from Sirosis. He was hospitalized for some days. Then he continued the medication and rest at the Capuchin Vidyabhavan. But after three months his condition became worse and in the early hours of 15th May Br. Ruffino went for his eternal reward.

Br. Thomas Kalappura was born on December 22, 1925 in Cherpunkal in the present Pala diocese. He entered the Capuchin Order and made his first profession on February 16, 1949 and final profession on February 16, 1952. He died on May 16, 1994 and was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

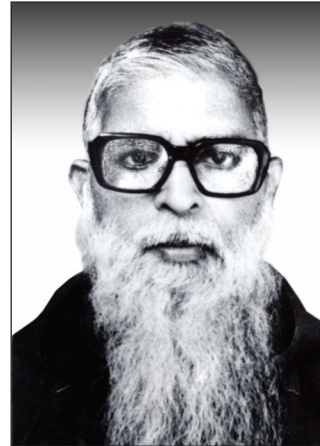


During his 45 years of religious life he served as a missionary in Malaysia and as a regular member in about a dozen houses of our province in various capacities. He was a very good planter and a builder. As a person who loved nature, Br. Thomas knew what to plant, when to plant and how to do it. Standing monuments of this his charism are seen around the houses wherever he had been a member.

More outstanding were his human qualities. All who lived with him, superiors as well as confreres would in one voice testify that he made every body happy by his lively jokes and humorous narration, in which he was wonderfully resourceful. He always made his presence felt wherever he went by sharing his views on any topic from theology to naturopathy, that he had absorbed from his vast reading, which was his hobby.

Br. Thomas Kalappura kept up his religious life in a genuine spirit of obedience and prayer. It is certain that he expected his end almost at the time it occurred as is clear from a letter that he had written to the Provincial after a retreat two years before his death. In it he had stated that he would have just two more years on earth, which was true. His last one year he spent in intense prayer life. As he was recovering from a small bike accident, there appeared symptoms of cerebral hemorrhage, which finally turned out to be fatal, and Br. Thomas went for his eternal reward on the 16th of May.

Born on November 20, 1918 in Kuttickal family at Purakkattu near Alappuzha in the Archdiocese of Changanachery, Br. Emmanuel became a Capuchin friar, making his first profession on May 18, 1945 and final profession on the same date in 1948. He was expired on June 5, 2000 and is laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



Br. Emmanuel became a Franciscan Tertiary as a student and this led him to the Capuchin Order. He served the Order in our Ashrams at Farangipet, Mangalore, Kollam, Muvattupuzha and Bharananganam. As a quester he rendered unique service to our Ashrams in Kerala. Being an ardent follower of St. Francis he took up this arduous ministry. During the harvesting season he approached the farmers of Kuttanad area and begged for their contributions. He used to collect about 50 sacks of rice annually and did it for 40 years. He was prompt to keep regular correspondence with benefactors, expressing love and gratitude.

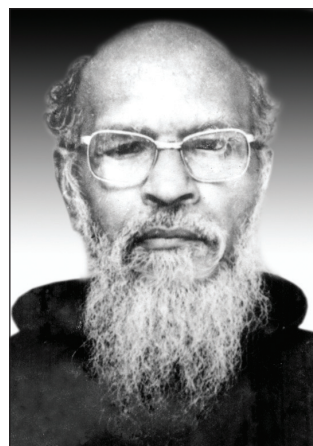
While at Bharananganam, Br. Emmanuel was a good gardener as well as a member on the staff of the Seminary. As a vocation promoter he was on the Inter-Diocesan Team, and many priests and nuns recall with gratitude his influence on their choice of vocation. For the Capuchin Order itself he recruited 45 brothers. He represented the Capuchins at the National Convention of Brothers in Pune when he addressed the gathering to the appreciation of all.

Br. Emmanuel also found time to write books and booklets mostly on Franciscan themes. At the same time he was very serious about his religious life, and even when he was sickly he used to attend all the community exercises and was seen often praying alone in the Chapel. His earthly life came to an end on the 5th of June, and in the presence of the Provincial and several friars he left for his eternal reward. Br. Emmanuel remains as a shining example of a humble and noble Capuchin who engaged himself in the ministries of gardener, teacher, quester, writer, author, vocation promoter, professor and above all as a man of prayer.

BR. CHRISTOPHER NAYATHUPARAMBIL

JUNE-21

Br. Christopher Nayathuparambil was born on January 31, 1919 at Kudamaloor in the Archdiocese of Changanachery. He entered the Capuchin Order, made his religious profession on the 1st of June 1941 and was ordained priest on 30th March 1947. He died on June 21, 1994 and his body was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



Br. Christopher had been a member in several of our houses in India and rendered his services at Trichy, Kumbhakonam, Kollam, Kotagiri, Aluva, Changanachery, Thellakom and Bharananganam. A good number of years he spent as a missionary in Ethiopia together with our former Provincial Commissary, Bishop Urban of Lonarvilly. He spent the evening of his life at Assisi Ashram Bharananganam where he did the ministry of confession and served as the one in-charge of SMA on the provincial level and did all the correspondences related to it. He also served as the sacristan and at times as the porter, and in several other capacities. Fervent in the ministry entrusted to him, earnest in seeking out and fulfilling the needs of the community, attending to everything in silence, austere in life style, detachment from things he used and avoiding recognition from others were the hallmarks of his unique personality.

Br. Christopher wished for himself a sudden end so that he might not be bedridden and become a burden to his confreres, and in this respect the Lord was gracious to him. In 1994 June he felt uneasy for a couple of days and medical diagnosis revealed serious cardiac problem, and within a day calmly and peacefully he slid into eternal rest.

Born on 27th June 1919 at Alappuzha in the Archdiocese of Changanachery, Br. Joseph Kunnumkal was reborn to eternity on the same date in the year 2000. He joined the Capuchins and made his religious profession on August 15, 1961 and received his clerical ordination on December 21, 1967. His mortal remains were placed in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



Br. Joseph Kunnumkal, the elder brother of our brother Bishop Hippolytus was born into a family of 13 children out of whom 10 were called to religious and clerical life. As a Capuchin brother he worked in our province at Mukhathala and Bharananganam and in the Northern Mission especially at Baramulla, Udhampur and Jammu. His evangelization through school apostolate was very much appreciated by the people who benefited from his works. His missionary zeal was further manifested in promoting the Seraphic Mission Association and collecting fund for the missions. Br. Joseph Kunnumkal's presence in the community had been vibrant and lively with quips and jokes, and his humour disarmed others, arousing peels of laughter.

During the final years of his life Br. Joseph Kunnumkal was said to be a saint of the Confessional. Early in the morning he was at the Confessional of Assisi Ashram Chapel and throughout the day he was available there. Priests, nuns and lay people flocked there to return in peace and joy. He was a man of prayer and regular life. At 4.20 a.m. he used to celebrate the Mass in the Oratory and then opened the Church, rang the bells at proper hours and often led the community prayers. Br. Joseph was the last to leave the Church at night and he himself locked the Church doors. He was seen praying long hours in the Church or in his room. His compassion for the poor manifested itself in spending time with them and he used to persuade the rich to contribute to the poor.

On his 82nd birthday Br. Joseph Kunnumkal felt physically quite uneasy and it was diagnosed as a serious cardiac problem. The very moment the community had planned to celebrate his birthday, he passed away to eternity.

Br. Faustin, born on April 5, 1922 at Kumarakom in the diocese of Kottayam, joined the Capuchin Order and made religious profession on June 13, 1948 and was ordained priest on March 25, 1954. He died on July 7, 1979 and his mortal remains were laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

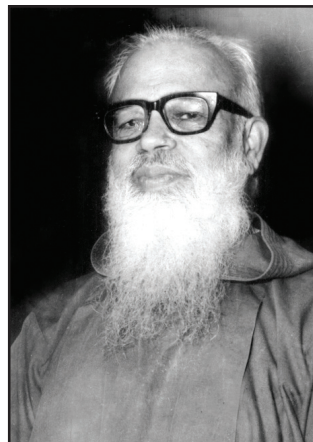
After his ordination, Br. Faustin was assigned to our Ashram at Tillery, Kollam where he functioned as the manager of the Assisi Press. He was slim and endowed with a feeble constitution but was blessed by God with special artistic talents of mind and heart that amply compensated for his delicate health. He did not bury his talents but made full use of them in the service of the stage.



If there is any Capuchin who merited universal encomium from the people of Kerala for his contribution to the apostolate of the stage, it is Br. Faustin Vachachirayil. A gifted Malayalam playwright, lyricist, artiste and author of several Malayalam dramas he succeeded in bringing the Gospel message to thousands of people in and outside Kerala through the Assisi Arts Club, which he founded at Kollam. The dramas and songs, which he had composed and staged, have been at regular periods broadcast by All India Radio. It is again Br. Faustin who brought out recorded Christian songs in gramophone and audiocassettes for the first time to the people of Kerala. His artiste troupe consisted of several young men and women among whom were Christians, Muslims and Hindus. Deeply spiritual that he was he used to gather all these people without exception at our Ashram Church and made them pray with him on their knees! Even after the division of the Indian Capuchin Province into several jurisdictions and as Tillery Friary at Kollam came to be under St. Francis General Vice-Province, Br. Faustin continued to function at Kollam as a guest member there.

Br. Faustin remained all through his life a simple and humble religious, very prayerful, amiable, ever smiling, giving offence to no one. He stands out as a shining example for all the stage directors in India. Three months after celebrating his sacerdotal silver jubilee he was found with a malignant tumor in his brain. He could not survive the surgery at RCC in Thiruvananthapuram. God called his beloved one to crown him with eternal glory. People of Kollam, insisted by all means to have the funeral conducted there. But our superiors took the wise decision to have him with us at Bharananganam.

Br. Martin was born on October 20, 1910 at Vazhakkulam near Muvattupuzha in the present Kothamangalam diocese. He entered the Capuchin Order and made his religious profession on June 13, 1935 and on April 20 1941 he was ordained a priest. He died on July 29, 1979 and was buried in the cemetery at Calvary Ashram, Trichur.



The first assignment of Br. Martin was to be the Assistant Novicemaster at Monte Mariano in Mangalore, after which he was transferred to Kerala to function as the Novicemaster of the Malabar Missionary Brothers at Mariapuram, Trichur. He served in this capacity for seven years and then as their spiritual father for the next nine years. Later he was transferred to Calvary Ashram, Trichur where he spent the last four years of his life.

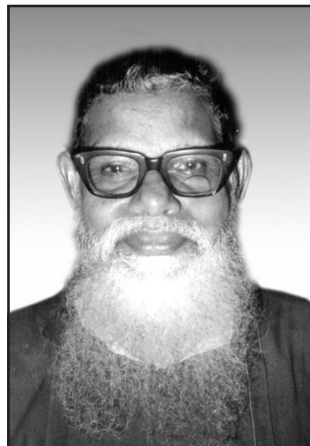
Br. Martin had many outstanding qualities. He was a man of deep spiritual life. He led a life of prayer and contemplation. He would never omit his devotions like daily Rosary and the Way of the Cross-. His unassuming nature, simplicity and amiability made him acceptable to all. Another Franciscan trait in Br. Martin was his love of nature. He loved flowers, plants and trees and wherever he went he cultivated beautiful flower gardens which reminded him of God's beauty and goodness.

On July 28, 1979 Br. Martin had a severe heart attack and on the following day he peacefully went to his heavenly abode. It is said of the great St. Martin of Tours that being poor and humble he entered heaven as a rich man and according to many Capuchins in India the same could be said of Br. Martin Malekudyil.

BR. CHRYSOSTOM PURANGANAL

AUGUST-4

Br. Chrysostom Puranganal was born on December 18, 1913 at Kozhuvanal in the present Pala diocese. He entered the Capuchin Order, made his religious profession on March 2, 1939 and was ordained priest on March 17, 1945. He died on August 4, 1994 and was laid to rest in the cemetery of Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha.



From 1946-49 Br. Chrisostom was the assistant Rector and Confessor in the Ashram at Farangipet, Mangalore. Then he completed his B.Sc. at S. H. College Thevara in 1954 and functioned as science teacher in the school attached to the Capuchin Ashram at Monte de Guirim, Goa until 1972. He also served the community in the capacity of economist, discreet and vicar. In 1972 he was appointed assistant Rector of Calvary Philosophical College, Trichur. In 1975 he was made Guardian of Nazareth Ashram Aluva. In 1978 Br. Chrysostom was sent to Andhra to be the Novice Master and Spiritual Director of St. Joseph Brothers at Gunadala in Vijayawada, but returned to the province after an year due to problem with his eyes. The following year he was appointed as spiritual director and confessor of the students in Sultan Bathery. In 1981 he was transferred to Loreto Ashram Muvattupuzha to be the confessor of the Novices. Six years Br. Chrysostom served our Ashram at Trichur and functioned as confessor at Our Lady of Dolours Basilica.

Br. Chrisostom was a man of commitment and dedication. He did all the works assigned to him with the best of his abilities. As a teacher in Goa he put his heart and soul in teaching and was involved in extra-curricular activities. Those who worked with him felt that he was an asset to the school. His book on science was used as textbook in the schools of Goa. In the province he spent most of his time in the confessional where thousands of penitents including priests and religious received counseling, guidance and consolation. Br. Chrisostom was a man of prayer. He had great devotion to Blessed Virgin Mary. When he found himself unable to read or write he spent the time reciting the Rosary. He used to recite upto 25 Rosaries a day. In 1992 he underwent a surgery for the prostate gland, and the biopsy revealed it to be cancer. Two years later just before celebrating his sacerdotal golden jubilee he passed away for his eternal reward.

BR. CLAUDE OLLUKAREN

AUGUST-8

Born in 1928 at Pudukad in Trichur, Br. Claude Ollukaren joined the Capuchin Order, made his religious profession in 1953 and was ordained priest in 1960. He passed away on August 8, 1988 and was laid to rest in the Calvary Ashram Cemetery.

After a brief period of teaching Br. Claude was sent to Rome for specialization in Sociology. Back home in India he entered his long career at Calvary Ashram Trichur. He served the Order in the capacities of Professor, Social Worker, Rector and Guardian. He was the Provincial Definitor from 1969-72 and 1975-78, and in 1978 he was elected Minister Provincial and finally he served the Order as General Definitor from 1979-1988.



Br. Claude's simplicity of life and his love for the Franciscan vocation were admirable. His sagacity, ready wits and humour as well as his hard work stood him in good stead in the discharge of his responsibilities. His heart went out to the poor, the standing monument of which is the Calvary Social Centre.

Br. Claude was not keeping well since 1987. However he continued working hard for the General Chapter of 1988. Just before the General Chapter his condition became worse and the medical diagnosis revealed a malignant tumor in his pancreas in the terminal stage. Being told of the seriousness of his illness, Br. Claude manifested a wonderful spirit of submission to the will of God. He offered his sufferings in expiation for his own sins and those of others as well as for the well being of the Indian Capuchin Provinces and for the success of the General Chapter. Even in his pain and sufferings his good humour and jokes did not leave him in the least. Just a couple of weeks before his death, he was brought back to the Province, and on the 8th August morning Br. Claude's spirit winged its flight to heaven. We keep grateful memory of him for his faithful and dedicated service to the Order and to our Province in particular.

Br. Guido of the province of Paris was born on the 15th of December 1886, joined the Capuchins and was vested on 21st December 1907, and was ordained a priest on 28th June 1914. Three years after his priestly ordination Br. Guido, as a member of the province of Paris, came to India and joined the Ajmer Mission in 1922. He died in Ajmer on August 9, 1946.



After nine years of missionary work at Bhavanikera and Sukhet Br. Guido was appointed as Guardian and Novicemaster at Monte Mariano in Mangalore on July 19, 1931 in the place of Br. Symphorian of Paris. During the six years that he functioned as Novicemaster, he imparted a solid spiritual and Capuchin formation to the Indian novices both by word and by personal witness. On 23rd November 1933, in addition to his being Guardian and Novicemaster, he was appointed as Commissary Provincial. In 1937 he took charge of the Assisi Friary at Aluva (now with the Poor Clares) as the Guardian and Director of the students of philosophy and continued to be the Commissary Provincial. His classes were very much appreciated by the students.

During Br. Guido's six years term as Commissary Provincial, the Indian jurisdiction of the Capuchins made definite progress. He remodeled and added new structures to the Novitiate house at Mangalore, constructed a new wing to the Ashram chapel at Kollam and established St. Anne's Hospice in Mangalore. The publication of the English magazine *Voice of Assisi* from Kollam and the official organ of the Indian Capuchins namely *Link* (like the present *Inter Nos*) was started during his term. On June 13, 1939 Br. Guido was appointed Bishop of Ajmer.

Br. Guido was a dedicated Capuchin, an able administrator and a wise superior. He was strict with himself but always very kind and considerate to others. He was a man of prayer, a great lover of Liturgy and Gregorian chant. During his spare moments he wrote beautiful poems and drew exquisite pictures. As a lover of nature he was fond of cultivating gardens. He was a good preacher and often called to give retreats to priests and religious. The Indian Capuchins are very much indebted to him for the meritorious services he rendered to the infant Commissariate here.

Br. Jacob Acharuparambil, born on 16th April 1919 at Pallipuram near Kodungallur of the diocese of Varapuzha, entered the Capuchin Order and made his religious profession on 3rd March 1940. He received priestly ordination on 17th April 1945 and was elected Provincial in 1969 and Definitor General in 1976. He became Bishop in 1979. He died on August 13, 1995 and was laid to rest in the vault of the Cathedral Church at Thiruvananthapuram.

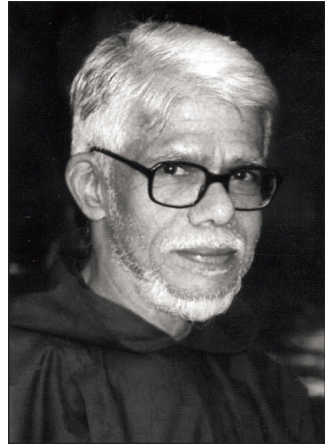


After his ordination Br. Jacob did his further studies in theology at Kandy in Sri-Lanka and served the Indian province as professor and Rector of the Theologate at Kotagiri in Nilgiris and as director of the pastoral fathers. He was also Guardian at Amalashram, Trichy and at Kollam. In 1963 he was appointed Provincial Definitor and in 1969 he was elected Provincial. Br. Jacob was the last Minister Provincial of the undivided Indian Capuchin province and his term came to an end with its division into four jurisdictions. In 1976 while he was a councilor of St. Francis Vice-Province, Br. Jacob was elected Definitor General for India, Indonesia and Africa - the first Indian friar to receive that post. But after three years he was appointed Bishop of Trivandrum diocese.

Br. Jacob was a reputed professor and preacher appreciated by the friars, priests and people at large for his intellectual grasping power and for his ability to teach and preach with extraordinary clarity. He had the gift of understanding the inner man and to give the right formation to the young Capuchins. He was a good counselor and a wise guide. Br. Jacob manifested extraordinary kindness to those who were weak, humble and simple. He always maintained very good relations with diocesan clergy wherever he worked. As a reputed retreat preacher, he was sought after by priests and religious. Br. Jacob led a simple religious life, maintaining punctuality and regularity in his religious life.

For several years Br. Jacob suffered from diabetics and as a result his last five years were of extraordinary suffering with both his legs amputated, and at the age of seventy-seven he passed away for his eternal reward. The friars remember him with gratitude for the good services he rendered to the Indian Province.

Br. Aurelian born on May 3, 1928 at Kuravilangad in Pala diocese in the district of Kottayam, made his profession in the Order on February 06, 1949 and was ordained priest on March 25, 1955. He died on August 15th, 2003 the Feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother. His mortal remains were interred in the vault of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam.



It was while pursuing his philosophical studies at Mangalapuzha Major Seminary with the intention of becoming a diocesan priest that he felt a call to the Capuchin Order. Venerable Fr. Aurelian, Rector and Venerable Fr. Zacharias OCD, spiritual director discerned his call to the Capuchin Order to be genuine. Subsequently Br. Aurelian came to the Capuchin Novitiate.

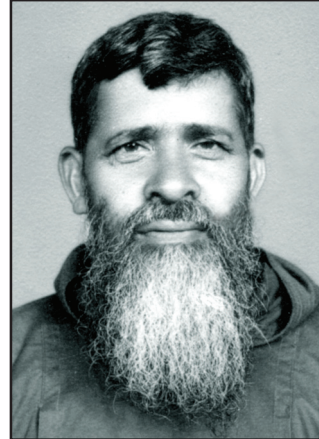
Even as a student he had an absorbing interest in philosophy. Hence immediately after Ordination he was appointed to teach philosophy as St. Antony's Friary, Kollam. After a couple of years the Superiors sent him to Rome for the higher studies. After his return from Rome he spent some forty consecutive years in teaching Philosophy at Calvary Ashram Thrissur. He taught with love and dedication. What he taught he practised.

In the midst of teaching he found time to read many important books and do a lot of ministry. He was always available for confession and counseling. He had a compassionate heart for the poor and needy.

According to his desire to return to the province he chose Assisi Ashram to reside. The very first checkup at Marygiri Hospital Bharananganam, his lungs were found in a fatally diseased condition. By the faith, hope and fortitude and ready acceptance of all trials, Br. Aurelian proved himself a true disciple of Christ and a worthy son of St. Francis.

Br. Aurelian's funeral was on 16th August at 2.30 p.m. In the funeral oration Br. Provincial likened him to Nathaniel of the Gospel of whom Jesus said, "Here is an Israel in whom there is no guile" .

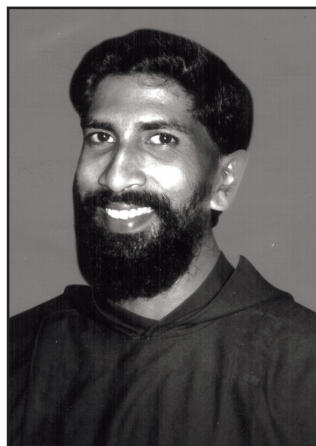
Br. Roch Vengathanam was born on January 3, 1904 at Kozhuvanal in the present diocese of Pala. He joined the Capuchin Order and made his first profession on July 15, 1931 and final profession on July 15, 1934. He died on August 16, 1981 and his mortal remains lie interred in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



As a young man of 26, Br. Roch was the first Malayalee to seek admission in the Capuchin Order to become a non-clerical Brother. He did his Novitiate at Sardhana in the North. Then he worked in various capacities in the Ashrams in the South. He was the manager of the Assisi Press at Kollam from 1939-45. He supervised the construction of several buildings in the Indian Province. It was Br. Roch who assisted Br. Symphorian of Paris to construct the Study House in Kollam during the years 1931 and 1932. From Kollam he went to Bharananganam to supervise the construction of Assisi Ashram. The Adoration Monastery of the Poor Clares at Kollam was also constructed under his personal supervision.

Even though Br. Roch was a good builder and the friars and people complimented him, he remained humble and unassuming. Once the building work was completed, he withdrew from the place so that people might not have occasion to praise him for his talents. He was very generous in his service to all the friars. Br. Roch was a man of prayer, silence and recollection, a man who loved poverty and detachment, who maintained interior peace and went about his daily work with calm and serenity. He had the joy of celebrating the golden jubilee of his religious life at Assisi Ashram Bharananganam on July 15, 1981 just a month before he was called to his eternal reward at the age of seventy-seven.

Born on 17th September 1963 at Erumely in the diocese of Kanjirappally, Br. Anto Arackal became a Capuchin, making his religious commitment on 13th May 1984. He was ordained priest on 28th December 1990. He expired on August 17, 1999 and his body was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

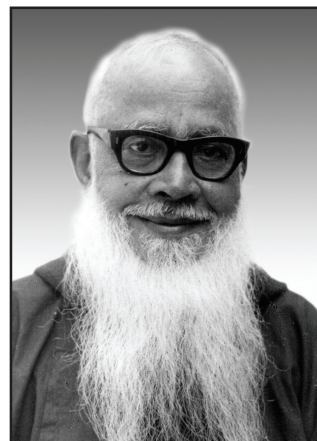


After the Ordination Br. Anto Arackal worked in the Paippad parish for pastoral experience. He rendered his services to our fraternities in different Ashrams such as Bharananganam, Aluva, Kavalam and Changanachery. He opted for a radical Capuchin life in the midst of the tribal people at Karulai, Nilambur. There he lived a very simple life, doing manual labor and loving the tribal folk and working with them.

Br. Anto had a unique individuality expressed thorough his convictions and performance. He sincerely searched for truth and traced his own path of service – an open book, sharing his ideas and ideals. He understood his religious life and expressed it in his preferential love for the poor. Wherever he was assigned he sought out the poorest and did what he could. His religious or priestly status was no obstacle to his being one with the poor of the locality.

While at Bhopal with his studies in social work in 1995 Br. Anto Arackal fell ill. A malignant tumor was found in his brain. Surgery was done at Sri Chithira Tirunal Hospital and Radiation at R.C.C. Thiruvananthapuram and it gave him a short lease of life. When the cancer spread all through brain he was not afraid of death. He took it all as a gift from God and he said that, as such, he would not pray for its cure. At the age of 36 he left us for eternity because the Lord had wanted it.

Br. Leo Keeprath born at Kadaplamattam in the present diocese of Pala on January 31, 1912 made his religious profession in the Capuchin Order on March 19, 1933 and was ordained priest on March 25, 1939. He expired on October 2, 1993 and his mortal remains are interred in the vault of Nazareth Ashram, Aluva.



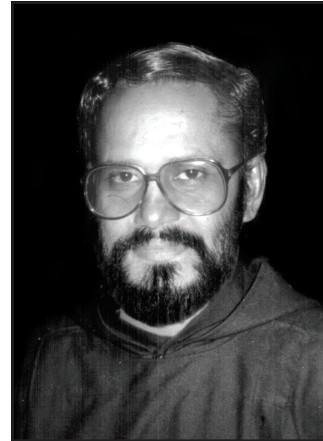
Br. Leo served the brothers in several of our Ashrams. Kollam, Bharananganam, Trichur, Kavalam, Aluva and Muvattupuzha were his main centers of apostolate. He was a renowned preacher of the Capuchins in Kerala. He started the ministry of preaching even as a student in the seminary because of the scarcity of priests in our Ashrams, who could then preach in Malayalam. He was the pioneer of the Capuchin mission retreats in our country and the founder of the Capuchin Mission Band in Kerala.

Strengthened by genuine religious life and prayer coupled with an ardent devotion to the Bl. Virgin Mary, words flowed from Br. Leo with the power of the Holy Spirit, which melted even the hardened sinners into conversion and penance. Under his powerful guidance and preaching, thousands were brought to genuine Christian life, many broken families were reconciled, and liturgical and spiritual life in the parishes in Kerala were renewed. He was the forerunner of the liturgical reforms in Kerala Church several decades prior to Vatican II. To rejuvenate the Secular Franciscan Third Order Br. Leo organized *Sathyaradhana Sangham* for the youth in Kerala. He is again the first in Kerala to bring about active participation of the faithful in the Holy Mass. The public recital of the Rosary during the Mass was substituted with apt devotional hymns and prayers of the Syrian and Latin Mass, which he translated into Malayalam with the approval of the hierarchy. It was Br. Leo who started the present *Assisi* magazine under the auspices of Franciscan Third Order, bearing the title, *Seraphic Reporter* at the beginning. Poor people as well as eminent personalities, of both clergy

and laity, enthusiastically enlisted themselves as Franciscan Tertiaries. In Kerala, people knew the Capuchin life and spirit through the person and ministry of Br Leo.

After a quarter of a century in active ministry, Br. Leo retired to a forest area at Thalappuzha near Mananthavady where he lived for a number of years the most austere life like a poor peasant in prayer and manual work. He wrote several books, of which the Life of St. Francis of Assisi remains outstanding. As begging by a priest from door to door was unheard of in Kerala, it was again Br. Leo who started the ministry of questing of paddy and other things from the people for the province. With the zeal of St. Paul he lived and worked in the footprints of St. Francis until death that was caused by a brain hemorrhage. Br. Leo will ever be remembered as the one who deeply influenced the Christian life in Kerala.

Br. Victor Mekkatt was born on December 26, 1951 at Aruvithura in the diocese of Pala. He entered the Capuchin Order, made his religious profession on June 3, 1976 and was ordained priest on April 21, 1980. He died on October 12, 1999 and is buried in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

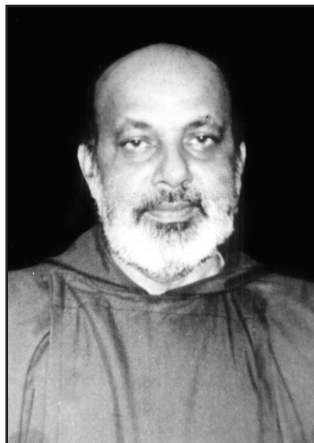


A Few years after his priestly ordination, Br. Victor went to Louvain for higher studies in philosophy. On his return from abroad he was on the staff in the Philosophical College at Trichur. He was appointed Guardian and Rector of the minor seminary at Sultan Bathery. Later he rendered his services in our Ashrams at Aluva and Bharananganam. While at Sultan Bathery Br. Victor functioned also as parish priest at Vadakkanadu and Kallumukku in the diocese of Mananthavady. He was calm and quiet by nature and deeply spiritual interiorly. His concern for others was remarkable and was very happy to render any service to the needy in communities he lived. A sweet person that he appeared, he always exuded optimism and peace. He loved art and its various expressions, and to some extent these sustained him during his trials as a sick person

At the beginning of 1990s Br. Victor fell ill and the medical diagnosis revealed that he was suffering from blood cancer. Taking medical treatment, he continued to hold responsibilities for the province. From Sultan Bathery he was transferred to Bharananganam where he served as seminary Rector and vicar of the house. Shortly before his death when he was given the sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, his eyes were seen filled with tears and he stated them to be tears of joy. With serene countenance he talked with the visitors at his sick bed about their problems while his own sufferings were masked with a winning smile.

Br. Victor expected sister death and accepted it fraternally, leaving behind us the noble example of accepting everything from the hands of God with heroic surrender to the divine will.

Br. Johnson Pandikunnel born on August 31, 1937 at Nedumkunnam in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, joined the Capuchin Order and made his first profession on June 8, 1965 and the perpetual profession on the same date in 1968. He passed away on October 14, 1998 and his mortal remains were interred in the vault of the Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Kottayam.

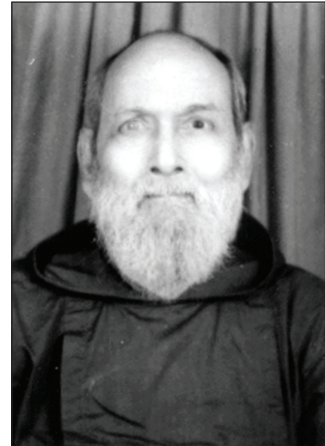


Having completed his professorium at Kollam, Br. Johnson was ready to embark on a distinguished period of service at Calvary Ashram, Trichur, St. Antony's Friary, Kollam and Gethsemany Ashram, Changanachery. In 1978 he was elected Provincial Definitor and was in charge of Social work. He then functioned as the director of Calvary Social Centre, Trichur. For the next several years he was the Provincial Procurator at the provincialate in Aluva. Though not a rewarding job, and demanding a lot of dedication and patience with routine jugglery with arithmetical sums, Johnson proved himself adept in discharging this fraternal service for the province. From 1993 onwards he was the economus of our Theologate at Thellakom.

The dimensions of a religious can be measured by his comportment with himself, with God and with others. In responding to these situations we get a glimpse of Br. Johnson's religious commitment and consecration. It was quite pleasant to be with Br. Johnson who was noted for his endearing qualities of affability and sense of humour as well as his ability to laugh at himself where others would pull shutter and withdraw. He was gifted with a near prodigious memory and a keen sense of observing people and events, and he consistently avoided inflating his ego before others. Whether as the vegetable gardener, or as the one in-charge of social work, or as the Provincial Procurator, he lived a humble and joyful life with his ready wits and humour.

Though not bedridden, Br. Johnson's last year of life was an apostolate of quiet suffering. He had survived two heart attacks, and suffered from diabetics, blood pressure, piles and a string of other physical infirmities, which forced him to lead a retired life. He spent his time in intense prayer. In the early hours of 14th October he succumbed to a massive heart attack and fled to eternity. The rosary seemed to have slipped through his fingers as he was battling in his final agony, and was found on his pillow like a ring of garland.

Br. Placid Malayil was born on June 7, 1905 at Kaipuzha in Kottayam diocese. He made his religious profession on July 28, 1936 and received his sacerdotal ordination on March 9, 1940. He died on October 30, 1991 and his mortal remains were interred in the vault of Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom.



The first four years after his ordination, Br. Placid remained in our Ashram at Kollam and did pastoral ministry that included preaching, hearing confessions, assisting the parishes, settling cases, etc. The superiors were very happy to see him doing his ministry among people tactfully with compassion and joy. In 1944 he was appointed superior of Sacred Heart Friary at Kunnam, Mavelikkara where the upper caste Jacobites and Nairs had dominated the poor Catholics who belonged to the lower strata of society. Establishing friendly relations with secular authorities and the upper caste people Br. Placid remedied the oppressive situation and worked for the uplift of the poor around the locality. In 1947 he was sent to Madras as chaplain to the Patrician Brothers with the intention of opening a Capuchin Ashram there. Since the plan did not work out mainly due to financial problem, he was transferred to Amalashram; Trichy where he was later made the Guardian of the fraternity. His one great achievement there was securing the permission of the civil authorities to build an Ashram and a chapel there in the citadel of the Brahmin community. In 1951 Br. Placid was sent to Kumbakonam to take charge of the Industrial School and he remained there until he was transferred to D. S. Hospital, Pala in 1955. He performed his duties of a chaplain and pastor to the patients in the hospital and to the people around the locality to the satisfaction and esteem of all. Later he was made Guardian at Trichy and Coimbatore. At Coimbatore his tactful approach amidst problems helped the Major Superiors to maintain cordial relation with ecclesiastical authorities. Br. Placid returned in 1966 to D. S. Hospital, Pala as its chaplain and remained there till 1987. Because of his declining health he retired from there and took rest at Capuchin Vidyabhavan.

In his own unique way Br. Placid was truly a great man. Wherever he was, he kept up good relations with Bishops, clergy and people. His charity and tactfulness in dealing with difficult characters won for him the compliment that he was a man of supernatural outlook. On October 30, 1991, in the early hours of the day Br. Placid passed away for his eternal reward.

BR. HONORIUS KATTATHARAYIL

NOVEMBER-5

Br. Honorius Kattatharayil was born on the 25th of June, 1938 at Kurumpanadom in the Archdiocese of Changanachery. He joined the Capuchin Order and made his religious profession on the 1st of May 1961 and received his priestly ordination on the 3rd of December 1967. He was expired on November 5, 2000 and his body was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



Br. Honorius developed great enthusiasm from his boyhood to work among the non-Catholic Christians ever since his friendly encounter with an Orthodox Bishop who had come for a pastoral visit in one of their Churches, that happened to be near his home. Hence during the available free days of his major seminary years he involved himself in ecumenical activities among the Orthodox Christians. After his pastoral course at Kollam Br. Honorius therefore joined his uncle, the late Br. Cuthbert Kaliyanil for the reunion movement. Remaining with Br. Cuthbert at Mukhathala he graduated himself in the art of missionary work among the Orthodox Christians. Br. Honorius was also a zealous pastor of the Syro-Malankara Catholics of Thiruvananthapuram Archdiocese at Ambalathumkala, Neeleswaram, Chovallur, Nallila, Puliya, Pallimon, Perumpuzha, and Kundara besides half a dozen places including Balaramapuram. More than a couple of years he rendered his service to the diocese of Kalyan. Then he proceeded for his higher studies in ecumenism in Rome and returned to the province after a couple of years.

Br. Honorius functioned also in the capacity of the manager of the school at Mukhathala and as the director of Kundara orphanage and Perumpuzha hospital. He was appointed the guardian of the fraternities at Mukhathala, Balaramapuram and Bharananganam. Wherever he worked, Br. Honorius endeared himself to those who lived with him as well as to those in contact with him. His guileless nature won for him the good will and appreciation of all sections of people including the clergy, religious and prelates of the Church.

Hardly one year did he finish his term at Bharananganam when Br. Honorius contracted cancer of the bone on his knee. He went through all the painful process of the treatment at Chennai and at Thiruvananthapuram and completed his tenure at Bharananganam. Considering the nearness to the Chethipuzha hospital and his family, he was transferred to Gethsemany Ashram, Changanachery where he prepared for his end in intense prayer. Breathing became extremely difficult for him because of the destructive spread of cancer over his lungs, and on the 5th of November early in the morning he breathed his last, consummating his final commitment to the Lord.

BR. RICHARD BRUNNER DURAND

NOVEMBER-7

Br. Richard Brunner was born on 6th September 1889. He joined the Capuchin Order and got vested in the religious garb on 17th July 1914 and was made a priest on 17th May 1921. Br. Richard from the Calvary Province, U.S.A. came to India as the Commissary Provincial of the Indian Capuchins from 1948 to 54. Later he returned to U.S.A. and died there on November 7, 1969.

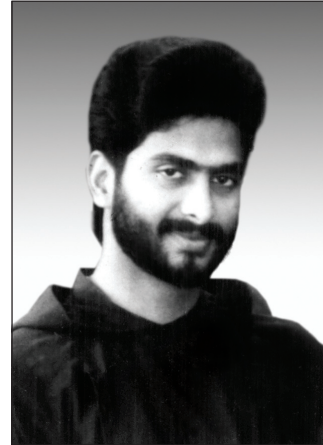


In the year 1948 the Minister General Br. Clement of Milwaukee conducted the canonical visitation of the Indian Capuchins, after which he appointed Br. Richard Brunner as the Commissary Provincial of the Indian Capuchins on June 24, 1948. Br. Richard took charge on August 11, 1948. He served the Indian Capuchins for 9 years, first as Commissary Provincial for 6 years and then as Definitor for 3 years.

The choice of Br. Richard as the Commissary Provincial of the Indian friars was a very happy one as the subsequent events proved. He gave ample evidence of his remarkable administrative abilities as well as of his profound Franciscan spirit and vast erudition. He accomplished much within a short period of six years: The Ashram building at Kollam was completed, which had been pending over a decade. The Ashrams at Kumbakonam, Bharananganam, Coimbatore, Trichur and Kotagiri owe their completion to his untiring labours. The Ashram chapel at Kotagiri is a magnificent monument to Br. Richard's architectural and liturgical talents. He keenly watched over the religious and intellectual formation of the young friars and encouraged to hold conferences on vocation promotion, formation, mission preaching, promoting S.F.O., etc. The libraries of the Study Houses were enriched with valuable books, which he brought from the United States. He did much for the implantation of the Order in all the regions of South India.

Br. Richard won the hearts of the friars by his genuine and paternal solicitude for the welfare and happiness of each of our brothers. He possessed a wonderful gift of sympathizing with each one's views, aspirations and grievances. In a word, he made himself 'all things to all' the friars. Br. Richard's health failed and he returned to the United States in March 1957. There he quietly continued his service for another 12 years until God called him to his eternal reward. The Indian Capuchins owe an immense debt of gratitude to Br. Richard for all that he had been to them.

Br. Shaji Putthettupadavil, born on February 19, 1971 at Neeloor in Pala and later permanently settled at Kavumthala in Thalassery diocese, joined the Capuchin Order and made his religious profession on May 15, 1993. He died on November 30, 1998 and is interred in the vault of the Capuchin Vidyabhavan at Thellakom.

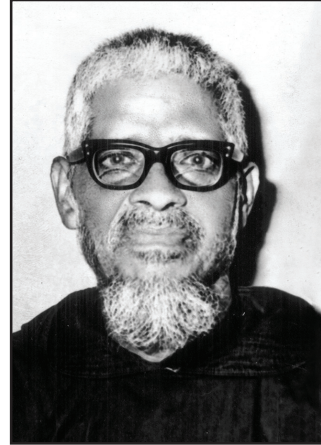


Br. Shaji positively responded to the call of the Lord and after passing his secondary school examination entered the Capuchin Order. He was vested on 14th May 1992 and he made his religious commitment after a year. He was doing his second year Theology when the Lord called him without premonition to anyone.

Br. Shaji was a man of conviction and he lived unto it. A young man of originality in perception, he formed mature opinion on practically every thing that concerned him. Quiet and meek by nature, he loved all and was ever willing to render his joyful service to the community as plumber, electrician, mechanic, librarian etc. Above all he was a man of prayer. He believed that prayer was his self-expression before God, meditation the light for life and that action makes sense if only done in true love.

During a community trip to Nilackal Church, sister death embraced him suddenly this day in 1998 while he was having a soothing bath with companions in the river at Pamba near Erumely. He got drowned without being noticed by others. By the time the body was recovered, the angels had carried him to heaven.

Br. Henry Manthara, born on 1st February 1914 at Kozhuvanal in the present Pala diocese, entered the Capuchin Order and made his religious profession on 16th June 1938 and was ordained priest on the 25th of March 1944. He died on the 8th of December 1988 and his mortal remains were interred in the Nazareth Ashram cemetery at Aluva.

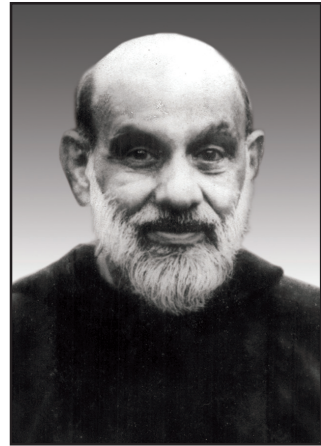


After the ordination Br. Henry spent the first years of his priesthood in the Ashram at Kollam where he devoted most of his time to the ministry of preaching. He became a member of the mission band, which was functioning actively at Kollam and was soon acclaimed as a popular preacher. In course of time he was transferred to other houses such as those in Bharananganam, Trichur, Elanjipra and Aluva. Br. Henry loved the poor, the sick and the afflicted. He used to visit them and do everything possible to alleviate their sufferings even though he himself was in poor health. He was also an ardent promoter of good literature.

When he was in Nazareth Ashram at Aluva, Br. Henry often spoke of stomach ailments and was obliged to maintain a strict diet. Later medical diagnosis revealed it to be cancer of the stomach. It was in the advanced stage and no medical treatment was of any avail. Br. Henry did not on this account lose his peace and tranquility.

As death approached, he was anointed at his own request after which he begged pardon of all and assured that he has no grievance against anybody. He had a tender devotion to our Blessed Mother and often prayed that he might die on her feast day. His prayer was granted. On 8th of December 1983 he passed away peacefully in the Pazhanganad Hospital. It was the 46th year of his religious life.

Br. Fidelis was born on May 4, 1894 at Versova near Bandra in the Archdiocese of Mumbai. He joined the Capuchin Order and made his religious profession on April 29, 1924 and was ordained priest on January 24, 1925. He died on December 10, 1977 and was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam.

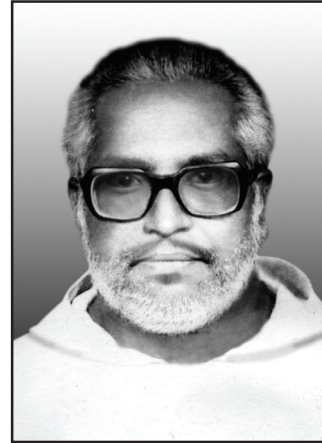


Br. Fidelis had at first decided to become a diocesan priest for Ajmer diocese and had been sent to the Papal Seminary at Kandy, Sree-Lanka for his priestly studies. But when he was already a deacon he decided to join the Capuchin Order. He completed his novitiate at Sardhana before the ordination. Br. Fidelis began his priestly ministry by teaching in St. Anselm's High School at Ajmer for sometime after which he was transferred to the novitiate house at Sardhana where he taught Latin and English. When the novitiate was transferred to Farangipet in Mangalore he too went there and continued the same work till 1942.

Br. Fidelis' next assignment was to the Friary at Kollam where he taught Church history and Patrology for the major seminarians till 1956 when he was asked to proceed to the Friary at Kotagiri in the district of Nilgiris. At Kotagiri he taught the students Franciscanism for some time. When the Indian Capuchin Province was divided in 1972, he opted to remain member of the St. Joseph Province. When his health began to deteriorate he stopped teaching, and later he was transferred to Assisi Ashram Bharananganam. The friars took good care of him in his declining years.

Br. Fidelis was a man without guile, simple in his ways, ever joyful and full of charity towards others. He was a good companion to live with. He had a prodigious memory till the end. He was not only a good teacher but also a good writer and preacher. At the moment of death like an innocent child he sang the hymn *Magnificat* (My soul glorifies the Lord) and peacefully passed away to eternity.

Born on 23rd June 1942 at Karikulam in the diocese of Kanjirappally, Br. Ignatius Satyanand Moloparambil entered the Capuchin Order and made his religious commitment on 1st May 1964 and was ordained a priest on 4th December 1970. In the beginning he was a member of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam and worked as the director of S.F.O. and as a member of the mission band. Later he joined the Northern Mission. He worked there for more than a decade and expired due to heart attack on 27th December 1987 in the Capuchin house of Shanti Niketan, Sahibabad, in U.P. At the insistence of his parents and relatives, the provincial Superior in consultation with the Definitor General and Mission Superior, brought the body to Bharananganam and it was interred in the vault of Assisi Ashram there. We are told that he made his Capuchin life a Franciscan song in the Northern Mission, singing it through his prayer life and devotion to duty, loving God and serving his people.



BR. CASSIEN GAUTHIER OF TIMMINS, CANADA

APRIL 26

Br. Cassien, born on November 11, 1915 at Timmins, Canada, entered the Capuchin Order and made his first Profession on July 2, 1935. He made his perpetual Profession on July 2, 1938 and received priestly Ordination on June 22, 1941. He died on April 26, 2004 at Montreal and his mortal remains were laid to rest on the following day in the Mausoleum of the Capuchins at Montreal.

Br. Cassien was the third of the twelve children of a couple, Polydore & Anna. He had six brothers and five sisters. He received the baptismal name Roland. In 1928 Roland joined the College of the Capuchins at Ottawa for his studies. Six years later Roland entered the Novitiate and received the name *Cassien*.



After his priestly Ordination Br. Cassien spent a year as the parish priest of St. Francis Assisi at Ottawa. Later he was sent to Brebeuf at Manitoba to work along with the Belgium Capuchins in West Canada. He remained there until his departure for India in 1946

Br. Cassien arrived in India in January 1947 and he spent the first few months to study Hindi at Azamgarh. Later he worked at Francispur. From 1948 till 1957 he worked at the Station of Shahganj. There he was in charge of a school that he developed as one of the excellent institutions of the region. In the mean time Br. Cassien was twice nominated Superior Regular of the missionaries of the Prefecture.

In 1957 the Minister general of the Order appointed Br. Cassien Commissary Provincial of the Indian Capuchins. He did a good amount of developmental works among the Indian Capuchins. In 1960 he received a fresh mandate for another triennial term. It was Br. Cassien who had established the infrastructures for the future division of this Indian province into different provinces of Latin as well as Syro-Malabar Rites.

On his return to Canada in 1963 Br. Cassien worked mostly as parish priest. He was nominated vicar of the parish of Notre-Dame of Lourdes at Timmins in 1966. While functioning as a pastor Br. Cassien was appointed superior of the fraternity there from 1979 until 1985. Later he accepted the charge of the parish of St. Jude at Porcupine where he remained until 1993. Then he retired to a Hospice of aged people and he looked after their pastoral needs.

Br. Cassien had the ability to speak well and he retained an excellent memory. He maintained good relations with each and everyone of nearly one-third of the entire population at Timmins.

In October 1998 Br. Cassien developed serious cardio-pulmonary problem. At first he was treated in a hospital at Timmins, and in the following month he was taken to the Infirmary of Reparation at Montreal. Br. Cassien died on April 26 2004 in the early morning hours around 2.30. The funeral services were held in the Chapel of Reparation, and on the following day his body was laid to rest in a tomb of the mausoleum of the Capuchins at Montreal.

Br. Chacko Valiapurakatt, was born on January 3, 1949 at Poonjar in the diocese of Pala. He entered the Capuchin Order, pronounced his temporary vows on June 15, 1976 and made his final profession on June 17, 1979. He was ordained priest on January 2, 1980. Br. Chacko died on September 16, 2004 and on September 18 his mortal remains were laid to rest in the Cemetery of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



Br. Chacko Valiapurakatt, with the familiar name of Chackochan among friends and friars, was the ninth of the eleven children born to Mr. Thomas Valiapurakatt and Annamma. He joined the Capuchin Minor Seminary at Bharananganam in 1967. Eight years later he entered the Novitiate at Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha. and after one year he made his temporary vows. After his philosophical studies at Calvary Ashram Thrissur he graduated from the Wachia College at Pune. He joined the Papal Athanaeum there for theological studies and for reasons of serious illness he had to return to the province and complete his studies in St. Joseph Pontifical Seminary at Aluva. Br. Chacko was ordained priest in his parish at Poonjar.

After his Ordination Br. Chacko functioned as a member of our fraternities at Trichur, Aluva and Palakkad. On successfully completing his B.Ed, course in 1985, he was sent to the fraternity at Mukhathala where he served the province until 1993 in the capacity of teacher of the school, superior of the Ashram and pastor of St. Jude parish. Subsequently Br. Chacko was sent as the pastor of the newly formed parish at Dilshad Garder in Delhi for a term. In 1996 he returned to Kerala and was appointed director of the Friendship House in Aluva with its manifold activities. In 1999 he became a member of the fraternity at Changanacherry and after a year his service was lent to the Archdiocese of Changanacherry for a couple of years. As a result Br. Chacko was made the parish priest of St. Mary's Church, Aruvikuzhy. Later he became a member of the provincialate fraternity at Kottayam.

Br. Chacko Valiapurakatt was very accommodative in fraternal life. A man of quiet and jovial temperament, his presence made others happy. His humour and cheerfulness

remained with him all through life. He loved the poor and he could easily relate himself with people of different temperament and social positions. He proved himself to be a good pastor and missionary in parishes and missions.

Br. Chacko developed health problems during the last one year of his life. It was diagnosed to be serious liver complaints in an advanced stage. When allopathic treatment failed to improve his condition, he had recourse to ayurvedic medicines. His health seemed to have improved and he spent the time always being attended by someone at the bed side. While the community at the provincial house was conducting the local chapter as part of the monthly recollection in the late evening on September 16, 2004, Br. Chacko passed away quietly at 9. 45 p.m. and entered into the peace and joy of the Risen Lord.

Br. Lazar born on October 10, 1917, joined the Capuchin Order on July 29, 1945. He made his First Commitment on February 14, 1948 and the Final commitment on the same date in 1949. He died on May 1, 2006 and his body was laid to rest in the mausoleum of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam



Ever since his First Profession in 1949, Br. Lazar served several of our fraternities like Tillery Friary at Quilon, Assisi Ashram Bharananganam, Calvary Ashram Trichur, Loreto Ashram Muvattupuzha and the Capuchin Vidyabhavan at Thellakom, Kottayam. After entering the Order Br. Lazar learned tailoring and has made suitable Capuchin religious habits for several hundreds of friars. This work he continued tirelessly until his health failed in the late 80s of his earthly life.

Br. Lazar was known for his austere life. His personal life of poverty stood all through as a striking witness to Franciscan way of life. He tried to inculcate the same spirit among his brethren with meekness and cheerfulness. Br. Lazar served our fraternities in various capacities, such as tailor, porter, guest master, and the one in charge of kitchen and of community goods, of shopping and marketing for the fraternities. As guest master he was noted for his orderliness and cleanliness. Even in his advanced age, despite his frail health, he was noticed privately taking the initiative to cleanse the rooms and toilets of the invalid brethren.

A prayerful person that he was, Br. Lazar spent all his free time in quiet prayer and contemplation that took an intensive form towards the evening of his life. The last two months before his death he was looked after in the Provincial Infirmary at Bharananganam. Towards the end of April 2006 his health further deteriorated and he was taken to the hospital where he consciously received the sacrament of the 'Anointing of the Sick,' struggling to sing hymns and prayers in his heart. Two days later, i.e., on the 1st of May 2006 at 5 P.M.. Br. Lazar Palapulickal quietly winged his flight to eternity. Funeral was held on the following day at Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

Br. Gerson Joseph Karackal born on 20th May 1947 at Kannimala in Kottayam Dst., joined the Capuchin Order in 1962. He made his first Profession on 1st May 1967 and pronounced his Perpetual Vows on April 5, 1973. He was ordained priest on 4th October 1975. He expired on July 16 2006, and his mortal remains were laid to rest in the cemetery of Vimalagiri Ashram, Iritty.



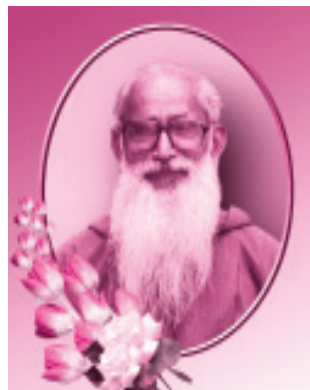
As a newly ordained priest, Br. Gerson opted to be a missionary in our North Indian Missions. He worked zealously in Punjab, Utter Pradesh, Rajasthan and Assam. Due to ill health in 1996 Br. Gerson returned to the Province. He spent the rest of the years in different Ashrams like, Amalagiri at Payyannur, St. Thomas Ashram Kavalam, Shanthi Ashram Kozhikode, Manavi at Nilambur and Sevashram at Kannur.

As a well known Retreat Master, Br. Gerson preached retreats to priests, religious men and women and parish communities all over India, especially in the Northern part of Kerala. His preaching had its own uniqueness, personal touch and originality.

Br. Gerson's life was an open book. He accepted his Franciscan vocation as a precious gift from God and authentically lived the Gospel with all sincerity. He had personal insights into the deepest truths about Franciscan poverty, minority and simplicity. The strong witness of his personal life and preaching has exerted enormous pastoral impact and effected countless conversions.

In course of time Br. Gerson developed diabetes and high blood pressure. Realizing the deteriorating situation of his health, the superiors transferred him to the Provincialate at Kannur and there he continued his life and ministry. The end approached him without premonition. On 14th July 2006 when he returned after his last retreat at Vimalagiri Renewal Centre, his health condition became worse with chest pain and he was taken to the Nursing Home. Even though his condition seemed improving, on July 16 evening Br. Gerson collapsed from the chair, apparently with a cardiac arrest and took the flight to the heavenly kingdom. On the 18th of July 2006 his body was taken in funeral procession to Vimalagiri, Iritty where it was laid to rest by the side of Br. Armond Madhavath of happy memory.

Br. Hugoline Mathews, born on July 24, 1932 in the Karackalolickal family at Ayerkunnam in the diocese of Tiruvalla, entered the Capuchin Order and made his religious profession on the 14th of May 1954. On the 25th of March 1960 he received the Order of priesthood. He died on August 20, 2005 and his body was laid to rest in the mausoleum at Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom, Kottaym.



The first two years after the Ordination Br. Hugoline Mathews exercised his priestly ministry and helped our community at St. Antony's Friary, Quilon as well as at Shanti Ashram, Coimbatore. As a zealous missionary he worked in Malaysia for a period of five years. Later he served at our Friaries in Bombay (Ghatkoper) and Goa (Monte de Guirim).

From 1972 onward Br. Mathews rendered his service in Mukhathala as the Guardian of the friary, the manager of the school as well as director of a Hospital. He also functioned as the Vicar of Mukhathala parish besides two other Malankara parishes. Later he served as the parish priest of the Malankara Catholic Church at Puthuppally.

As a zealous missionary Br. Hugoline Mathews worked in Malawi, Africa until it was entrusted with another Capuchin jurisdiction in 1998. On his return from the African Mission he remained in the Ashrams at Kattapana and Changanacherry. Finally in 2005 in the month of May Br. Mathews was appointed Guardian of St. Francis Ashram, Uzhavoor.

Br. Hugoline Mathews was a unique person with untiring zeal to help his confreres while taking up several pastoral and missionary commitments in our Order and in the Malankara Catholic Mission. God blessed him with a fairly good health and he fully made use of God's gift for the service of God and his kingdom.

The end came to Br. Hugoline Mathews without premonition due to a traffic accident in the evening of August 15, 2005. He was on his motorbike crossing the Bypass at Kidangoor. Despite the normal caution he took, a speedy vehicle plying past before him knocked him down, causing irreparable damage of head injury and four days later he departed from this world to receive the eternal crown of glory.

Br. Donatus Valiyachennattu, born on June 29, 1921 in Ayarkunnam, in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry, joined the Capuchin Order and made his religious commitment on May 4, 1943. He received priestly Ordination on April 2, 1949. He passed away on December 30, 2005 and on the third day of death his mortal remains were interred in the vault at Assisi Ashram Bharananganam.

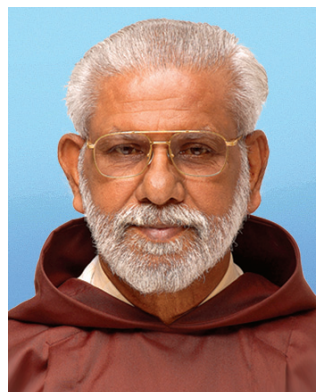


Br. Donatus, after his ordination, functioned as a member in our Ashrams at Kollam, Bharananganam Aluva, Kavalam, Muvattupuzha, Thrissur, Vianney College at Eluru and finally at Kattappana. He was also the Guardian of the friaries at Muvattupuzha, Kavalam and Aluva. From 1973 onward Br. Donatus was the Novice Master for eight years. He was one of the pioneer missionaries in Malawi. Br. Donatus functioned as a good spiritual director in Calvary at Thrissur and in Vijnananilayam at Eluru. Besides seminarians, several religious and priests flocked to him for spiritual counseling and Confession.

Br. Donatus was indeed a fully committed religious. His Franciscan simplicity, love for manual labour, zealous liturgical celebration and passion for brotherhood-experience are part of the legacy that he has left behind. True to his name, he tried all through his life to be a gift given to all.

In June 2005, Br. Donatus had a stroke and one side was paralyzed. Medical care in Kattappana, Indo-American Hospital at Vaikkom and Marygiri Bharananganam did not help to improve his health condition. He was finally looked after in the Ashram, with periodic medical assistance from the nearby Marygiri Hospital. On 30th December at about 5.45 p.m., Br. Donatus had his last struggle for departure to eternity and in five minutes time he expired very peacefully.

Br. Francis Borgia, S/o Mr. Thomas & Mariam Thomas Kavithazhe at Thuruthy in Changanacherry Archdiocese, born on February 2, 1935, made his first Profession in the Capuchin Order on May 17, 1958 and Final Profession on the same date in 1961. He was Ordained priest on October 28, 1964. He expired on March 8, 2008 and his body was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam.

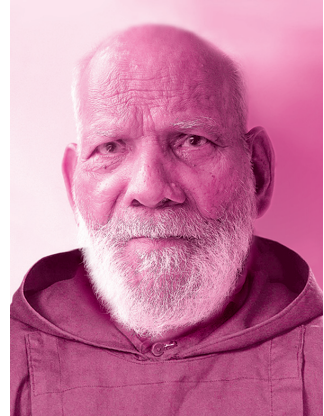


Br. Francis Borgia joined the Order in 1954. After his minor seminary formation in Goa, Trichy and Coimbatore, in 1957 he entered the Novitiate at Monte Mariano, Mangalore and made his simple Profession there, and three years later he pronounced his Final Vows at Tillery Ashram, Quilon. After completing his philosophical and theological formation at Quilon and Kotagiri respectively, he was ordained Priest in the Friary at Kotagiri, Nilgiris. Later he obtained diplomas in social work, in counseling and in spirituality.

Br. Borgia was a member of the fraternities of Nazareth Ashram Alwaye, Assisi Ashram Bharananganam, St. Thomas Ashram Kavalam, Gethsemany Ashram Changanacherry, Bethlehem Ashram Elanjipra and Amalagiri Ashram Payyannur. He functioned as Superior of Kavalam Ashram and Amalagiri Ashram Payyannur. Br. Borgia served the Province in the ministry of animating the S.F.O. and in preaching and counseling. In 1994 Br. Borgia went to South Africa and worked as a missionary for four years. He had also the opportunity to serve the local Church as the parish priest of Chennalode in Mananthavady diocese as well as Vandanmedu & Palapra in the diocese of Kanjirappally. Br. Borgia was very zealous in his ministry and helped several people to resolve their interior conflicts and family problems.

During his parish ministry in Kanjirappally diocese in 2006 Br. Borgia found himself with severe illness of the liver. He took medical treatment and rest at Assisi Ashram, spending his time in the best of fraternal spirit, personal renewal and prayer. However, in the beginning of March his health deteriorated badly and the illness overwhelmed him. And on March 8, 2008 around 7.30 in the evening Br. Francis Borgia bade farewell to this world. The funeral was held two days later on March 10. May he find his place among the blessed in heaven!

Br. Alphonse Kathaliyil born on October 25, 1918 had joined the Capuchin Order in 1936. He made his simple Profession on December 3, 1938 and Final Profession on the same date three years later. He received priestly Ordination on March 17, 1945. He expired on March 7, 2008 and on the following day his body was laid to rest in the mausoleum at Assisi Ashram Bharananganam.



Br. Alphonse was the eldest son of the four children of Mr. Chacko & Mrs. Aleyamma Chacko, Kathaliyil, at Vakakkad in Palai dioces. After his secondary education he joined the Capuchin Order in 1936 at Tillery, Quilon. He had his postulancy and Novitiate at Monte Mariano, Mangalore, and priestly formation at Alwaye, Quilon and Trichy.

After his Ordination Br. Alphonse served the Order in our fraternities at Quilon, Kumbakonam, Bharananganam, Mukhathala, Trichur, Sulthan Bathery, Payyannur and at Avutapally in A .P. The Kerala Capuchins owe a great debt of gratitude to Br. Alphonse for the initial stage of the Ashrams of Sulthan Bathery, Perambra and Payyannur. He functioned thrice as the Guardian of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam, and every part of its large structure eloquently speaks of the toil and sweat he had borne out in its construction for a decade and a half. It is also Br. Alphonse who is instrumental to the numerous vocations to our Order for a long period.

Br. Alphonse was a voracious reader and he helped our Ashrams to build up libraries. He carried on his typical ministry of house visits in several regions of Kerala, spreading the Franciscan message of peace and goodness. His prodigious memory recorded the names and personal data of several thousands of people who cherish with gratitude all the spiritual benefits they had gained from him.

From 1994 onward Br. Alphonse confined himself to a retired life at Assisi Ashram Bharananganam. In December 2007 he suffered a stroke of paralysis and despite the best of medical care, in the early morning hours on March 7, 2008 he breathed his last and left this world to join his brethren in the heavenly fraternity, leaving behind for us a touching memory of an ideal Capuchin friar of austerity and holiness of life.

BR. BLAISE PONNUMPURAYIDOM

JUNE 29

Born on July 25, 1924, Br. Blaise joined the Capuchin Order and made his first Profession on April 11, 1945 and the Final Profession three years later on the same date in 1948. He received the Order of priesthood in 1951. On June 29, 2007 he passed away and on the following day his body was interred in the vault at Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.



Br. Blaise served the Order as the manager of an industrial school and Superior of the fraternity at Kumbakonam (Tamilnad) and then as the Vice-Master of our Novices, Director of the Professorium of Brothers, and then as Vicar and Guardian of Tillery fraternity. For 31 years he served the Order as a zealous missionary in North India. Br. Blaise functioned as the Superior Regular of the Mission. He was back in the Province and in 1996 he became the Provincial Procurator and continued it until his health failed in 2005.

Br. Blaise had a technical mind, and in fact he received technical qualification from an Institute at Chennai and from Coady International Institute in Canada. He had a very generous heart to oblige everyone - friars as well as outsiders who approached him with any request at any time. He exercised active charity in redressing the grievances and hardships of the Rikshaw-pullers of Quilon town, of the poor people at Kumbakonam and in the Industrial School at Rampur in U. P. Br. Blaise led a serious religious life that was visible in his life of prayer, simplicity and cheerfulness. He was known for his affable nature and very spontaneously he adjusted himself with persons and situations.

In the month of May 2005, the health of Br. Blaise deteriorated and he was shifted to the Provincial Infirmary at Bharananganam where he spent his time joyfully, making neither complaints nor demands but gratefully expressing gratitude for all the helps he received. On the 26th of June 2007 as his health condition became worse the friars took him to the hospital even though he discouraged it, saying that he received the best of treatment and attention in the Infirmary and that the hospitalization would not bring about any further healing as he was nearing his end. In the hospital after an intense medical care of a day, Br. Blaise entered into a coma for a couple of days as it were an immediate preparation to wing his flight to eternal bliss.

BR. CYRIAC VAZHAYIL

JUNE - 12

Br. Cyriac (Siby) Vazhayil, the third of the six children of Mrs. Annamma & the late Mr. V.C. Antony Vazhayil from the parish of Veliyanad in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry was born on 14th September 1962. On completion of his High School studies in his native place, Siby, with the intention of becoming a Capuchin, joined the Seraphic Minor Seminary at Bharaanganam. After his novitiate at Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha, he made his first profession on 16th May 1982 and the final profession on 1st June 1985. He had his philosophical studies in Calvary Ashram, Thrissur, and the theological studies in the Capuchin Vidhyabhavan at Thellakom in Kottayam. He was ordained priest on 18th January 1990 in his parish Church at Veliyanad.



After his priestly ordination, Br. Cyriac was appointed the provincial secretary. Later he was assigned professor of Liturgy in Vijnananilayam at Janampet in A.P. In 1992 he was sent to take doctorate in systematic theology at the University of Münster-Westfalen. On completion of his doctorate in 1999, Br. Cyriac was back in the province and served as professor, dean of theology and the Asst. Rector at the Capuchin Vidhyabhavan, Thellakom, in Kottayam. In 2005 he was appointed professor and dean of theology at Vijnananilayam in A.P., where he was Rector of St. Francis College for a couple of years. In May 2008 Br. Cyriac was back in the province to take up the guardianship of Assisi Ashram at Bharananganam.

In the after noon on 12th June 2008, Br. Cyriac while riding a motor bike had a collision with another vehicle. As a consequence he is reported to have expired on the spot at about 5. 30 p. m. His mortal remains were brought to Assisi Ashram on 15th of June for the friars and the people around to pay their last respect to their beloved deceased brother. Funeral service was held in the morning on 16th June at the Capuchin Vidhyabhavan where he spent major part of his religious life both as a student and as a professor. The eparchial bishops of Pala, Vijayapuram, Mavelikara and Mar Joseph Powathil, Archbishop Emeritus of Changanacherry held special prayer service for our deceased brother. Mar Kuriakose Kunnacheril, Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Kottayam officiated at the funeral service. His mortal remains are laid to rest in the vault of the cemetery of Capuchin Vidhyabhavan, Thellakom.

Br. Cyriac was a dynamic friar with many leadership qualities. He had special love and compassion for the sick friars. A man of high intellectual caliber, Br. Cyriac had within a short span of time made good impression as a theologian. His willingness to help anyone in need and his sense of belonging to a community are exemplary. Let us cherish the fond memories of our deceased Br. Cyriac and pray for him so that the Lord may keep him ever dear to Him.

BR. OSWALD PRATAP KUMBLAKUZH

JULY 4

Br. Oswald Pratap, born on 24th April 1931, was the third of the five children of Mrs. Mariam and Mr. Devasy Kumblakuzhy of the ancient parish of Kuravilangad in the eparchy of Pala. On completion of his High School studies, he expressed his desire to follow the ideals of St. Francis. On request, he was admitted as a candidate to the Capuchin way of life in St. Antony's Capuchin Ashram in Kollam. Later, after his novitiate in Monte Mariano at Farangipet near Mangalore he made his first profession in 1952 and final profession in 1955. He did his philosophical and theological studies in Kollam and Kotagiri, respectively. Br. Oswald was ordained priest on 2nd Marh 1958. He continued his academic pursuit and, he secured, at first, his graduation from Dharvar University and later he did his post-graduation in the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium.



Br. Oswald was at first assigned to St. Antony's Friary in Kollam to teach Philosophy. Later he was appointed to Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha, where he engaged himself in the animation of the SFO in the eparchy of Kothamangalam. He was an effective retreat preacher as well. Br. Oswald was appointed the superior of Loreto Ashram and it is under his initiative and supervision that the friary chapel at Loreto Ashram was built. Many elderly laity and clergy, especially in the eparchy of Kothamangalam gratefully remember Br. Oswald for his pastoral zeal and dedication.

In 1969 Br. Oswald joined the pioneer missionary group from the province to implant the Capuchin Order in Andhra Pradesh. He opened a hostel for the boys in Warangal in view of recruiting good vocations to the Capuchin Order. Many of the first Telugu Capuchins are the fruit of Br. Oswald's hard work and interest in promoting vocations. Sevasadan Ashram and the parish Church in Arul Colony in Hyderabad are eloquent testimony of Br. Oswald's love and commitment for the good of the Capuchin Order.

For a couple of years he was also the professor of Moral theology in St. John's Major Seminary in Hyderabad and that of Philosophy in Vijnananilayam at Janampet in Eluru. Br. Oswald is specially remembered for his singular contribution to the promotion of the Cause of the Servant of God, Br. Joseph Thampy of Avittapally. He took pain to collect all the oral and written testimonies and based on which he wrote a biography of Br. Thampy.

Almost for one decade Br. Oswald was suffering from Parkinson disease and consequently in view of rest and recuperation he had restricted his life and activities to the Capuchin Provincialate at Enicepadu. Finally, with the hope of providing Br. Oswald with better medical assistance and care, he was brought to Assisi Ashram at Bharananganam where he was looked after for about three years under the direction of the doctors of Marian Medical Centre at Pala and those of Marygiri hospital, Bharananaganam. In the beginning of 2008 Br. Oswald had his health notably failing and on 4th July 2008 he expired. His mortal remains were laid to rest in the cemetery attached to Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

Br. Oswald was a friar with firm conviction. He was a zealous missionary. His spirit of prayer, love for study and the spirit of endurance amidst constant hardships were exemplary. May he now enjoy the company of holy Pastors and the missionary Saints in heaven!

BR. HIPPOLYTUS KUNNUNKAL

AUGUST 9

Br. Hippolytus was born of Mrs. Mary & Mr. Chacko Varkey Kunnunkal in the Poonthope parish of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry on 14th March 1921. He had 12 brothers and sisters of whom nine were religious. The late Br. Joseph Kunnunkal (Capuchin) was his elder brother. On entering the Capuchin Order, he made his first profession on 11th April 1945 and the final profession on 11th April 1948. He was ordained priest on 11th April 1951.



After ordination Br. Hippolytus was first appointed a member of St. Antony's Ashram, Tillery, in Kollam. He commenced his priestly ministry as a retreat preacher. While he was a member of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam, he was appointed the superior of St. Thomas Ashram, Kavalam, in 1963. Since 1966 he served the Capuchin fraternity in Calvary Ashram, Thrissur, as guardian for two consecutive terms.

The Holy See had many a time delegated Br. Hippolytus to guide many of the women religious congregations in Kerala. Thus, he helped the CMC, FCC, Holy Family, Sisters of Charity, Assisi Sisters, and the Daughters of Mary to work out the renewal of their Constitutions in the light of the Second Vatican Conciliar directives.

In 1972, following the division of the one Indian Capuchin Province into four circumscriptions, Br. Hippolytus was appointed Provincial Minister of the erstwhile St. Joseph Province. In 1975 he was elected provincial for a second time. In 1978 the Holy See appointed Br. Hippolytus the Prefect Apostolic of the prefecture of Jammu-Srinagar. When the prefecture was raised to a full-fledged diocese, Br. Hippolytus was appointed its first bishop and he received the Episcopal ordination on 29th June 1986. In 1996, Bp. Hippolytus retired from office and returned to St. Joseph Province to live the rest of his life in a community. He spent the major part of this period in Assisi Ashram.

As he grew old, Br. Hippolytus, facing increasing health problems, was under constant medical care at the direction of all the best doctors concerned. He was admitted first in the Marian Medical Centre at Pala, and finally in the beginning of August he was in the Marygiri hospital at Bharananganam. On 9th August, after the Eucharistic celebration in the hospital chapel, he retired to his room. Within a few minutes he passed away in serenity and peace.

The funeral service was held on 12th August. His mortal remains are interred in the vault of the cemetery of Assisi Ashram at Bharananganam. Many of the leading ecclesiastical dignitaries, priests, religious and a great concourse of men and women from all walks of life paid their respect to our deceased Br. Hippolytus who made great contribution to the growth of the Church in India, especially to the religious in Kerala.

Br. Hippolytus was very hard working and authored a number of books. He was dynamic and zealous as well as an excellent animator with insights and originality. Therefore, he was very much sought after by priests and religious for Retreats and other spiritual renewal programmes. Br. Hippolytus disclosed by his own life and teachings the wonderful dimensions of dialogue and sharing to the clergy and the religious of India. As provincial minister with all his simplicity and transparency, he was a grand success in imparting to the Brothers the genuine spirit of fraternity by his exemplary life. As bishop, Br. Hippolytus put his heart and soul to build up a strong Catholic community in his diocese and provided it with a solid infra-structure, especially in the field of education and health care. May his soul Rest in Peace!

BR. VALERIAN THATTAZHAM

MARCH - 1

Fr. Valerian Thattazham OFM Cap. (86) expired at 6. 15 a.m. on Sunday, the 1st of March 2009. His mortal remains were laid to rest next day in the cemetery of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

Fr. Valerian, the third of the five children of Late Mrs. Mariam and Mr. Joseph Thattazham in the Kainakary parish of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry was born on 14th February 1923. Late Bro. Anthony Thattazham OFM Cap. was Valerian's younger brother. Fr. Valerian survived his two brothers and the sister.



After his primary education in Kainakary, Fr. Valerian continued his further studies in St. Joseph's High School at Mannanam, near Kottayam. Thereafter he joined the Capuchin Order and was vested in the Capuchin garb in Monte Mariano, at Farangipet, near Mangalore on 12th June 1948. He made his first profession on 13th June 1949, and the perpetual profession on 13th June 1952. He was ordained priest on 25th March 1955 in St. Joseph Friary at Kotagiri, in the Nilgiris.

Fr. Valerian, a man of vision and determination commenced his priestly ministry in our newly opened St. Thomas Ashram, at Kavalam, located in the back waters of the Vembanadan Lake in the Alapuzha District. Fr. Valerian was specially gifted with the grace to make friends with the poor and the working folk. Thus, he was very endearing to the farmers and farm labourers. Being a son of the soil, he easily traveled the length and breadth of the Kuttanadan backwaters with his rowing-boat assisting the priests in the parishes around.

Quite in keeping with his daring and enterprising character, Fr. Valerian ventured to engineer successfully a cycle-boat and the Malayalam Dailies had once made it news along with his photo.

Spurred on by his spirit of adventure and readiness to undertake any pioneer work, Fr. Valerian offered himself to be missionary in the Capuchin Missions entrusted to the Province in North India. Thus he served the Capuchin Missions U.P. and Delhi, especially in the diocese of Meerut. His selfless service for the uplift of the poor had always merited the love and admiration of confreres and of the poor.

Even when he had passed 75 years of age, he readily took up a new assignment at Berampur to commence the first Capuchin Ashram in Orissa. As if to thank the Lord for his 80th birthday, Fr. Valerian moved to another pioneer work, to open the new Capuchin House in Vaizag in Andhra Pradesh.

By this time his health started deteriorating; First, due to a fall causing a fracture on his leg, from which he had scarcely recovered; but then he was already afflicted with serious cancer. In spite of such physical ailments, Fr. Valerian served the Vianney College, i.e. the diocesan Major Seminary, at Janampet, Eluru in A.P. as Spiritual Father for a couple of years.

In July 2008, Fr. Valerian came down to Kerala in order to be better attended to in the Provincial infirmary attached to Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam. He was treated in the Caritas Hospital, Kottayam, and had a successful surgery to rectify a fracture on his left arm. But he had such excruciating pain all over the body that he needed regular medical care. Consequently, from the beginning of August 2008 he was admitted in the Marygiri Hospital and was given the best of care that a patient at this stage needs. He used to receive Holy Communion and made confession that a good religious would normally do. He received the anointing of the sick quite consciously. On Sunday, 1st of March, while Holy Mass was being celebrated in the Hospital Chapel adjoining to his room, Fr. Valerian slept peacefully in the Lord.

Fr. Valerian has left us a forceful legacy. A true missionary has nothing on earth to cling to. He moved away from Kerala to North India. Then came down to Orissa and finally to Andhra Pradesh. He went from one state to another, where people speak different languages and have differing food habits and climatic conditions. He was happy with the people in the village. Even in his eighties he found himself quite at home amidst the Major seminarians and was very much loved by them. Yes, he was firmly rooted in the Lord who said: "Be not afraid, I am with You!". Let us continue to pray for our deceased brother, Fr. Valerian Thattazham OFM Cap. May he find Peace in the Lord!

BR. JOSEPH MOOZHIANKAL

MARCH - 08

Br. Joseph was born on 9 March 1942 at Chemmalamattom in the eparchy of Pala, Kerala. Mrs. Annamma Thomas and Mr. Thomas Moozhiankal were his parents. After his High School Studies in Chemmalamattom, in response to the divine call to a life of consecration Br. Joseph decided on his part to become a Capuchin. He made known his desire to the Guardian of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam. In 1965 he was admitted to the Capuchin Order as a postulant. On 17th June 1966 he was vested and he made his first profession on 18th June 1969 at Monte Mariano, Mangalore. After a very exemplary life of prayer, and service to the community, first in St. Antony's Friary, Tillery, Kollam, and then in St. Joseph's Friary at Kotagiri, Br. Joseph made his perpetual profession on 5th February 1972 at Kotagiri.



Br. Joseph was very impressive by his silent and unassuming presence in the community. His presence and service in our fraternities of Calvary Ashram, Trissur, and St. Jude Ashram Mukhathala are very much cherished by the friars who lived with him. In 1976 he gladly accepted the proposal of the then Provincial Minister to render his service in our North Indian Mission.

Br. Joseph made great contribution to the growth of the present Christu Jyothi Province in North India. His endearing presence and remarkable service in Udaya Bhavan at Bilaspur, St. Joseph Centre at Rampur, St. Paul's academy at Ghaziabad, Feathgachuria and Kalanur in Punjab are recollected by the friars with tearful gratitude.

His outgoing presence radiated harmony in the community. It was well said of him that he enjoyed giving than receiving. It was not limited to the community he lived in, but practiced where ever he was, in the village or in the field. Because of this endearing attitude he could draw many ordinary people who came in contact with him, to an experience of God's love.

After living a hard but fruitful missionary life in the North Indian mission, Br. Moozhiankal came down to Kerala in 2001 with the intention of spending the rest of his life in St. Joseph Province. But, when he found that his service was very beneficial for a few more years in Christu Jyothy Province, he generously offered it and became a member in the mission house, first at Kannur and then at Shornur.

It was here, on 8th March 2009 our dear Br. Joseph Moozhiankal met with an accident in the Ashram premises. He was entrusted with the construction of the mission house. He was in the compound, giving direction to the workers about felling a tree,

but the branch of the falling tree struck him unexpectedly, and he lost his life on the spot. On 10th March his mortal remains were brought to Bharananganam and laid to rest in the cemetery of Assisi Ashram.

Our late Br. Joseph Moozhiankal has left us an ever memorable ideal of a Capuchin brotherhood of minority and simplicity, of gentleness and hard work, of prayer life and fidelity to one's vocation. Let us pray for our deceased brother that he may find himself in "one of the many mansions in the Father's House" promised by Our Lord Jesus Christ!

BR. MANUEL MUNDUVELIL

JUNE 19

Br. Manuel Munduvelil, aged 70, expired on 19th June 2009. His mortal remains were laid to rest next day in the cemetery of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam on 20th June 2009.

Manuel, one of the seven children of Mrs. Mariam and Mr. Ouseph Varghese Munduvelil, was born on February 25, 1939 at Vallamchira, near Manimala, in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry.

After completing his High School Studies, Br. Manuel joined the Seraphic Seminary at Bharananganam in June 1958 with a firm determination to become a Capuchin missionary. On 14th May 1962 he entered the novitiate at Monte Mariano, at Farangipet, near Mangalore. He made the simple profession on 15th May 1963 and the perpetual profession on 15th May 1966. Br. Manuel was ordained priest on 29th September 1968. After attending a year of pastoral course, in 1969 Br. Manuel was first appointed the assistant director of the erstwhile Apostolic School at Bharananganam. Later, he served as its director from 1970 to 1972. He was the Superior of St. Thomas Ashram, Kavalam for a short while (1972-1973).

On 24th September 1974 Br. Manuel reached the Capuchin Mission in Andhra Pradesh. He put his heart and soul to bring up the mission centre at Polavaram in the West Godhavari district of Andhra Pradesh. His dedicated service to the tribal families of Polavaram in Eluru diocese is ever cherished with gratitude and appreciation.

Br. Manuel was then entrusted with the purchase of a site for the present prestigious Vijnananilayam Institute of Philosophy and Religion in Jnanampet in Eluru, A.P. He carried it out very successfully and built the present outer house close to St. Francis College in Jnanampet. In the A.P. Mission he served in various centres such as Thullur, Mirialaguda, Venkatagiri, Arul Colony in Hyderabad and Assisi Ashram at Enikepadu.

Though Br. Manuel was of weak physical constitution, he had always endured all hardships in the pioneer works he undertook. He developed a heart problem and had to undergo a bypass surgery. Later he had a stroke and as a consequence he lost his speech faculty. He was looked after at first at the Capuchin Provincialate in Enikepadu. In 2006 Br. Manuel was brought to our Provincial Infirmary, Bharananganam. Though he could not communicate verbally, he celebrated Mass daily in the Oratory and used to move around greeting everyone with a smile.



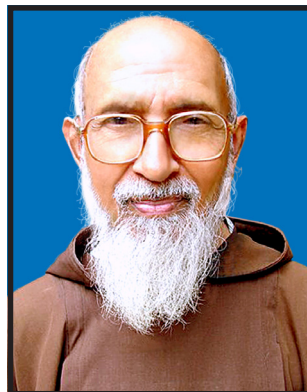
On 18th June, Br. Manuel was not able to come to the Oratory to celebrate Mass as usual, he received Holy Communion in his room. By noon, he was extremely weak and he was rushed to the Marygiri Hospital. In the Scan report, it was found that he had serious bleeding in the brain and by evening he fell unconscious. He was administered the Sacrament of the Sick. He expired peacefully at 2.20 a.m. on Friday, 19th June 2009.

Our deceased brother Manuel Munduvelil was a man of missionary spirit. Where ever he lived he was able to relate with the people of the place in such a way as to leave behind a good impression of a simple Capuchin. For a few years he lived without the normal capacity to communicate. Yet, he was able to make people happy, by very sensible body language! His exemplary patience made him very endearing so much so all were ready to attend on him whether in the hospital or in the infirmary. In short, Br. Manuel found peace and joy even amidst adversities because he was a man of strong faith in the Lord! Let us continue to pray for our late Br. Manuel Munduvelil!.

BR. LEONIS MUTHUKUNNEL

JANUARY - 01

Br. Leonis Muthukunnel - A typical Franciscan who walked on this earth without ever burdening it. His was a silent presence. Never with a deed or a word did he exert himself on others. His was a life that did not ever wound or dwarf another. Such a life is indeed a blessed one.



The prayerful and graceful journey of Br. Leonis began in Muthukunnel family at Chengalam, Kanjirappally diocese, Kerala on the 23rd October, 1928. In his late teens he thought of walking with the Capuchins and that was confirmed on 4th October, 1951 when he made the religious profession. During his further journey he had stay, sometimes long sometimes short, at various houses. Mangalore, Kotagiri, Coimbatore, Trichi, Auttappally, Kollam, Kavalam, Thrissur, Aluva, Changanassery, Kattappana and Mundakayam were some of the places where he had endeared himself. But the tedious journey had taken its toll and he became weak and sick. While he was at Padre Pio Ashram, Mundakkayam his left toe got infected and in spite of treatment it had to be amputated. Though the wound was healed after long treatment, his general health was steadily deteriorating and he was shifted to our provincial infirmary at Bharananganam for better nursing care. While he was here he was so pleasant and accepted peacefully his state of health which was not at all bright. He was never found moody or depressed. His face was beaming always. To the Bharananganam community he was a pleasant presence.

In the second week of December he was too weak even to take liquid food and so was shifted to the hospital where he was cared for till his last. His long journey on this earth came to a close at 10.30 am on the New Year Day. His death was as serene as his life was. He was so prepared for it that he spoke of Sister Death hiding 'somewhere under his cot' as he was telling someone who visited him just a few days before his departure. He did not even once flinch when at last She came. Though it may appear extra-ordinary, it is in fact quite ordinary for a person like Br. Leonis who did not wish to linger on nor had something to cling on. He was fully conscious when he muttered these words before breathing his last, "I am a Capuchin; I obeyed my superiors." That summarizes his philosophy of life. Nothing more did he aspire for. He had as his own only two or three old habits. When Br. Guardian made the suggestion to buy a new one, he gently turned down the offer with the characteristic smile he always had on his face.

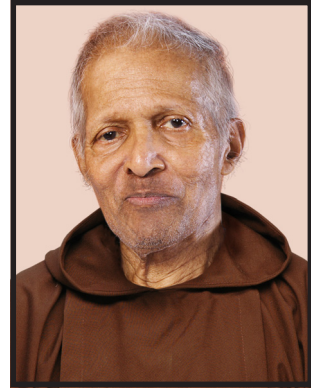
Br. Leonis bloomed wherever he was planted. He had more to give than to receive. By engaging in cultivation, by stitching habits for his co-friars, by gently conversing with those who came to parlour, by meticulously keeping accounts, by nursing the sick with care and compassion, and by engaging in many other household chores, he was finding his way into the hearts of those who lived with him. True, all these are too ordinary. But we don't forget the things that our mothers have done for us because it is just ordinary. Same is the case with Br. Leonis. It is said 'I may forget what you have said, I may forget what you have done, but I cannot forget what you have made me feel'. Br. Leonis made us feel with his little deeds that we are important, that we are good. Dear Br. Leonis, this we can assure you: we will not easily forget your life and deeds that welled up from your loving heart. We have on our lips a single prayer for you: May you also find a dear place in the heart of your Master whom you served so well.

BRO. K. LUKE KOCHILETTONNIL

JUNE - 12

Bro. K. Luke, the eldest child of Mrs. Anna and Mr. Mathew Kochilettonnill of the parish of Aruvithura in the eparchy of Pala, was born on 24th March 1927. His baptismal name is Kuriakose.

After his High School studies, Kuriakose Mathew sought admission to the Capuchin Order. After a period of Initiation to the Capuchin way of life, he entered the Capuchin Novitiate at *Farangipet* near Mangalore, and was vested in the Capuchin habit on 12th June 1946 under the name Luke. He made his first profession on 13th June 1947, and his perpetual profession on 13th June 1950. Bro. Luke M. Kuriakose was ordained priest on 25th March 1953.



On completion of his four year theological studies in 1954, Bro. Luke was asked to pursue his higher studies in Rome. He obtained a Licentiate in Sacred Theology and another in Sacred Scripture. On return to India, he was appointed to the then Capuchin Theologate in Kotagiri where he taught until 1965. In January 1966 he joined the Divinity School of Chicago University and did his doctoral studies in Orientalistics. In 1971 he successfully completed his doctoral studies.

On return from the States, Bro. Luke resumed his teaching career first in Calvary Philosophical College, Trichur. Later he became a resident staff member of Capuchin Vidhyabhavan, Thellakom, Kottayam. Bro. Luke used to be a visiting professor of many Major seminaries in India. He is the author of seven solid books and wrote around 200 articles in internationally reputed periodicals.

He suffered from Parkinson's disease. Since 2008, he was looked after in the provincial Infirmary attached to the Assisi Ashram in Bharananganam. In May 2010 Bro. Luke's health seriously deteriorated and was admitted to the Mary Giri Hospital. At 11 p.m. on Thursday, 10th June he expired peacefully. Funeral services were held at Assisi Ashram Chapel in the afternoon on Saturday, 12th June. Many Capuchin friars from various Provinces in India were present for the funeral service. His mortal remains are interred in the vault of the cemetery of Assisi Ashram.

Bro. K. Luke spent his whole life in teaching, especially the Sacred Scripture. Endowed with exceptional intellectual talents, he made the best use of this gift to praise God. Though not much known to the ordinary people, he is very much appreciated and looked upon with reverence and admiration by the Intelligentsia, especially in the ecclesiastical circle. He was quite unassuming and ever ready to help others. Bro. Luke was a man of great humility of heart. In all aspects, he was a very exemplary religious. May the good Lord grant him Eternal Rest!

BRO. JOSEPH MAURICE VADASSERY

JUNE - 20

Bro. Joseph Maurice, the fifth child of Mrs. Annamma and Mr. Mathew Vadassery of the Parish of Mundakayam in the present eparchy of Kanjirapally, was born on 29th December 1927. His baptismal name is Joseph. In view of becoming a Capuchin friar, he had his High School studies at Monte de Girim, Goa.

With a firm determination to be a follower of St. Francis of Assisi, Joseph entered the Capuchin novitiate house at *Farangipet*, near Mangalore, and was vested in the Capuchin garb on 14th February 1948 under the name Maurice. He made his first profession on 16th February 1949 and the perpetual profession on 16th February 1952. Maurice was ordained priest on 25th March 1955.



Bro. Maurice obtained a Licentiate in Franciscan Spirituality from Antonianum in Rome. He spent the major part of his life as a good formator. He was director of the Initiation Course, Vice-Novice Master, Novice Master, and Spiritual Director of the Theology Students in Kotagiri. From 22nd April 1981 to 7th May 1984 he served St. Joseph Province as its Vicar Provincial. Almost for a decade he was a member of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam, where he was ever available for the apostolate of the confessional. Countless priests, religious and the laity used to approach him daily to make confession.

For a few years, Bro. Maurice was suffering from Parkinson's disease. In April 2010, he suffered a head injury due to a fall in his room. He was admitted in the prestigious American Hospital in Vaikom to be treated by a neuro surgeon. Thereafter, he was practically confined to the bed and was under medical care in the Marygiri Hospital at Bharananganam. At 4.30 a.m. on Sunday, 20th June Bro. Maurice expired peacefully. Funeral rites were held on Monday, 21st June and his body was laid to rest in the cemetery of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam, in the presence of a large congregation of Capuchin friars, diocesan clergy, religious men and women, and the dear and near ones of our diseased brother.

Bro. Joseph Maurice Vadassery was a guileless person. Very gentle and affable, he was a patient listener. Even when he was physically weak, he was found daily spending long hours in prayer. He paid great attention to be present regularly in the life of the community. He was a man of good humour. In the person of Bro. Joseph Maurice we have an exemplary religious who enjoyed the good-will of the both God and men. Let us continue to pray for our diseased Bro. Joseph Maurice Vadassery. May the good Lord grant him Eternal Rest!

BR. KURIAKOSE PATHINANCHIL

FEBRUARY - 15

Fr. Kuriakose Pathinanchil was born in Kavalam in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry on 14 March, 1965. His close companions remember him telling that what led him to the Capuchin fold was the inspiring life of the friars lived in Kavalam Friary. He had his schooling in St. Joseph High School, Pulincunoo. On 12th June, 1983 he joined the Capuchin minor Seminary in Bharananganam. He made his Simple Profession on 15th May, 1987 and Solemn Profession on 19th May, 1991. He was ordained as a priest on 24th January, 1995.



During his regency in 1990 Fr. Kuriakose had been teaching English and Political Science at Jyotiniketan Minor Seminary, Ghaziabad in the North Indian Mission. Besides, he promoted assiduously vocations for the Northern Mission. After the ordination he served Kottapady parish of Trichur Archdiocese as an assistant parish priest. In 1998 he was transferred to St Paul's Academy, Ghaziabad. There he served as the parish priest of St Paul's church and Manager of the prestigious St Paul's Academy, Ghaziabad. His pastoral care and concern is still vivid in the memories of the parishners of Ghaziabad. In the following year he was appointed as the secretary and the archivist of the Krist Jyoti Vice-Province. He continued serving selflessly in the mission until he was called back to St. Joseph Province, towards the end of 2002. Since then he was a member of St. Jude Ashram, Mukhathala. Within a short while he was appointed the Principal of the CBSE School and was in the same position till his last breath. He proved himself to be an efficient Principal of the school and won several laurels for the school. His service as vicar of Mukhathala Friary and as parish priest to various Syro-Malankara parishes in the diocese of Mavelikara has also been praiseworthy. As a committed Capuchin he tried to bring in perfection to whatever he did.

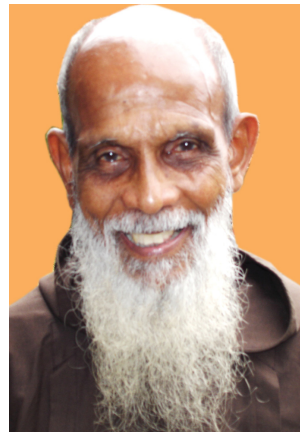
On 5th February Fr. Kuriakose suddenly fell sick and was admitted in the Holy Cross Hospital, Kottiyam. The Lord called him back to the eternal abode on 15th February, 2012. He was buried in the cemetery at Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom on 17th February, 2012. May his soul rest in peace.

BR. AEGIDIUS POOVANTHOTTYIL

APRIL 16

R.I.P=Rise in praise, is the acclamation we have on the passage of our senior most Friar, Br. Aegidius, on 16 April 2015, a week ahead of his celebration day in the province. He left behind a vivid memory of a saintly person who followed St. Francis Assisi, so closely and very inspiringly.

His birthday was during the birthday celebration of Jesus in 1920. He was born on 24th December in the family of Poovanthottyil, Kadaplamattom, Kerala. During his school days, he was attracted by St. Francis of Assisi. The saint's followers, the Capuchins, were in Kollam, Manglore, Goa and Tiruchirappilly. On August 1, April, 1945, he was vested in the Franciscan habit and on the occasion as was the custom, his name Devasia was replaced with Agedius, a saint in the catholic calendar. On the feast of Our Lady Fr. Urban person of Paris, the then French Superior received his profession. This Capuchin later became the Bishop of Ethiopia. Br. Aegidius Final Profession was on 15th August 1949, received by Fr. Richard Brunna, an American who was the then head of the Indian capuchins.



From then on till his last breath, his life was that of St. Francis alive in India. Like his leader St. Francis, he was all devoted to Jesus being a humble brother and servant to others. On duty his life was enduring and in charity it was all endearing. To meet him, one has to seek him in one of the two places: in the Chapel or in the garden. In the Chapel he used to be in fervent prayer and in the garden in cheerful cultivation. The neighbors called him "Garden Brother" as he cultivated the Ashram land into a fertile, fruitful lushly garden to the surprise of every one.

During the World War when there was great scarcity of food, Br. Aegidius went to Kuttanadu as a "Capuchin Questar" and collected paddy from the benefactors enough for the then Friaries in Kerala. He spent regular times for his personal prayer in the Chapel and for his spiritual readings in his simple room. To those who sought is advice, he used to supply or recommend good books. Like St. Francis, he had great devotion to the mother of Jesus.

The superiors choose the best friars for the Formation Team. Br. Aegidius was on the formation team of the young Capuchins for several years. Most of the Indian Capuchins today were touched by his exemplary and edifying life. In Muvattupuzha he served for many years as vice novice master and Gardner. People around Loretto Ashram speak of him very high. In Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom

for nine years he served. Both the professors and students were edified by his simple and joyful presence.

In sickness he was fully jovial to the ones in charges of his care. The Catholic medical mission sisters of Marygiri offered him their best care. In painful and trying times, he kept extra ordinary patience in all humility .Each time he thanked those who helped him. Holding their hands he used to say: God will reward you and your family for what you do to me. I pray for you all. To the visitors and those who help him, his ready response was “Thanks.....many Thanks”

On 6-2-2015, he was given the solemn anointment of the sick by the Provincial, Br. Joseph Puthenpurackal. On 16 the April 2015, he breathed his last. Hearing the news rushed in hundreds of people, who were touched by his holy life. Capuchins from different path of India arrived. Three provincials were at the Altar for the funeral mass on 17th April at 3.p.m. during the funeral oration Br. Provincial emphasized the exemplary life that Br. Aegidius lived. The Bishop Jacob Murikan, praising the brother for his holy and edifying life conducted the last rites. In the words of Br. Aegidius, we acclaim “Thanks....Many Thanks....

BR. JERMIAS AMPALATHURUTHEL

MAY 18

Br. Jermias Ampalathuruthel son of Joseph and Aley Ampalathuruthel was born on October 16, 1924 at Koodalloor in the diocese of Pala. His Baptismal name was Emmanuel. He entered in the Capuchin Order on 7th December 1946 and made his First Profession on 14th February 1951. He died on 18th May 2014 and was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam on 19th May 2014.



Br. Jeremias served in different Ashrams of the Order in various parts of the country, namely, Amalashram at Trichy, The Friary at Kotagiri in Tamil Nadu; St. Antony Friary, Tillery at Quilon, and Calvary Ashram at Trichur in Kerala; Shanti Nilayam at Warrangal in Andhra Pradesh; St. Fidelis, Mahanagar at Lucknow, Uday Bhavan at Bilaspur, Jyotiniketan, Dasna Masoori at Ghaziabad in Uttarpradesh; B.C. Road Jammu, Akhnoor, Kunjuwani and Hiranagar in Jammu & Kashmir; Bishop's House Jalandhar, Dhariwal, Gurdaspur, Kalanaur, Amritsar, Batala and Kartarpur in Punjab. He also served part time in Odisha in relief services under Caritas India.

Br. Jeremias served the Order in the capacity of Porter, Gardener, Builder, Local Superior, Councilor to the Superior Regular and Vice-Provincial of Krist Jyoti Vice-Province in north India. He is particularly remembered for the many buildings - village chapels, churches, friaries, schools, hostels and others, most economically constructed under his supervision in almost all the places he served. He was a very simple, humble, obedient and meek friar. His hard work is well known to everyone who came in contact with him. He was a master builder and many constructions in the mission stand to his credit today. Being a man of prayer he was found spending long hours in the chapel before the Lord and that made him dear to the Lord and the people. One could entrust to him any work which he did to the satisfaction of all. During his 63 years of religious life he was entrusted with various responsibilities by the superiors in the Province and in the mission. True to his vow of poverty and love for simplicity at his death he was found to possess only a Holy Bible, Breviary, a crucifix and a few clothes.

After a life of dedicated service in the Missions for almost 45 years at the age of 90 he returned to his Mother Province of St. Joseph Province and was warmly welcomed by the friars of the Province. He was given residence in the Provincial House at Kottayam. Leading a quite, simple, edifying life he spent some time in the Provincialate and

meanwhile he developed some problems in the stomach and was admitted to S.H. Medical Centre, Kottayam. It was diagnosed that he has stomach cancer and that too in the last stage.

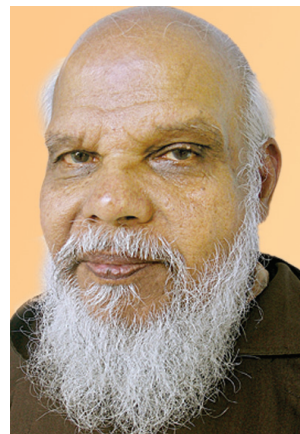
After some treatment there he was brought to Provincial Infirmary at Bharananganam and continued the treatment. He encountered growing problems in the stomach and was again admitted in Marygiri Hospital Bharananganam for better care and treatment. Doctors and Nurses gave him the best possible treatment there. His condition was found

deteriorating and on May 01st he was administered the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick by Provincial Br. Joseph Puthenpurakal. On 18th May, 2014 he peacefully slept in the Lord and went for his heavenly reward. On 19th May 2014 he was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram in the presence of his former Provincial Fr. Dominic Thirunilath and many friars from Missions, Provinces in Kerala, his relatives, sisters, priests and a number of people. We pray that the Good Lord reward him for his efforts in His Vineyard and grant him eternal rest. May his soul rest in peace.

BR. SALES MANAKKATT

APRIL 20

Br. Sales was born as the second of the nine children of Jacob and Mary into the family of Manakkatt, Kuravilangad. Born on 5 January 1926, he became a teacher after completing High School. On 2 June 1942, realizing his vocation Br. Sales joined the Capuchins. He did his novitiate at Monte Mariano, Mangalore and on 13 June 1948 made Simple Profession. He made Perpetual Profession on 13 June 1951. He was ordained a priest on 25 March 1954 at Kottagiri.



Br. Sales was at Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam during the initial years of his religious life. He had a unique style of living and preaching. In the years that followed, he served various fraternities as Rector, Guardian, Novice Master and Professor at Minor Seminary, with utmost commitment, simplicity, dedication and punctuality. Moreover, he was a 'spiritual' guide. He was the first Rector of Seraphic Seminary, Bharananganam. There he was able to inculcate Franciscan ideals into the formees. They could see in him a true Franciscan. As time passed, he realized that he was to be a missionary. In the later years, he was an active missionary in South Africa (1993), Nairobi (Kenya) (1994-97) and Malawi (1997-2000). In the mission, he served as Rector, teacher and also as Spiritual Father. He was sought after by many for confession and spiritual direction. This included secular clergy, monks and nuns.

Br. Sales often used to hum verses of his own, formed from the insights he used to get during prayer and meditation. He has compiled and published a few poems, moral stories, and his autobiography. He enjoyed the company of children and they found it beneficial to spend time with him. 2004 onwards he was at Bharananganam, first in the Ashram and then in the Provincial Infirmary. There too he was able to radiate to others the Franciscan values he possessed. He was seen spending a lot of time for prayer, even when he was physically weak. Always he had an innocent smile on his face and it revealed the depth of his spirituality. He loved to sing the poems he composed about the unfailing love of God our merciful Father and about divine providence.

On 20 April 2013, he passed away, leaving behind only good memories. His funeral service was conducted on 21 April at Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam. For God, he was the scent of Christ. He flew to receive the gift for his holy life - 87 years of service to God and man. By his death, we lost a selfless cheerful friar who can't be replaced.

BR. GRATIAN PALLIPURATH

AUGUST 12

This was the beautiful end of the gracious Capuchin life of Fr. Gratian Pallipurath (1926 – 2014). On August 12, 2014, he got up early in the morning as usual, prepared the altar for the holy Mass and then felt a chest pain, went to bed and breathed his last. For the last few months, he was resting in the Assisi Infirmary, Bharananganam. The obituary published in the news paper brought thousands to participate in the funeral ceremonies conducted on the next day at 03.00 PM. They include 2 Bishops, his own brother Fr. Jacob Pallipurath, Ex MLA and all relatives, many friars, priests, Rev. Sisters and others.



Born on 14th December, 1926 in the family of Pallipurath, Meenkulam in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry and after due education he joined the Capuchins. The Capuchin head Quarters was in Sreerangam, Tiruchirappally, Tamil Nadu. He received the formation direct from the learned and holy French capuchins, then in India. He made his simple profession on 23rd July 1944 at Monte Mariano, Farangipett and solemn profession on 07th December 1948, at Amalaashram, Srirangam. He was ordained priest on 17th December 1950 at the Cathedral Church of Coimbatore. After his ordination Fr. Gratian was heart and soul in the then Capuchin apostolate of parish mission retreats. He joined Fr. Leo in the apostolates of the Franciscan Third Order; Sathyaradhana, a pious movement of the youth; and the writing apostolate. His regular articles in the Christian magazines were avidly read. He published a series of articles in the Assisi monthly on Prayer Life which was appreciated by hundreds.

Hearing about Fr. Lombardy's "Better World Movement" he went to Rome to attend its courses. Moved with new enthusiasm he returned to India and conducted the Better World Movement Seminars in the main cities of India. When the Charismatic movement arrived in India, Fr. Gratian was quick to experience its benefits. He joined Fr. Armond in starting the Assisi Renewal Retreat Centre in Bharananganam. He continued this ministry as an active preacher and counselor for the thousands of retreatants. The numerous clients who approached him for advice, counseling, or prayer experienced him as a simple, happy and holy Franciscan. Reading and spreading good books was also his lifelong ministry.

Fr. Gratian was the lasting living link between the first pioneer capuchins and the present generation in India. He lived and labored with the early Indian capuchins like the famous friars Vincent Lobo, Theophine, Leo, Gerard, Alphonse, Ignatius and so on. He kept the capuchin tradition in his simple dress and simple use of the minimum needful. He preferred the *kavi* color for his religious habit.

His beautiful life was all true to his very name. "Gratian" comes from the words Grace, Gratitude. His gracious Capuchin life is a moving model for all the Franciscans.

BISHOP PETER CELESTINE ELAMPASSERIL

MAY 27

Bishop Peter Celestine Elampasseril was born in Muttuchira, Kerala on 28th June 1938. Upon completion of the matriculation examinations he joined the order of Capuchins Friars Minor and made his solemn profession on 19th May 1963. He was ordained priest on 3rd October 1966. After his ordination he was sent to Agra mission of the Capuchins. While in the mission he completed his BA (Hons) and B. Ed from Aligarh Muslim University. In 1978, he acquired doctoral degree in Missiology from Gregorian University, Rome.



In 1980, Bishop Peter Celestine took charge as Mission Superior of North India. On completion of his tenure he was posted to Jammu-Srinagar Mission as the Pro-Prefect Apostolic. He offered his services in the mission areas of Jammu and was instrumental in the opening of several mission stations. When the Apostolic Prefecture was raised to the status of the diocese in 1986, he was appointed the first Vicar General. During his tenure, he supervised the construction of St. Mary's Cathedral Church and the Bishop's House Jammu. In 1997, he was transferred to Assam-Meghalaya Mission as the Provincial Delegate. While in the North East he was appointed as the Second Bishop of the Diocese of Jammu-Srinagar and was ordained Bishop on 6th September 1998.

Missiology being his subject of his research, Bishop Peter Celestine undertook several studies on the Capuchin Mission in India and has to his credit two books compiled by him on "Early Capuchin Mission in India" and "North Indian Capuchin Mission 1972-1992". He was also a visiting faculty at Capuchin Seminary, Eluru; St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore; Mater Dei Institute, Goa; and Trinity College, Jalandhar.

As the head of the Church in Jammu and Kashmir, Bishop Peter Celestine took several initiatives both for the spread of the Church and for the development of the people. He was instrumental in reopening of the mission in Leh. He established new mission in Batote, Karanbagh, Kargil and took initiatives in finding out the possibilities of exploring new missions in the State.

His love for the people was very much evident in his tireless efforts in establishing the apostolate of education and social service. He believed that our presence and witness must be felt more strongly in the regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh by way of health care, education, and social service. Under his leadership the diocese undertook

massive relief and rehabilitation of people displaced by war in Kargil in 1999, earthquake in Uri – Baramulla in 2005, cloudburst in Leh in 2010 and floods in Kashmir in 2014. Taking into account the prevailing political scenario, Bishop Peter Celestine advocated for peace through the formation of several peace clubs in schools, cross-border dialogue, and inter-religious meets. In recognition of his initiatives, he was awarded Gandhi Peace Award.

In July 2012, he suffered a stroke and underwent open-heart surgery. Since then his health remained erratic. Taking note of his ill health, he tendered his resignation in 2013 and the Holy See, on accepting his resignation, relieved him from his office on 3rd December 2014.

Owing to the deteriorating health conditions caused by the inclement climate, he expressed his desire to return to his Capuchin fraternity at Bharananganam in Kerala. On the early hours of 27th May 2015, he suffered massive heart attack and breathed his last.

At the request of his relatives and parishioners on 29th Friday, at 4.00 PM his mortal remains were taken to his own parish, Holy Ghost Forane Church, Muttuchira. At the Parish Church the Solemn Requiem mass was officiated by Mar Jacob Murickan, Auxiliary Bishop of the diocese of Pala. Then his body was taken to Assisi Ashram Chapel.

The funeral service held on 30th May was officiated by Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, bishop of Pala. Msgr Ivan Pereira, Bishop of Jammu & Srinagar, Msgr. Anil Cuto, Arch Bishop of Delhi, Msgr. Vincent Concesao, Arch Bishop Emeritus of Delhi, Msgr. Franco Mulackal, Bishop of Punjab, Msgr. Ignatius Mascarenhas Bishop of Simla Chandigarh, Mar Jacob Murickam Auxiliary Bishop of Pala, the Provincial of Krist Jyothi Province, and Our Provincial were the con-celebrants. Bp. Joseph Kallarangatt in his funeral oration praised Bp. Peter Celestine's heroic attitude in preaching the message of peace in the trouble stricken regions of Jammu and Kashmir. He affirmed that Bp. Peter was a true Franciscan with a missionary zeal. He was a committed pastor in his apostolate. In the presence of many of the leading ecclesiastical dignitaries, good number of priests from the dioceses of Jammu & Srinagar, Punjab, many capuchin friars from various provinces in India, priests, religious priests, religious sisters and a great number of men and women from all walks of life, he was laid to rest in the cemetery of Assisi Ashram.

May the good Lord grant him eternal peace and bliss!

A zealous Capuchin goes to heaven

“He lived only 36 years. But he lived well.” All those who know Tom Capuchin speak thus. Why? They all must have experienced true ‘wellness’ of life in his presence. Once I too experienced the glimpse of it. Two days prior to his death [April 16, 2013], he just stopped me while I was climbing down the staircase and told me: “Today I am very happy...by the grace of God, I could re-unite a wife and husband, otherwise going for divorce”. I could see the real radiance in his eyes. I could feel the true fraternal spirit within him. I felt so proud of the friar who just lives near my room...Yes! That was Tom. He was with the people and for the people. And they loved him. And a moment came, when God wished to take him from us ...to be with Him and His best ones... Perhaps He chose him a little earlier we would have liked ...



He was riding a motorbike near Kattappana, a place full of deep valleys and hills. On the back seat there was a child who wanted to see the town from the top of the hill. Tom was giving him a good bike ride through the zigzag type of road on the hills. Tom was then just to overtake a lorry. But it was a sharp curve. He could not see the car coming towards him...There was a tragic collision and only the child was alive...

Fr. Tom Kalathilkunnumpurathu, popularly known as *Tomachan*, was a member of Capuchin Provincialate at Kottayam for the past five years. After his Ordination (26 November, 2005), he had rendered his services at Rajakumary parish, Gethsemany Ashram, Changanassery, Portiuncula Ashram, Kattappana, and St Mary's parish, Dubai.

Tom was born on 27 December, 1977 as the youngest child of Mr. Joseph and Aleyamma in Kalathilkunnumpurath family at Olessa near Kottayam. Tom had three sisters and two brothers. His eldest sister is a Visitation nun. Tom joined the Minor Seminary in 1993. He made his Simple Profession on 15 May, 1998 and Solemn Profession on 2 May, 2004.

For the past five years he was serving as the Vocation Director of St Joseph Province, bringing very good candidates to the Capuchin Order. Yes! He was a successful vocation promoter and that was the result of his meticulous planning and dedicated hard work. Tom, when getting a new candidate, would very friendly go to the details of the family background with personal care. And then he would make his own analysis

and studies about each candidate... also would settle family problems if there are any...and then would decide whether the boy is fit for the Capuchin life.

Tomachan had a lot of friends. A person who meets him once, surely would have no other choice. He loved everyone and everyone loved him back. While being human he also had godliness within him. That was the greatness of him as a priest and a Capuchin friar.

He was instrumental in solving and settling many family problems and issues. He would sit with them listening patiently and slowly solutions would come from the problems themselves. That was his method of approach which he developed from experience. Once a young girl was going away so happily from Tom's counseling room. Tom told me: "She had the most cruel traumatic experience of ragging, a young girl could ever undergo... now slowly she is recovering..." And Tom was helping her.

The youth really loved him. The Jesus Youth of Kottayam Zone always preferred *Tomachan* to be their Spiritual Animator. And Tom was all in love for them. He would adjust all other appointments to be there for the service of the Jesus Youth community.

With the people Tom was really joyful. A true and real Franciscan Joy! And in that joy God gave him greater joy. His mortal remains were brought to the Provincial House at 7. 30 am on 18th April and Archbishop Mar Joseph Perumthottam of Changanacherry, the Chairman of KCBC Vocation Commission, and His Excellency Sebastian Thekkethecheril, the bishop of Vijayapuram, as well as a large crowd and the provincialate community prayed and paid homage to him. Later the body was taken to Capuchin Vidyabhavan, where the funeral service was conducted. Br. Provincial presided over the funeral Mass and gave a moving funeral oration. Archbishop Mar Mathew Moolakkat of the Archdiocese of Kottayam presided over the last rites of the funeral service in the presence of a large crowd of priests, religious, family members and friends. All were saying in their hearts silently, "*Tomachan*, we love you."

BR. JOSHYKUMAR PULLEMPILAVIL

FEBRUARY 9

Br. Joshykumar was born on 20 January 1944 at Pandi in Edathua in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry as the son of Mr. P.T. Joseph and Mrs. Claramma. At present, his family is at Nedumunni parish in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. He joined the Capuchins in the year 1962 at Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam and made his Simple Profession on 1 May 1966 at Monte Mariano, Mangalore. He made his Perpetual Profession on 5 February 1972 at Kottagiri. On 7 October 1974, he was ordained a priest, at Nedumunni.



During the initial years of his religious life, he served the fraternity as Vicar and Economo of the St. Thomas Ashram Kavalam. He had a serious attack of *Pulmonary Tuberculosis* and *Diabetes Mellitus* when he was at Kavalam in July 1982. In the years 1983-2002 he was at the Provincialate at Aluva. In November 1994 he was admitted in Christian Medical College, Vellore for left lung amputation due to secondary infection. Again in February 1997, he was admitted in the Sanjoe Hospital at Perumbavoor due to the dislocation of the ball and socket of the hip bone of the left leg, caused by arthritis. In May 1998, he was admitted in Sanjoe again, due to breaking of his left arm. After the bifurcation of the province in 2002, he was transferred to the Provincialate at Kottayam. On 5 January 2006, he was transferred to the Provincial Infirmary at Bharananganam.

Although Br. Joshykumar had to put up with all sorts of illness, he was a man who could take positively all the sufferings he had. Right from the initial years of his sacerdotal life, he had sufferings. But in spite of the sufferings he had, he always looked cheerful. This was only because of his convictions and depth in spirituality. Even while being bed-ridden, he held responsibilities of the friary. He even used to take classes for the nuns and novices and to give counseling to many. It was under initiative and instruction that museums were founded at the Provincialates at Aluva and Kottayam. It was meant to radiate to others the mission and faith they need to foster. One of the most remarkable achievements of Br. Joshy was the publishing of a spiritual book *Aathmavinte Agnichirakukal* (The Soul's wings of fire), published in 2009. He was a gifted musician and lyric too.

Br. Joshy accepted the call of sister death cheerfully and fraternally. His life came to a standstill on 9 February 2013, leaving for us an example of a man accepting all sufferings with smile. His mortal remains were laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

BR. SIXTUS THUNDATHIL

OCTOBER 14

Br. Sixtus, born on June 19, 1936 at Mannackanadu parish in the diocese of Pala, joined the Capuchin Order and made his Religious Profession on May 17, 1961. He was ordained priest on October 28, 1964.

After Priestly Ordination, Br. Sixtus was assigned as the S.F.O Spiritual Assistant in Kollam. Later in 1970 he was sent to Pune for higher studies in Dogmatic Theology and in 1982 he received the doctorate in Theology from Gregorian University, Rome.

As a Capuchin priest he rendered his service for the Province and Order in our Ashrams at Kollam, Thrissur, Changanacherry, Bharananganam, Eluru (Andhra) and Kottayam. He was the Guardian in our fraternity of Bharananganam and twice Vicar of the Provincialate fraternity in Kottayam.



Br. Sixtus was a good and happy religious and he endeared himself to all the people who met him. He spent most of his time teaching in our seminaries. As a visiting Professor he gave lectures in several institutions all over India. He was a good religious with charity and compassion towards all. He discharged his duties excellently with personal discipline and strict punctuality. He was known to be a religious pastor and always at the service of the people who needed his guidance.

In 2010 he had to undergo two major operations; one for backbone and another for heart disease. But he did not regain his health fully. Since 2011 he was a member in the Provincial Infirmary at Bharananganam almost confined to bed but by accepting in faith, hope and fortitude all the trials by which Br. Sixtus proved himself a true disciple of Christ and a worthy son of St. Francis. He spent most of his time in prayer. Br. Sixtus' end came without any premonition to others. He died of a massive cardiac arrest at 7 a.m. on October 14, 2013, and went for his eternal reward at the age of seventy seven. His body was interred in the vault of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam on October 18, 2013.

BR. GEORGE MEKKARA

AUGUST 20

Fr. George Mekkara was born on May 27, 1942 at Parampacheriyil, Muvattupuzha, in the diocese of Kottayam. He was born as the third of the nine children of Mekkara Joseph and Mariam. He completed his primary education at Pulinthanam U.P. School and Pothanickad High School. In 1959, he joined the Seraphic Capuchin Seminary at Bharananganam. After completing his initial formation, he did his Novitiate in 1964-65 at Monte Mariano Novitiate House in Farankipet, Mangalore. He made his Simple Profession on May 1, 1965 and Final Profession on June 13, 1971. On September 30, 1973, he was ordained a priest of Christ.



The initial years of his sacerdotal life were as a formator at Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha. Later on he continued his service as Guardian at Bathery; as Rector at Kattappana and Bharananganam; as Manager of the Assisi Press; and as the Vicar Provincial of St. Joseph Province. During this period he proved his literary talents by authoring five substantial biographies of Saints. The most popular among these was *Daivathinte Niswan* (God's Pauper) on St. Francis of Assisi. He held fast to the everlasting charisma of the love of Christ and the humanitarian expression of the Franciscan charism. He became a living witness to the Franciscan virtues by taking initiative to found a Leprosy Rehabilitation Centre at Vadakkancheri, Thrissur and worked in its administration for nine years.

Fr. George Mekkara was a man of great knowledge coupled with the Franciscan values. That made of him a good formator. His strict policies and foreseeing abilities have resulted in inculcating basic Franciscan values in his formees. The books he wrote were a proof for the Franciscan qualities in him. He was a good administrator too. This was seen especially while he was the Vicar Provincial, guiding and organizing the friars of the province for carrying out different projects.

On January 13, 2004, he had a major stroke which resulted in paralysis of his body. Yet he was found quite cheerful, which showed the depth of his spirituality. He was admitted to the Provincial Infirmary at Assisi, Bharananganam. His sufferings continued for nearly 8 years and in August 2012, a week before his death, he became seriously ill. One of his legs had to be amputated later it was detected that his internal organs too were badly infected. On August 20, 2012, he was called to life eternal. Two days later, his mortal remains were laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam. Though Fr. George is with us no more, he still lives in our minds and hearts as *Daivathinte Niswan*, a pauper of God.

BR. BR. REGIS VALIAPARAMPIL

OCTOBER 16

Br. Regis was born as the third of the eight children of Mr. Mathai and Mrs. Annamma into the Valiaparampil family, Chengalam on 31 March 1928. Three of the eight children of the blessed couple, have dedicated their lives to the service of God. The younger brother of Br. Regis, Fr. Antony Valiaparampil had already been called to eternal life and his sister Sr. Paul is a member of the St. Anne's Congregation.



Having completed his schooling at Chengalam, on 14 February 1948, Br. Regis joined the Capuchin Novitiate at Monte Mariano, Farankipet, Mangalore. He made his Simple Profession on 16 February 1949 and his Perpetual Profession on 16 February 1952. On 25 March 1955, he was ordained a priest of Christ. The initial years of his sacerdotal life were spent at Assisi Ashram Bharananganam, St. Thomas Ashram Kavalam, Calvary Ashram Thrissur, Gethsameny Ashram Changanacherry, Nazareth Ashram Aluva, and in the Andhra Mission. In the eighties he was the Financial Administrator of Jammu-Srinagar diocese and back home he served the province as Provincial Procurator. He continued his service at Loreto Ashram Muvattupuzha, Capuchin Provincialate Aluva, Capuchin Vidyabhavan Thellakom, Portiuncula Ashram Kattappana and Capuchin Provincialate Kottayam in the years that followed. Since 2011, Br. Regis was an active member of the Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

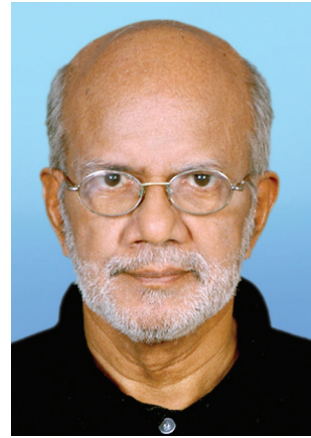
Br. Regis was a good example of a man so optimistic in his thought and actions. Even in his final stages of life, he was active in pastoral ministry and as a hobby took care of his vegetable and flower gardens. He was a learned man and could be seen reading books in his free time, especially in the last hours of his life. His sermons were keenly listened to by the people. He ever cherished the Franciscan values of simplicity, cheerfulness, poverty and fraternal spirit which he was able to radiate to all, especially to a large number of women-religious to whom he was a spiritual father. In the spirit of prayer and punctuality he was an example to the upcoming generation. His concern for the poorest of God was a main quality among many. Another good quality seen in him was his cheerful way of living in the later years of his life, which showed his prepared mindset to the call to eternal life.

The life of Br. Regis among us was completed without premonition due to a cardiac arrest. In the evening of 16 October 2012, Br. Regis was preparing sermon for Mission Sunday when all of a sudden he was called to his Heavenly Father. Two days later, on 18 October 2012, he was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam, in the presence of many friars and his near and dear ones.

PAUL KOODAPUZHA

DECEMBER 8

Br. Paul Koodapuzha was born on 22 January 1942 at Chenappady in the present Kanjirapally diocese. He was born into the Koodapuzha family as the son of Mr. Abraham and Mrs. Annamma. He joined the Capuchins on 20 May 1959 and vested on 14 May 1962. He made his Simple Profession on 16 May 1963 and Solemn Profession on 16 May 1966. He was ordained priest on 29 November 1969 at Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha.



The initial years of his religious life were at Calvary Ashram Thrissur. A year later, he was appointed Rector at Dharwar, Punjab. Later on, he was an active member at Gethsemany Ashram, Changanassery and also at Bombay as the Chaplain to the Kerala Catholics in the years 1975-'76. He studied at the Trivandrum B.Ed. College in 1976-'77 and later served as a teacher at St. Jude's, Mukhathala. The students always appreciated his quality-classes. Then his missionary zeal led him to the Northern Missions. From 2002 to 2004 he served as the Vicar Provincial of the Kristu Jyoti Province, North India and as the Rector at Kartharpur Major Seminary in Punjab. He has worked as the Principal of the schools at Sahibabad and Gaziabad in the mission of Kristu Jyoti Province. He was also a member of the pioneer team sent to Germany for pastoral work. However he had to return soon due to ill health.

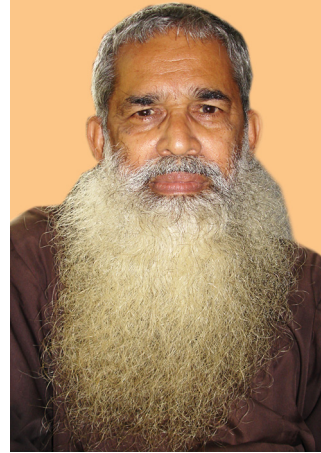
After his return from Germany he joined the community at Portiuncula Ashram, Kattapana where he taught Latin in the study-house. While continuing his service there, he was diagnosed to have tumor in the prostate gland and was operated in Sri Chithira Tirunal Hospital and underwent Radiation at R.C.C. Thiruvananthapuram. He recovered from it and so was appointed Vicar of the Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam and also as the English Professor at Seraphic Seminary. But after a brief interval he fell ill again and had to be again operated and chemotherapy was done. Even at the peak of his sufferings he was willing to hear confession, to give counseling and even to take classes for the minor seminarians. He gradually recovered and was found cheerful despite the sufferings. But as he was recovering, his condition got worse all of a sudden and had to be hospitalized. On 8th December 2012 he was called by the Lord for his eternal reward.

Br. Paul was a man of high spiritual ideals which helped him take up any suffering for love of Christ. He was sought after by many for counseling and confession, even in the later years of his life; not bothering his illness he attended to them. His life was a model to the younger generation, especially while he was at Bharananganam, accepting all sufferings whole-heartedly. His desire to help the minor seminarians was seen even in the last days of his life. He was ever ready to lend a helping hand in any area of the friary he was living - from chapel to garden. He loved plants and animals. He was able to live his life of pain with a smile on his face. Though Br. Paul is with us no more, he lives in the hearts of all who have met him, both in Kerala, in North India and abroad.

JACOB KURISINKAL

AUGUST 21

"A zealous Capuchin returned Home gloriously." "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" [2 Tim 4: 7]. Br. Jacob Kurisinkal was a serious minded and dedicated capuchin who with an untiring spirit lived his Franciscan call to the last of his breath heroically. He was a man of conviction and his was a purpose driven life. He, very much like Padre Pio, spent most of his priestly life at the Confessional. Thousands are the faithful who received his advice and absolution. Besides hearing confession, he spent most of his time giving personal counseling to the people.



Br. Jacob Kurisinkal was born of Abraham and Rose on 26 March 1935 in the Kurisinkal family, in the parish of Muttuchira, in the Diocese of Pala, Kerala. It was in this very year St. Alphonsa, who spent her teenage in Muttuchira, joined the convent in Bharananganam. Br. Jacob joined the capuchins in 1956 and was vested on 17 May 1958 and made his novitiate at Monte Mariano, Farangipet, Mangalore. Br. Jacob made his first profession on 18 May 1959. Having completed his theological studies in St. Joseph's Friary, Kottagiri, Tamil Nadu Br. Jacob was ordained a priest on 28 October 1965. For the next 50 years he was all active in the service to the Lord and His people. In the very golden Jubilee Year of his ordination, he was called back for the eternal celestial celebration. He served in different friaries and missions to his utmost capacity and with fervent zeal.

He zealously served as pastoral father in St. Antony's Friary, Quilon; Calvary Ashram, Trichur and Loretto Ashram, Muvattupuzha. From 1978 to 1982 he served in the Punjab Mission and was a member of St. Francis Church, Dalhousie. He came back to the province and began to serve the province in various responsibilities. He served as the Economo of Gethsemany Ashram, Changnacherry and the vicar of Capuchin Provincialate, Kottayam. He was a known builder. The Provincialate Chapel at Aluva, Paduava Ashram at Perambra, Shanti Ashram at Perumbavoor, and the kitchen at Assisi Ashram all bear the mark of his efficiency and dedicated service. Br. Jacob was a true and authentic religious who valued religious life as the most precious gift and never tried to compromise with the demands and ends of that life. The learning he had from the Christian Medical College, Vellore, in Pastoral Counseling, was a great help for him in his healing ministry.

In the midst of his heavy pastoral works and construction works, he also found time to do research work in religious life, spirituality, and Liturgy. His books are highly profound and full of erudition. His important literary contributions are: Snehathinu oru Prathutharam; Karunasagaram, Dhyanathmaka Chinthakal; Mar Thoma Christianikalum Thoma sleehayum: oru Charithranueshanam; Kraisthava Aradhana Jeevitham. The value of his books can be gauged from the fact that the prefaces to those books were penned either by a cardinal or a bishop.

It was in the midst of his active apostolate he fell suddenly sick. On 15 May 2015 he was diagnosed with acute leukemia. He accepted sister sickness with a smiling face and fortitude appropriate for a true Franciscan. Br. Jacob with full of faith and love said that, "God has a plan and let Him do as He wishes, if He wishes He will cure me from the sickness." The Blessed Sacrament strengthened him and gave the faith to face all the agonies. The Medical mission Sisters in Bharanganam gave him the best care during the time of hospitalization. In due time, the sacrament of anointing was given by Rev. Br. Provincial Joseph Puthenpurackal. Br. Jacob, a true and committed son of St. Francis, embraced sister death with serenity, and silently took his flight heavenward on 21 August 2015 at 11.45 am. The burial service was conducted in Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam, on 23 August 2015 at 2.30 pm. Mar Jacob Murikan, Auxiliary Bishop of Pala, hailing from the native place of Br. Jacob, was the main celebrant for the funeral ceremonies. Priests, sisters, and a huge crowd gathered for his funeral service, paid him homage and expressed their gratitude and love. A great friar with a strict nature but with a large heart, an authentic Capuchin with simplicity and a person who harmoniously blended contemplation and activity returned to the Father joyously and peacefully. May the Good Lord grant him eternal bliss!

FR ABEL THEKKEKUTT

AUGUST 25

A zealous and hardworking missionary, who was not ashamed of the Gospel, inherited the eternal home. Br Abel Thekkekutt was one of the first Capuchin missionaries from Kerala, who spent the major portion of his life proclaiming Jesus in Tanzania. His readiness and enthusiasm to undertake even the most risky tasks made him dear to the people wherever he worked. He was a great devotee of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our mother. Br Abel was a man of conviction and positive mindedness through which he could reach out to the people so freely.



Br Abel Thekkekutt was born on 1st November 1930, in the Thekkekutt family, as the third child of Thomas and Annamma in St Mary's Forane Parish, Kadaplamattom, in the diocese of Pala. Later, his family had migrated to Nilambur in Malapuram district, west north part of Malabar region, while the young Abel stayed back in his hometown for completing his primary education. He joined the Capuchin Order on 13th May 1947 and was vested on 19th March, 1949. Br Abel made his novitiate at Monte Mariano, at Farangipet in Mangalore. He made his first profession on 20th March, 1950. Those days, the candidates would not be ordained priests before completing the age twenty five. Br Abel had not reached the required age when he completed his theology. So the Bishop requested the Holy See for granting an exception to Br Abel. At the approval of the Holy Father, Br. Abel was raised to ministerial priesthood on 3rd June 1956.

During the Superiorship of Br Cassien Gauthier of Timmins, the Commissary provincial of the Indian Capuchins decided to open a minor seminary in the Syro-Malabar diocese for the candidates belonging to the Syro-Malabar rite. The minor seminary was opened at Bharananganam in 1957. Br Abel was asked to learn Syriac language in view of making his service available for the seminary. After his studies he was appointed as the assistant Rector of Seraphic Minor Seminary along with Br Sales, the Rector and later Br Wilfrid. The Syriac text book which he prepared for the seminarians was later taken by St. Thomas College, Pala as the text book for the college students.

At the request of Br Provincial, Br Berchmans Puthuparampil, the first Indian provincial, Br Abel rendered his service to the Agra Mission for a year. At the request of Br. Provincial in 1963 Br Abel moved to Tanzanian Mission. He was given charge of Hiemo mission station, considered to a dangerous place in Tanzania. He served mission for more than 15 years in different capacities. He was then sent for his higher studies

in the sacred liturgy at the University of San Anselmo, Rome. After his studies he returned to the province and was in-charge of the minor seminary in Warangal, and then at Enikepadu, Andhra Pradesh. As St Joseph Province was venturing into a new mission in Malawi in the African Continent Br. Abel was asked to be the pioneer in the Malawi Mission. He was appointed as the first mission Superior of Malawi mission. The hard work and lovely charming smile of Br Abel attracted everyone. The Bishop of Malawi once admiringly commented, "Fr Abel, you know why people love you so much? Because you are ready to become dirty like them". Later on he moved to South Africa and Nairobi where he served the mission as a formator.

Realizing that his presence is very much needed in the Assam- Meghalaya Mission he returned to the Province to be a part of the Assam-Meghalaya Mission. He served the mission till 2013. He served the Assam-Meghalaya mission as the spiritual director of the Oriens Theological Seminary, Mawlai, Shillong and also as the director of the Exposure-Immersion programme. When his health became deteriorated he was taken back to the Province and was appointed as member of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam. Towards the last days of his life he was diagnosed to be suffering from bone cancer. The doctors provided him the best treatment possible. However on 25th August 2016, at 10 am he flew away to the lap of God. He was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam on 28th August 2016.

Br Abel was an important personality that made the people around him happy. He did not want to see things disorderly. His readiness and willingness to take active part in the programmes of the community programme was really splendid. As he said, "My life as a missionary does not end and it continuous through the places and circumstances where I am. Accept everything with joy. For there will be the presence of God behind everything". Yes, even though he is not with us now, his memories will never fade away from our hearts. He never made any complaint about anything. He was a contented friar. He was model for everyone in poverty and obedience. He was a talented musician and an organist. He enjoyed music; was a True Franciscan in heart and soul, loving nature and animals and music. He hated no one and wished everyone with a smiling face even at the death bed. He was man of prayer and major portion of his time he spent the chapel and garden reciting rosary. May the Lord grant him Eternal Peace.

FR. LAWRENCE PARATHUPARA

OCTOBER 04

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing (2Ti 4:7-8). Fr Lawrence was an ideal capuchin brother who with a heroic spirit lived his Franciscan call to the last hour of his life. His acute intelligence made him to perceive inner message of the events and sculled out the accurate path to be followed. Major portion of his life he spent himself in studing, teaching, preaching, and hearing confession and counseling.



Fr. Lawrence was born of a devote catholic parents Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Aleyamma on December 21 1945 in the Parathupara family in St Mary's, parish church Vallamchira, Manimala, in the Arch diocese of Changanassery. He was the fourth among the six children of his parents. After completing his secondary school education from C. C. M. Higher Secondary School, Karikkattoor, he decided to join the Capuchin Order. Later on he together with the whole batch was shifted to Shanthi Ashram, Coimbatore to complete minor seminary studies. Meanwhile his Parents and few of his family members migrated to north Malabar and settled themselves in St. Mary's Parish, Kadumeni.

After completing his novitiate at Monte Mariano, Farangipet, Mangalore, he made his first profession on May 01, 1966. He did his philosophical studies at Calvary Ashram, Thrissur. He did his regency at Gethsemany Ashram, Changanassery during which he also completed his B A studies in English literature. After completing his theological course at Kottagiri Fr Lawrence was ordained a priest on Oct 06 1974 at Vallamchira Parish Church together with his two companions and celebrated his first mass in his parish at Kadumeni, Malabar.

He began his priestly ministry as assistant parish priest of St Raphael parish church Ollur in the Archdiocese of Thrissur. In 1975 he was sent for M. Th. studies in theology at Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangaluru. After the studies he was appointed as superior of Portiuncula Ashram Kattappana. It was during his time that he completed the construction work of the Ashram Church with the support of the local people. Later he was asked to move to Capuchin Provincialate, Aluva for supervising construction work of the Provincialate. He was the pioneer to Ranigiri Ashram, Mannanthala, Trivandrum.

In 1982 Fr Lawrence was sent to Rome for pursuing his higher studies in Oriental Canon Law in the Oriental Institute, Rome. Ever since he returned to the province, Fr Lawrence served the province in very many capacities. He was a professor teaching Canon Law at various seminaries: Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom; Vinjananilayam, Janampet, Eluru; Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangaluru. He also held many other responsibilities such as the president of the commission for the Oriental Canon Law of Syro Malabar Church, the adviser and consultant to Major Archiepiscopal Tribunal, Kakkanad. He helped number of religious congregations to renew their constitutions. He has authored to number of books such as Pope Benedict VI; Introduction to Canon law; Edited work on Particular law of the Syro Malabar Church and also published a number articles in many national and international publications. His erudition and vast knowledge was a great help for the animation of provincial chapters of St. Joseph Province. Any issues connected with canonical problems he was the person sought after by the major superiors of different capuchin provinces.

The last stages of his life he spent in Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam. He was undergoing blood dialysis and had a good fight with sister sickness but accepted the pain and discomfort of it. In spite of all the suffering he was cheerful and making others also happy with his wits and jokes. His reception of sacraments and constant prayer and intercession of many of his con-friars and religious made him to reconcile with the painful situations.

Fr Lawrence's painful and last moment arrived on October 4th the feast day of our Father St. Francis at 1.15 am. He with a serene and peaceful countenance embraced sister death. His burial took place on 6 in the presence of many of his relatives, friends, companions, con-friars and Mar Jacob Murikan officiated the liturgical ceremony. A man of Law returned home for his eternal reward giving us a message - be disciplined in every sphere of our life to become the messenger of Christ.

May Fr. Lawrence rest in Peace.

FR. FELIX PODIMATTAM

DECEMBER 17

Rev. Fr. Felix Podimattam was born on 24th November 1934 in the parish of Thudanganad in Palai diocese, Kerala. He was a member of St. Joseph province and a much acclaimed moral theologian and professor at Capuchin Vidyabhavan (at St. Francis Theological College), Kottayam. At school he had been called Mathew and took up the name Felix when he joined the Novitiate at Monte Mariano, Farangipet, Mangalore in May 1955. After making the first profession on 15th May 1956 he went on to do philosophical studies at Quilon and theological studies at Kotagiri. Soon after his ordination in 1962 he was appointed to teach in the Philosophical institute at Quilon. Within a year he was asked to do higher studies. Besides a Licentiate in Theology from Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, and a Doctorate in Moral Theology from the Alphonsian Academy, Rome he also holds a Master's degree in political science from the University of Mysore.



On his return from Rome he taught Moral Theology at Kotagiri during 1970-74, at Thrissur during 1974-85, and at Kottayam during 1985-2015. At Kotagiri he was also Vice-Rector and Dean, and at Kottayam he served the institute as Rector and Vice-Rector. Besides he was regularly being invited to take classes by nearly 19 twenty theological institutes including many of the premier ones all over India. Dr. Felix was indeed a doyen of moral theologians as he painstakingly authored a phenomenal number of books (a whopping 137!) on moral theology and a nearly equal number of articles. Thus he found a place not only in the Limca Book of World Records in 2013 but also, with his inimitable style of teaching, in the hearts of hundreds of his students, including bishops, priests and religious women and men. A student of the world renowned moral theologian Rev. Bernard Haring, Fr. Felix was scathing in his criticism of the two extreme moral positions: absolutism and relativism. Right from his first book, *The Relativity of Natural Law*, he sought to tread a middle path between these two extremes, and thus strove to liberate moral theology from the morass of stale principles and rudderless sentimentalism.

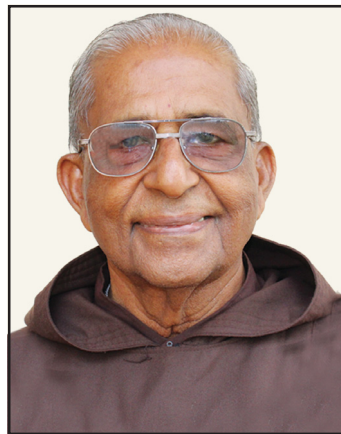
Why was he tirelessly penning down books and articles? He answers in an article "What has Life Taught Me?" wrote when he turned 75: "My life probably would be much easier if I had kept quiet. Yet that wasn't the reason why I specialized in Moral Theology. And whatever inconveniences my writings may cause me, it is not possible

for me to stop the process now.... Many who perused my writings are moved. And their lives, they say, changed." In spite of being an academically accomplished and accepted figure Fr. Felix ever remained committed to the core of the Franciscan way of living. His nondescript little room and his unassuming manner speak volumes about his Franciscan traits. Fr. Felix withdrew from active academic life in March 2015, and thence was almost confined to the bed. After bearing all the difficulties during that agonizing period with equanimity he breathed his last in the early hours of Saturday, 17th Dec 2016. His mortal remains were laid to rest on 19th December. Fr. Felix Podimattam will definitely be fondly remembered for his untiring endeavor to suffuse moral theologizing with rationality and compassion. For years to come, generations will turn to his books for guidance. May his soul rest in peace!

FR. WILFRID PRASADAM

MARCH 07

Br. Wilfrid Prasadam, as his name indicates, was a grace-filled person with creative energy and fascinating love for God and His creatures. He was a great visionary as well as a zealous missionary. He had his own convictions and values which made him a unique lover of Christ and a genuine Franciscan. The prayerful and graceful journey of Br. Wilfrid began in Kadiyakuzhy family at Chirakadavu, Kanjirappally diocese, Kerala, on 19th June 1925. His parents, Mr. Thomas and Mariyam were living witnesses of Christian faith.



As a young boy and student at St. Ephrem's Upper Primary School, Mannanam, Br. Wilfrid gave an inspiring speech on the equality of students and the need to avoid social and racial discriminations. That was the time when Tribal and Dalit students were treated very inhumanly in Kerala society. He was scolded and criticized by teachers for delivering that speech. But he never retreated from his convictions. There was a divine fire in Br. Wilfrid; he was known as 'Spark' among his companions, like Br. Cyprian Illickamury. He was sharing the prophetic mission as a true follower of the Lord Jesus. After his graduation at St. Xavier's College, Palayamcottai and Sacred Heart College, Thevara, he surrendered his total life to the service of God and made his first profession on 14th June 1951. After his ordination to priesthood in 1957, Br. Wilfrid served in different communities, taking up various responsibilities. From 1959 to 1967 he was in Assisi Ashram Bharananganam as the editor of Assisi magazine, professor at Seraphic Seminary and chaplain to Marigiri Hospital. In 1967 he went to Aizal, Mizoram for mission work and continued in various places such as St. Fidelis Ashram Maglore, St. Jude Ashram Udampur, Catholic Church Jammu, and Holy Angels' Shahibabad, U.P. until 1989. He served the northern mission from 1983 to 1989 as the Mission Superior. He was in Masuri minor seminary as a professor, and parish priest. And then Br. Wilfrid came back to the province; and he has written a number of small spiritual books. In the years 1993 to 2011 he served Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha. Then he was at St. Jude Ashram, Kollam from 2011 to 2014 and then returned to Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam and was the editor of Nanni magazine; then he entered a life of retirement and rest.

Br. Wilfrid was a very creative genius, and he liked to do everything in his own way. So there was no repetition in his talks, writings, booklets and poetry. There was much creativity, energy and charm in the way he celebrated Holy Mass. He was an efficient

teacher as well. His art of teaching languages especially Latin and English was very creative, and his students could ever remember him, because he used to respect his students and give them some gifts to support their skills and talents. He had written a number books, through which he conveyed the message of Christ in a very simple way, that even a child could easily understand. Some of his books are Kazchavaypum Kazhchappadum, Amma Makalodu, Holy Jolly Jokes and Way to the Crib. He was a fervent promoter of Seraphic Mission Association (SMA).

In 1990 Br. Wilfrid began his service as a pastoral father at Capuchin Ashram, Ponuurunni in St. Francis Province. There he dedicated three years of his life (1990 -1993) in order to promote devotions to the servant of God Br. Theophane. Br. Wilfrid did a great service to the cause of Br. Theophane OFM Cap, the servant of God. Br. Theophane was his spiritual director and confessor while he was a student of Philosophy and Theology in St. Antony's Friary, Kollam and in St. Joseph's Friary, Kotagiri respectively. Br. Wilfrid established Br. Theophane guild and undertook preliminary preparations for the initiation of the cause of canonization. Br. Wilfrid was a man of vision and had remarkable foresight. It is he who started the monthly magazine Manushyasnehi for promoting devotions to the servant of God Br. Theophane.

In the year 2014, he reached Assisi Ashram for the second time and was busy in writing books, patiently listening to the problems of those who came in search of him. From June 2017 onwards, he was physically weak and needed someone's help. When he was severely weak, he was admitted in Marian Hospital, Palai and eventually shifted to Marigiri Hospital for palliative care. Even in his sick bed he never forgot to smile and crack jokes. His long journey on earth came to close on 7th March 2018 at 5.30 p.m. His death was as serene as his life. He was so prepared for it that he spoke of sister death always joyfully and in a Franciscan way. He did not even once flinch where at last she came. The Auxiliary Bishop of Palai Mar Jacob Murikan, praising Br. Wilfrid for his holy and edifying life officiated at the funeral Mass and the last rites. Br. Wilfrid has always said, "we are pilgrims in this world."

FR. GEORGY THURUTHIPPALLIL

JULY 06

Br. GeorgyThuruthipallil was born to the parents of Varkey and Rosa, hailing from the parish of Kalayanthani in Kothamangalam Diocese on 7th July 1958. Responding to his vocation to be a Franciscan Friar he joined the Capuchins on 5th June 1978, made simple profession on 16th May 1982 and solemn profession on 27th Dec 1986, and received ministerial priesthood on 1st June 1996.



Six years after the reception of his final profession Br. Georgy was sent to do licentiate in Church History at the Gregorian University in Rome. On his return he became actively involved in teaching Church History at Vijnananilayam, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh. While serving the Institute as a professor, Br. Georgy bore also on his shoulders with utmost dedication the responsibilities of the Vice Rector of Vianney College of the Diocesan theology students, and the Dean of Studies of the Institute. Meanwhile he was assisting a number of sisters and brothers with his retreats and spiritual direction. After his further studies in Rome from 2000 to 2005, he was assigned to teach at Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom, where he continued to teach until his last days. In 2008 he was elected to the Provincial Council for a triennium. From 2006 - 11 he served the Provincialate community as the vicar of the house. From 2011 - 14 he served as the Dean of Theology of Vijnananilayam for a second time. Just before Br. Georgy was struck by terminal cancer he was rendering service as the guardian of Portiuncula Ashram at Kattappana, Kerala.

In January 2017 Br. Georgy was diagnosed with abdominal cancer, and then onwards anybody could see what courageous battle he fought against the tragedy that fell on him. Never did he give himself up for despair, and instead of being comforted by those who visited him he went the extra mile of cheering them up. Such was the composure shown by Br. Georgy that all

were deeply moved by his deep trust in the Lord. On his request he was brought from the hospital to Capuchin Vidyabhavan just for two days, and in the presence of a good number of friars Br. Provincial administered him the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. Bidding farewell with a gleaming face to all the brothers he went back to the hospital never to return. Br. Georgy left for the eternal abode in the morning on 6th July 2018 and the funeral was held on 11th July 2018 at Capuchin Vidyabhavn.

Br. Georgy with his inimitable fraternal concern and simplicity could find a place in the hearts of anyone who came across him. Whether it is his novice master, or the boys with whom he got acquainted while serving at the parlour at Calvary Ashram, Thrissur, or the sweeper women at the hospital where he was treated, or the con-friars who lived with him will all in unison say that Br. Georgy was truly compassionate and would never turn down anyone in need. The vast multitude of people who came for his funeral braving incessant heavy rain will amply attest to the fact that Br. Georgy will remain forever in their memories.

FR. CYPRIAN ILLICKAMURY

MARCH 19

Dr. Br. Cyprian Illickamury (88), thanks to whose tireless effort the names of ever great theologians like Karl Rahner, Walter Kasper, and J. B. Metz became household names, went back to the eternal abode on 15 March 2019. His death brought to an end a life that was lived with unflagging zeal for Christ and a never compromising commitment to theological pursuit.



Fr. Cyprian, who was born on 27 November 1930, joined the Capuchins at the age of twenty, made his first profession on 22 May 1952 and received ministerial priesthood on 22 March 1958. After a few years of teaching experience he was sent to do higher studies in Systematic Theology in Muenster University. The academic ambience fostered in that illustrious university, especially with the presence of theological stalwarts like Karl Rahner and Walter Kasper, left on him a deep impression that enabled him to carry forward until his last breath theological investigation with scientific rigor.

The academic work carried out by Br. Cyprian day in, day out gave to the world over twenty-five books, both in Malayalam and English, and numerous articles in Malayalam, English, and German. The most popular among all his works is "Samsayikkunna Thoma," a monthly series in Assisi Magazine that ran for decades democratizing theology that remained confined to seminaries and elitist circles. Man and woman, young and old, rich and poor kept sending him queries and he kept responding to them thus bringing to their doorsteps frontier theological discussions and positions. His absolute dedication to theological investigations made him the first Rector of Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom, and ever since he continued to teach until his health failed him. He rendered his dedicated service to the students of Capuchin Vidyabhavan for 33 years.

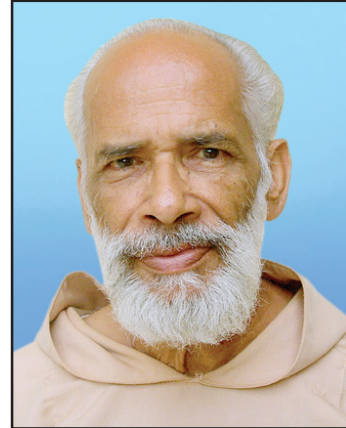
The theological rigor of Br. Cyprian was equally matched with his remarkable personal holiness. His spotless faithfulness to prayer and his compassionate outlook towards life endeared him to all who came in contact with him. An instance in his life will illustrate it better. Once he was concelebrating mass, and all of a sudden he fell unconscious on the floor with a thud. The first he asked for the moment he came to his senses was Holy Communion. The two strange bedfellows, child-like faith and theological inquisitiveness, were perfectly blended in him.

Asked about what kept him moving in life Br. Cyprian said once, "I should be ready to return the day my Lord calls me back." A lifetime was spent preparing for responding to the final call he would receive from his God. When he finally got the call he said yes cheerfully and with a deep sense of contentment. And now Br. Cyprian is in the bosom of his God with that innocent smile that was always on his face. His mortal remains were laid to rest at Capuchin Vidyabhavan in the presence of a large number of friars, his relatives and friends on 19 March 2019.

FR. K.V. JOSEPH KOCHUMURIYIL

JUNE 4

Br. KV Joseph was a man who chose the road less travelled. Whoever knows him closely would readily admit it. In his thinking and speaking, as well as in his preaching and counselling this unfamiliarity prevailed to that extent, that many expressed doubts on the soundness of his theology. But in truth, he was perfectly consistent with his convictions and never compromised his ideals. A seeker of 'the truth' always, not by means of the usual academic pursuit, but in concrete life experiences, he could not but tread a path unfamiliar to those who preferred the routine route.



He joined the Capuchin Order rather late than the normal standard. Born on 13 July 1936 in an agrarian family and a born farmer, after his high school KV Joseph took to farming, while he also pursued further studies in Hindi language. This brought him in contact with Hindi literature and the writings of Hindu sages, which seem to have created in him an admiration for Indian philosophy and Indian spirituality. Before he could complete the course in Hindi language there was pressure on him to join a local parallel college as the Hindi teacher, and true to his nature he obliged. It was during this successful teaching career that he became more and more convinced that he should dedicate his whole life in search of truth, which he had already begun. He found his best guide and role-model in St Francis, a sage and a hermit in Christian tradition, and decided to follow him. He approached Br. Alphonse Kadaliyil of happy memory and he was welcomed to Assisi Ashram as an aspirant in 1965, when he was in his late twenties. Br. K.V. Joseph made his first profession on 22 May 1974 and received his ministerial priesthood on 26 May 1977.

His batch-mates vouch that from the early stages of formation itself he was an admirer of the Indian sages and Indian spirituality. His very lifestyle, though he did not make any claim about it, betrayed always an eremitical inclination, and in fact he was a hermit living in community.

Being the senior-most of the batch and respecting his venerable age, his batch mates always loved to address him 'Achayan', which he enjoyed heartily. His batch mates testify that whenever they used to come together, whether in his company or otherwise, KV Joseph was the name that came up so often, because he was so unique in his down to earth knowledge about many things like beekeeping, hair cutting, yoga and farming. He was a store-house of indigenous panaceas for anything that escapes solution in the daily chore. Br. K.V. Joseph did a great service to the province as an assistant Novice-Master and a member of the teaching staff of Seraphic Seminary Bharrananganam. As he was a member of our different communities, SnehaSadan Ashram Arimanal, Shanti Nikethan Ashram Nadukani, Amalagiri Ashram Payyannur, St. Francis Ashram Uzhavoor, Padre Pio Ashram Mundakayam and Assisi Ashram Bharrananganam, he extended a genuine helping hand to the poor and needy.

To those who knew Br. KV Joseph, it was nothing surprising that he faced his terminal illness, as coolly as taking a soothing shower. Nobody ever heard from him unless asked for, that he was ill and that he was bearing such excruciating pain since months. Often he used to say that all that happens in the world whether it be joy or sorrow, pain or pleasure are 'Maya'. Therefore one can keep a balanced and serene attitude to anything that happens in life. This was his deep conviction and that radiated from him unceasingly so much so those who ever came into contact with him experienced a celestial peace in his presence. His departure from this world is a clear testimony to his philosophy of life: not to disturb and be disturbed. As the time approached to enter into his 'Samadhi' he had a few words with the Guardian and quietly joined the company of his 'Guru' on 4 June 2019. As Br. Provincial stressed in the eulogy, KV had a ready answer on his lips for anything 'enough'. Only a sage can say 'enough' to everything in life.

His mortal remains are placed in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharrananganam in the presence of his students, confreres, relatives, friends and admirers.