



OCTOBER 2022
INTER**NOS**

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Br. Cyriac Pananthanam

Born: 11 July 1935

Rel. Profession: 19 May 1960

Per. Profession: 19 May 1963

Called to Eternal Rest: 20 July 2022

Assisi Ashram Bharananganam

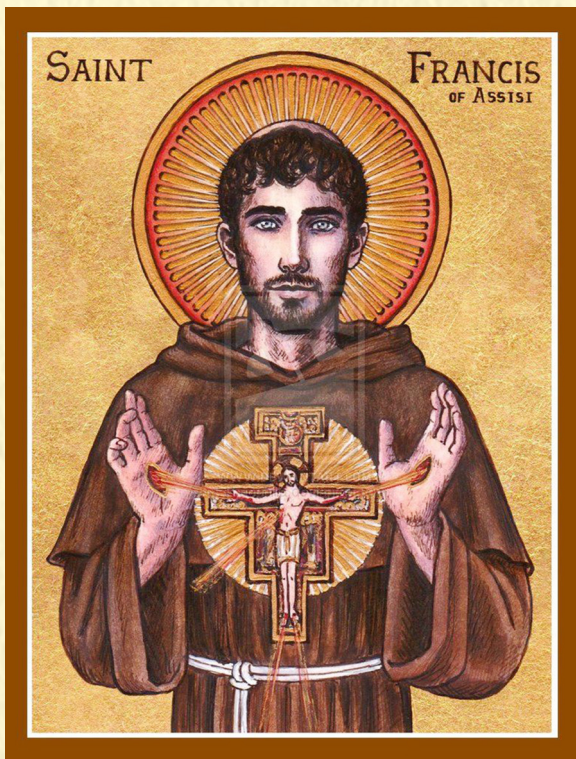
October 2022

INTERNOS

ST JOSEPH PROVINCE, KERALA
& NIRMALA CUSTODY,
ASSAM-MEGHALAYA
INDIA

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EDITORIAL

Unlike St. Ignatius of Loyola, whose motto was “Do everything for the greater glory of God,” St. Francis of Assisi’s motto was “Do what pleases God.” It is the proper attitude of a Christian who is always seeking God’s will. Jesus said, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work”(Jn 4:34). It was Jesus’ prayer in the garden of Gesthamany: “Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but Thine, be done” (Jn 4:34). (Lk 1:39) Mary prayed (fiat). True spirituality is the pursuit of God’s plan for us rather than pleading with God to do everything according to our wishes and fantasies. One can only take this position when one has a strong conviction that whatever God dreams about us is good for us. Francis was a person who spent all his life trying to fulfill the dream of God for him. It was nothing more than to be an instrument of God’s peace, joy, and love.

St. Francis used to ask God ‘What am I to do for you?’ It was asked of God not because God lacks something, but to find fulfillment in one’s own life. We never get meaning in life unless we search for it. Most often, the danger that happens to us is that we do so many things that come to our mind, and at last we attribute them to the glory of God. The question of whether God demands this of us is never asked either at the beginning of the activities or at the culmination of the activities.

And so we are not aware of the consequences of our activities. In the lives of saints and great men, we see that when they had to make a decision, they used to spend hours in prayer. This gesture comes from us only when we are aware of our ignorance and finiteness. That is why the words projected in the prayers of St. Francis are “Lord, who am I? What am I?” So on the feast of St. Francis, our father calls us to do only that which is pleasing to God. Never let us go astray by doing vain things, but do the thing which becomes marvellous before the eyes of God

Br Melvin Thalachirayil

Provincial Secretary

Provincial's Message



Dear Brothers,

We are once again commemorating the feast of St. Francis, in whose footsteps we follow Christ.

Life with God has always been difficult especially in a time of change, transition and crisis. Even in our time, the problems have grown considerably and rapidly. The old formulas, consecrated by time and experience, have suddenly lost their power to convince; the new formulas which one might expect to substitute for the old have yet to make an appearance. Here we are questioned about the relevance of Franciscan living. The Franciscan way of life is relevant until the Holy Gospel of Christ is relevant because Francis followed the simple, humble, and crucified Christ whom he encountered in the Gospel.

St. Francis along with his first followers lived not simply one style of life but multiple lifestyles. All these various life styles are essentially Franciscan: teachers and preachers, missionaries and hermits, brothers who worked with their hands and others who worked with their minds. They lived differently according to the needs of their ministry. While the incidentals differed, they were all united by life based on the Holy Gospel: "Our life and rule is this, to live the Holy Gospel."

What does it mean to live the Gospel? To live the Gospel according to Francis is that Holy Gospel becomes the guiding principle of one's life and activity (Const. 1:3). To live the Gospel demands continual meditation on the Gospel i.e., under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to make continuous progress in understanding the Gospel. We follow the Gospel as the

highest law in all the circumstances of life. Blessed Virgin Mary will be our model in reading and meditating the words of salvation and carry them in our hearts.

According to the Popes, the Franciscans exist in the Church for one reason: to bring the world back to God in a spirit of penance and joy. Thus, in some ways, the apostolate and preaching are synonymous. The first exhortation of Jesus to the world was a call to *metanoia*. It is a call to reconcile with God, others, the universe, and oneself. This renewal is best accomplished through actions rather than words. Our sermons are most powerful when we witness rather than preach. As Francis himself admonished, “Since you speak of peace, all the more, so you must have it in our hearts. Let none be provoked to anger, or be scandalized by you; but rather may they be drawn to peace and good will, to benignity, and concord through your gentleness.” The charismatic living of the friars is what the world, the Church, the people all around us expect from us; and when we live the charism of Francis, we cannot but be the true instruments of bringing peace on this small planet of ours. We can lead many to Christ, in love, only if we have done so first. If the love of God is in us, we can do all things. Nothing will be too hard, for at the foundation of our lives will be the peace of Christ urging us to proclaim the good news of salvation to all men of good will. This is what Francis did.

So my dear brothers in St. Francis, let us follow Christ in the footsteps of St. Francis and prove to the world the relevance of being a Franciscan today.

Br. George Antony Assaricheril OFM Cap.
Minister Provincial

Secretarial Informations

1. Br. Tom Mundanthanambu left for working in Gulf mission.
2. Br. Alex Vachaparambil came back from Gulf mission and is appointed as the member of St. Francis Ashram, Uzhavoor.
3. Br. Jobis Mani Aikkaramattam went to Nirmala matha Custody Assam-Meghalaya.
4. Br. Sam Zacharias Parasseril is back to the province and appointed as the member of Laverna Ashram, Vagamon.
5. Br. Kristudas Kurisummottil is appointed as a member of Shanti Niketan, Nadukani.
6. Br. Francy Nambiyaparambil went back to PNG mission after his Sabbatical Year.
7. The new phone numbers for Vocation promoter are 7592017121 & 6238611636, and the old phone numbers are no longer available due to technical difficulties. Please use this new phone number and share it with others.

News from our Fraternities

CAPUCHIN PROVINCIAL HOUSE KOTTAYAM

Greetings from Provinciate community, Kottayam

Healing Touch of Mother House

“As a mother comforts her child, so I [God] will comfort you.” (Isaiah 66:13) In these verses, God is depicted as a woman in the pains of labor, as a woman nursing her child, and as a woman comforting her child. By imitating this God, the Provinciate community extends a caring hand to all friars, especially those who are physically weak. Especially when one is sick, one longs for motherly care, and the Provinciate community strives its best to meet their longing to some extent. It is our firm conviction that those sick friars who stayed with us did experience some comfort during their days with us. Thanks to the willingness of the members of the community to go out of the way to be at the service of the brothers visiting here, everyone feels at home here. We consider ourselves privileged to provide a healing and rejuvenating ambience to brothers like Sunil Kattupara, Jince Varghese, and Joseph Mattathil.

Birthday Celebrations

One of the earliest recorded birthday parties appears in the Bible. The Genesis account describes an Egyptian Pharaoh whom Joseph served as having a party to mark his birthday. We celebrate birthdays to remember, acknowledge, and appreciate the life of a person who was born. We celebrated

the birthdays of our dear brothers of our fraternity to proclaim the truth that St. Francis wrote in his testament: every brother is a gift from God, a precious gift to enrich and add colours our lives. Br. Roy Karakkat's birthday was on July 3rd, Br. Bijoy Kudilil's birthday was on July 21st, and Br. Stephen Vammiyalil's birthday was on August 30th. On the day of each celebration, we shared our joy with the people by celebrating Holy Eucharist with them. We had the prayer sessions in the community in the evening, which was followed by a sumptuous meal.

Independence Day and Assumption of our Lady

This year marked the 75th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Br. Benedict taking the lead, we hoisted the national flag in front of our ashram in the presence of people who came to celebrate Holy Eucharist, thus proclaiming aloud that we are true citizens of India. On the same day, we also celebrated our Lady's Assumption. Br. Melvin celebrated Holy Mass and delivered a sermon on Our Lady's Assumption to Heaven as well as Independence Day. This feast reminds us of our Lady's heavenly freedom she enjoys as a pioneer on the heavenly journey.

Onam Celebrations

Onam is the time when all Malayalis all over the world come together in spirit and celebration. We celebrate Onam to commemorate a glorious past. All of us yearn for a time like that of King Mahabali's reign, a time when prosperity, joy and love blended. But in order to realize this dream, we need to put forward creative and sustained effort. We celebrated Onam here this year, along with the rest of the Keralites. On the 7th evening, the entire community gathered in front of the house to make a *Pookalam*. It was another moment of celebrating

brotherhood with utmost team spirit. This year our Lady's Nativity and Onam fell on the same day. Br. Provincial celebrated the holy Eucharist and delivered the homily. On September 8th, early in the morning, brothers under the leadership of Br. Abin Jose began preparing dishes for the onam banquet, led by. We had around 21 dishes, all prepared by ourselves and served on a banana leaf. It was a grand celebration of our culture and out fraternity.

Onam celebration was also held in our Ashram on September 10th under the auspices of the Senior Citizen Welfare Association of S. H Mount. They had prepared Onam Sadya and held Onam games. During their meeting, Fr. Kuriakose Kannamkara delivered a message regarding Onam. It was a joyous occasion for them to be in the company of people of their own age, to relive their childhood memories.

Guests

'If it were not for guests all houses would be graves'-
Khalil Gibran. Every house where love abides, God will appear in the form of guests. We were privileged to receive God in the form of many guests here. Br. Thomas Sebastian, Br. Francy Nambiyaparambil, Br. Sunil Kattupara, Br. Charuplackal, Br. Jobis Aikkaramattam, Br. Thomas Kanjirakonam, Br. Prince, Br. Rentu, Br. John Vazhapanadiyil, Br. Cherian Scaria, Br. Georgekutty Thottuvayil, Br. Joseph Pthenpurackal, Br. Jose Velachery, Br. Sharon, Br. Alex vachaparambil, Br. Dinny, Br. Antony Kalathil, Br. Jithin Joy, Br. Sojan Peekunnel, Br. Saji Olikatthottil, Br. Jorlin, Br. Anish, Br. Sebastian Purayidathil, Br. Kristudas, Br. Mathew Thandiyakudy, Br. Sibychen Puthiyidom, Br. Joseph Mattathil, Br. Shaji Panamparambil were among those who visited the Provincialate on various occasions.

Brothers, thanks for reading news about us. We look forward to share more about us next time...





ASSISI ASHRAM BHARANANGANAM

Felicitations from Assisi Ashram, where a fraternal aroma disseminates with its breeze of love and joy. It's a great feeling to share our contentment with all of you.

Feast of St. Antony

Feast of St Antony was solemnly celebrated with Br Antony Kalathil, Br Antony Vechoor and Br Antony Katoorpara celebrating their feasts. It was a marvellous occasion where guests from provincialate too joined us.

Gone as calm as a breeze

One of the eldest friars of our infirmary, Br. Cyriac Pananthanam died on July 20. Many came to offer their final condolences to the deceased friar. After two days, the funeral ceremony was held; with Br. Provincial and Br. Paul Madassery were the celebrants.

Guardian sweet Guardian

We celebrated the birthday of our Guardian on July 26. It was a fascinating ceremony in our Ashram auditorium with guests from numerous friaries participating in it. The day was illuminated by the various programs of our brothers from seminary, which were a feast for our eyes.

Endorsed to be a Marian, proud to be an Indian

We celebrated our nation's 75th Independence Day and the Assumption of the BVM. After the solemn mass on the day, the National Flag was hosted by Br. Guardian and sweets were distributed to all.

To be evaluated as to evaluate

Our community members participated in their annual retreat in ARC. They went in two batches. The Ashram was made quiet due to the absence of many friars, but was later pulsated when they all came back.

Our Guests

Br Thomas Karingadayil, Provincial of Pavanatma Province, newly ordained Br Jobis Mani, Arch Bishop Kurian Vayalumkal, Nuncio of Algeria and Tunisia, too, visited our Ashram.

Our celebrations

We celebrated the feasts of Br Thomas Manthra and Br Kanthinath and the birthdays of Br Jeby and Br Mathew Thazhattuveetill.

SERAPHIC MINOR SEMINARY

Greetings from the cradle of St Joseph Province, where little brothers commence their Franciscan cruise.

Our new academic year was up and running with 19 new brothers joining our fraternity. Farewell was given to our seniors who left for Bethery for Pre-Novitiate.

The official re-opening was held on July 10. Br Provincial, vocation promoter and teaching staff participated in the ceremony. The Dean of Studies, Br. Thomas Tom presented the Lexio Brevis.

Br. Rector frequently goes to Thrissur to take classes for Philosophy students. Br. Arun too departed to conduct different retreats. Br. Thomas Tom was always there with us for our needs.

We accord our glee and peace to the communities all around us.

LORETO TIDINGS

Sweet Heart of Jesus

The Loreto fraternity celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus blissfully. We had an hour of Eucharistic adoration which was followed by dedication and blessing of the Ashram and the Novitiate House.

Chez de l'amour

Our brothers paid a fraternal visit to the nearby 'Snehaved,' a home for the destitute run by FSD sisters; we rendered our service by cleaning water tanks. It was an opportunity for our brothers to extend our love and to witness the selfless and joyful service of the sisters.

Ora et Labora

Our paddy fields were ploughed and prepared in good time, and we were waiting for a good climate for planting 'njaru.' On the 16th of July, all brothers plunged into the fields. It was a really thrilling moment, and everyone enjoyed the Franciscan fraternity and experienced the spirit of labour. Children from the nearby Assisi school for deaf and dumb also visited us and teachers took the opportunity to demonstrate and teach them

the process of paddy cultivation. Many passersby stopped their cars to click shots, as they saw a rare sight of 26 young men and friars covered in mud but bursting with laughter and enjoying work.

Fraternal Celebrations

Loreto community had joyful months with some festal celebrations of our friars. On the 29th of June we celebrated the feast of Fr Paul Chirapurath. Fr Paul is a friar with a green thumb and lot of energy and dedication. We had the customary prayer sessions, and we enjoyed a delicious meal along with some of our neighbours and a couple of sisters.

We celebrated the feast of our beloved master Fr Thomas Kanjirakonam on 3rd of July. We had an hour of adoration during which we prayed for him. We also enjoyed a simple but delicious luncheon –a description fit for him as well.

We anticipated the birthday celebration of our beloved vice-master Fr Rentu Mannoor on the 17th of July and had prayer service and festal mass to pray for him. We also enjoyed a modest luncheon in honour of him.

8th August was a great day of joy and bliss as we celebrated the feast of our beloved Fr Dominic Cheradil. There was the customary prayer session which was followed by festal mass and a sumptuous meal. His comment on the day was remarkable: *“If you are happy I am happy, if I am happy you are happy, and so today we all are happy.”*

Our Sister's Feast

On August 11 we celebrated the feast of our sister St Clare. We distributed pork meat to our neighbouring convents and our sisters prepared for us a sumptuous meal. In the

evening, the novices paid fraternal visits to the neighbouring convents, and they entertained the sisters with their songs, dances and comedies; the sisters too displayed their talents and expressed their gratitude for making the day more memorable. We conducted a Franciscan prayer session too.

Jubilee of Indian Independence

The 75th year of the Independence of India was celebrated colourfully on 15th Aug, along with the people around. The feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Virgin Mary on the same day added more energy and enthusiasm to the celebrations. There was a solemn mass remembering our heavenly Mother. This was followed by a parade drill under 'Lt. Commander' Br Michael. Reading the signs of times, a short speech on the relevance of Independence Day in the present day was delivered by Br John.

A Double Celebration

The 8th of September was a memorable day for us and a day of double joy as we celebrated the feast of nativity of our Blessed Mother and Onam. As a preparation for the nativity, we had eight days of special prayers, and the brothers conducted rosary in creative ways during these eight days reflecting on the secrets of Mary's joys. And on the 8th of September we had a solemn mass. The '*Pookkalam*', the sumptuous '*Onasadhya*' with over 20 accompaniments, and '*Onakalikal*' were the highlights of our Onam celebrations. We also had basketball and volleyball matches.

Fraternal visits

We had fraternal visits from many esteemed friars. Fr Thomas Karingada, the Minister Provincial of the Pavanatma

Province, Fr Jobis Mani Aikkaramattom, the newly ordained priest, Fr Mathew Paikada, the Superior of Adilabad mission, the well-known retreat preacher and writer, Fr Bobby Jose Kattikad, visited us and interacted with the novices. Fr George Antony, the Minister Provincial of St Joseph Province, Fr Joseph Zachariah and Fr Bijo Kudilil visited us too. Fr Dominic Thirunilath of Kristu Jyoti province was also with us.

Visit of the two sisters

Sister rain paid a loving visit to us, flooding our vicinity and forcing the local authorities to search for a place to distribute the flood kits. The Loreto community gladly opened our gates and invited them to use our S.F.O. hall.

Sister sickness also extended her loving embrace to many of our brothers who lovingly embraced her but didn't allow her to linger too long.

A New Outlook

Our brothers were very privileged to have three great personalities –Sr Infant Maria F.C.C of Nirmala Province who is a yoga acharya, Fr Alex Vachaparampil who was a missionary in the gulf missions for seven years and Fr Francis Dominic, the director of 'Snehashrams'. Sr Infant Maria enlightened our brothers with a class on yoga and meditation, followed by a practical session on meditation. Fr Alex Vachaparambil shared his mission experiences and ignited the zeal for mission in the hearts of our brothers. Fr Francis Dominic shared his experience, in running the 'Snehashrams' and his upcoming projects, highlighting the importance of prayer in our lives especially when we are busy with work. He taught us how active life should flow from contemplative life.

The Beginning of the New Sem

After a fruitful first semester, the brothers discharged their duties and took up new challenging offices as well as new rooms, keeping in mind the fact that we are pilgrims and strangers on earth.

We wish you all brothers a very happy feast of our Father St Francis. May this great feast help us to grow in his spirit.

JUDE ASHRAM MUKHATHALA

Fraternal greetings of peace and joy from the St. Jude Community!

We are true citizens of a proud nation

St. Jude schools celebrated the 75th Independence Day with great vigour and enthusiasm. Independence Day Rally was conducted in relation to the celebration. Cultural programmes were put up by the school children to commemorate our nation. The meeting was inaugurated by Fr. James Vazhacharickal our manager and gave a beautiful message.

Celebrations

The birthday of Br. Jisho Chempananickal was celebrated on 9th June. The Guardian, on behalf of the community, thanked him for the laborious tasks he has been accomplishing with excellence as the Principal of our CBSE School, the Vicar of St. Antony's parish church, and as the house-economist. The

birthday of our Guardian, Br. James Vazhacharickal, was celebrated on 6th September. It was a sweet and very special day for all of us. We wished him, the captain of our ship, everything best and God's blessings! His fraternal animation, creative planning, humanitarian orientation, and hard work for the execution of different tasks certainly help the community to grow in all the aspects of life rooted in the Franciscan spirit.

Onam Cebtrations

Onam is a festival of joy and happiness. It is a time for all of us to come together and celebrate. There were colourful Onam celebrations conducted in each of our St. Jude schools. Many games were arranged for the students. '*Onappayasam*' was served for all. Students wearing traditional dresses gave a positive vibe to the entire campus. We also celebrated Onam in the Ashram with an '*Onasadhya*' which all the brothers joyfully enjoyed.

Our guests

The Mukhathala community is privileged to have the presence of the following guests, who blessed us with a short visit. Br. George Antony Assaricherril, our Minister Provincial, Br. Stephen Vammyalil, Br. Stephen Poyyanil, Br. Francy Nambiaparambil, Br. Sunny Parackal and Br. Vinu Pulinchuvallil. We sincerely thank you for your fraternal visits!

The St. Jude fraternity wishes you all a very happy feast of our father, St. Francis. We wish and pray that our Holy Father Francis bless you and guide you all through your life's journey!

Brothers from St. Jude!



GETHSEMANY ASHRAM VAZHAPPALLY

Dear Brothers, we the members of Gethsemany Ashram, Vazhappally wish all readers of INTER NOS, a Happy Feast of our Father St Francis of Assisi. May St Francis bless you all. We are giving below our news.

The Feast of St Thomas- The Apostle of India and Feast of Fr Thomas Thalakulam – Our Guardian.

On the third of July, we celebrated St Thomas day with due solemnity. That day is also the happy Feast day of our Guardian, Fr Thomas Thalakulam. We had three Masses on that day. The first one was at 6 A.M, the second at 8 A.M. and the third, at 10 A.M. The first Mass was a sung Mass with musical instruments. Its celebrant was our Guardian. At the beginning of the Mass, Fr Sebastian Chundakattil, Vicar of our Ashram came and spoke for a few minutes about St Thomas and our Guardian and his services here, and asked all people to pray for him. After Mass, sweets were distributed to all people.

At 7 A.M., we had a prayer service for Fr Thomas. We all prayed for his good health and God's blessings. We had a sumptuous supper in his honour at 8:30 P.M. We had invited our Parish Priest Fr Jose Kochuparambil and all four Assistant parish priests, and Guardian and members of St Thomas Ashram, Kavalam.

Laying Foundation Stone for a New House at Vazhappally for a Poor Family(4-7-2022)

As part of helping our poor Catholics, Gethsemany Leaders' Forum together with the friars selected a poor family of a widow with two sons who were staying for years in a rented house. She had bought a plot of five cents of land for building a house with the help of many people. Fr Guardian announced about the undertaking in our church and many people contributed financially. He laid the foundation stone for that house on 4-7-2022 Monday and its works are progressing. President and a few members of the St Vincent de Paul Society and a few leaders of our Family Units were present on that occasion.

The Feast Celebration of St Alphonsa

We celebrated the feast of St Alphonsa from 19th July to 28th July. We had invited our Parish Priest, Fr Jose Kochparambil for hoisting the Church flag and celebration of Mass and Novena prayers. He reached at 6 A.M and hoisted the Church flag and celebrated the Holy Mass and gave the homily on St Alphonsa. On other days, there were two masses – one at 6 A.M and the second one at 5:15 P.M. Evening ceremonies were conducted by priests from close-by parishes and from our Ashrams. The last day of celebration was on 28th July. We had invited Fr Mathew Mulangacherryil, Guardian of Assisi Ashram Bharananganam for Mass and sermon. It was a solemn sung Mass and he gave a very beautiful sermon on St Alphonsa. Every year on the occasion of the Feast of St Alphonsa we used to give cash awards and mementoes to

students who got full A + marks in all subjects in S.S.L.C and +2 classes. We used to give certificates and presents to those who got marks above 70 in Logos Quiz. After Mass and *Latheenj* Fr Mathew distributed Certificates, Mementos and cash awards to all winners.

Feast Day Celebration of Fr Dionysius James Kulathumkal

The feast day of Fr D. James Kulathumkal was on 25th July. That day morning we had a Holy Mass at 6 A.M.; Fr D. James was the celebrant. At the beginning of the Mass, Fr Guardian spoke a few words about St James, the apostle and then spoke a few words about Fr D. James and asked all people to pray for him. After the Mass sweets were distributed to people who had come for the Mass. In the evening, at 7. P.M., we had evening prayer and we shared intercessory prayers. In those prayers all friars prayed for Fr D. James. At 8 P.M we had a sumptuous meal in his honour.

First Friday Devotion

Every Friday we have adoration of Blessed Sacrament from 7.45 A.M. to 12 noon. On First Fridays, we have the preaching of the word of God, Eucharist, adoration and group Mass from 9:30 A.M to 1:15 P.M. Every month, Fr Guardian is calling different preachers from different places. Many people are coming, not only from our parish but also from nearby parishes. They have convenience for confession and Counseling.

Bible Class for People

Fr Guardian is encouraging people to read Bible and to join for Logos Quiz conducted by the Bible Apostolate of Kerala Bishop's Conference. Fr Guardian takes Bible class for people every Tuesday from 5 P.M. to 6 P.M. Many are coming for attending it.

The Feast of Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary and Independence Day Celebration (15-8-2022)

We celebrated the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven and the 75th Independence day of our nation with due honour and respect. We had three holy Masses – at 6 A.M, 8 A.M. and 10 A.M. Many people came for Mass. Fr Thomas Thalakulam, our Guardian was the celebrant for the first mass of the day. After reading the Gospel of the Mass, he gave a nice homily on the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Independence day of our country, and asked people to pray for the progress and safety of our country.

After the Mass at 7:15 A.M, all assembled in front of the church where a special post was erected to hoist the national flag. Fr Guardian Thomas Thalakulam hoisted the national flag and all saluted the flag and sang the national anthem. After this, sweets were distributed to all.

S.F.O. Gathering at Gethsemany

The Covid pandemic situation has struck the smooth functioning of S.F.O. works at the Provincial, Regional and Local levels. In rejuvenating the Franciscan values and spirit

among the leaders, a special meeting was called for on 31 August 2022 at Gethsemany Ashram from 2:30 P.M to 5 P.M.

All the executive members of S.F.O. Changanacherry Arch Diocese, nearly a hundred, were present for the gathering. Fr Guardian, Thomas Thalakulam welcomed them all and gave them apt instruction on Franciscan spirituality and leadership. Along with the executive members of the existing thirty units, representatives of the newly formed five units from St George Muhamma, St George Aickarachira, StJude Yudapuram Lisieu Kavalam and Holy Family Podipara were present for discussion and dialogue. The Spiritual Assistant, Fr Michael Parooseril interacted with them all and boosted them up, both young and old, to greater leadership qualities and witnessing of Franciscan solidarity in and around one's family. As a token of gratitude, and partaking in the shared peace and joy, coffee and snacks were served by Fr Sebastian Chundakattil.

Our Dear Guests

Fr Joseph Puthenpurackal from St Francis Ashram, Uzhavoor, Fathers Lenin and Sijo from St Thomas province, Fr Johnson from Pavanathma province, Fr SoneKumbickal from StJude ashram Mukhathala, and Fr Alex Vachaparambil from St Francis Ashram Uzhavoor came to meet us. Thank you brothers, for your fraternal visits. Once more we wish you all a happy feast of St Francis of Assisi.

DAYS OF SPIRITUAL OF RENEWAL



PORTIUNCULA ASHRAM KATTAPANA

Greetings of peace and joy to all

Birthday celebration

We celebrated the birthday of Fr Liju Varghese on June 15 and also Fr Thomas Palelil on July 7. We had a special prayer service for them. During the prayer, we all prayed for them, thanking God for the service they were rendering to the community.

The feast day celebration of St Alphonsa

We had nine days of the novena of St. Alphonsa, and the feast was celebrated on the 28th of July. After the Mass, there was 'Latheenj' followed by 'Pachor Nercha'

Independence Day celebrations on August 15

The celebrant of the morning's solemn Holy Mass was Fr. Mathew Vattakkunnel, the Guardian, who gave a beautiful sermon on Mother Mary. After the Mass, Fr. Mathew hosted an Indian flag, showing respect and love towards our country.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We had two masses every day during these days, in the morning and in the evening, which were so lively and filled with so many people nearby. On September 8th, a solemn Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Guardian. At noon, we had a small Onam celebration with our dear brothers.

Fraternal Visits

Portiuncula ashram was fortunate enough to receive many friars and experienced Franciscan bonding through their

loving and caring presence. Br. George Antony, Br Felician Vayalil, Br Mathew Paikada, Br Simon Nilanirappel, Br Joseph Puthenpurackal, Br Joseph Putchoor, Br Stephen Vammiyalil, Br Sebastion Purayidam, Br Joseph Mattathil, Br Shaji Panapparambil, Br Shaiju Mannumattathil, Br James Purayidam, Br Anish Varickanikkal visited us. We wholeheartedly thank you all for your fraternal visit and a hearty welcome to all.

We convey our regards to all of you and wish you all the best.

CAPUCHIN VIDYABHAVAN

C'mon! Let's Start

The new academic year 2022-23 of the St. Francis Theological College began on 1st of July. Br. Thomas Karingadayil, Provincial Minister of Pavanatma Province and Br. Jaison Kalan, Vicar Provincial of St. Thomas Province were present for the inaugural ceremony. While Br. Rector welcomed everybody to the inaugural ceremony, Br. Scaria Nelluvelil, the dean of studies, introduced the academic curriculum for the year. It was also an occasion to award certificates to the outgoing batch.

Deacons had a period of intense study in view of the comprehensive examinations which were held on June 4, 7, and 11. After successfully completing their exams, the fourth-year theologians left for their annual vacations.

Once again brothers are actively involved in their pastoral ministries as most of them started going for teaching catechism in various parishes.

Life is a Celebration

Franciscan life is a celebration of fraternity. Our fraternal fervour was ignited intensely by the celebrations of various feasts. On June 29, our beloved Rector, Br. Simon Neelanirappel celebrated his feast. The celebration that began with the Eucharistic celebration reached its climax with the cultural evening and traditional '*thattukada* food' arranged by the brothers. The evening was also blessed by the presence of the St. Joseph Provincialate community, La Verna Convent community and the family members of Br. Simon.

The Sacred Heart feast was a moment of great joy for the community as we conducted a special prayer before the image of the Sacred Heart. The whole house was blessed on that day. A thought-provoking message was delivered by Br. Norbert on the occasion.

On July 3, we prayerfully and joyously celebrated the Feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle and Patron of India, and on August 11, the Feast of St. Clare. With immense joy, we celebrated the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Independence Day of our nation on August 15. An inspiring and patriotic message was delivered by Br. Jobish on the same day.

It's Study Time

Capuchin Vidyabhavan is in full swing as the classes for all the batches began on June 6. We are blessed with the scholarly and inspiring presence of various professors from different parts of Kerala. We were also blessed with extension lectures delivered by Br. Mathew Paikada on 'Religious Fundamentalism' and Fr. Toby SJ on 'Media and Addiction'.

The brothers here in Vidyabhavan are really busy with their academics. While the 3rd year brothers are working on their scientific papers, the 1st and 2nd years are working on their essays and seminars, respectively.

Pastors in the Making

The Deacons attended a base-level certificate course on counselling and psychotherapy at Anugraha Institute, Dindigul, from August 1–27 as a part of their pastoral course. Anugraha is an illustrious institute of Psychology run by Capuchin friars of Mary Queen of Peace Province, Tamil Nadu. The classes were conducted by Brs. Sahayraj, Sundar Wilson, and the team. We hope that the course will be a great asset in their pastoral endeavours. Besides, various lectures were arranged for the deacons to help them in their future pastoral ministries. There were classes on ‘Legal Aid and Protection of Minor and Vulnerable Groups’ by Fr. Joseph Kaduppil, classes on ‘De-addiction’ by Sr. Joan Chungappura, a workshop on ‘Youth Ministry’ by Fr. Toby SJ, classes on ‘Homiletics’ by Fr. Thomas Puthiyakunnel, and classes on ‘Practical Liturgy’ by Br. Vinu and Br. Xavier Christy.

Vidyabhavan Version 2.0

On August 11, on the feast day of St. Clare, we inaugurated our new ‘Studio’. The studio was prepared under the guidelines of Br. Sarish. The Media Team is making use of the studio very well for preparing content for our YouTube channels, namely ‘Vox Assisi’ and ‘Little Caps’.

Our ashram is now equipped with tight security measures! The community has installed 8 CCTV cameras on the ashram premises and in the chapel.

We have a new sports item in our campus. The brothers' desire to have a table tennis board was fulfilled. We thank the community of Amalashram, Thopramkudy for donating us the T T Board. The Brothers are making good use of it.

Vidyabhavan farm is now full-fledged with a new milking machine, which makes the work much easier. A new experience for the cows!

Best Wishes, Big Bro

Fr. Tom Mundamthanath, who has been with us for the last year has fluttered to his new pastoral field in the Arabian Peninsula. Thank you, Fr. Tom, for all the great services that you have rendered to the community as the economo, and as a great help in the field of pastoral ministry.

Come, Let's Talk

As per the Franciscan tradition and custom, we celebrated the first local chapter of this academic year in the month of August. It was a time for reflecting on the current situation of the house and putting up new plans for fraternal growth. The community members enthusiastically participated in the local chapter.

Aravam 2k22

As always, Onam is one of the memorable moments at Capuchin Vidyabhavan. The Onam celebration of this year was titled '*Aravam 2k22*'. The celebration began with various games and cultural competitions that lasted for a week. Various games and competitions were conducted in groups. The groups were named *Tufan*, *Kalki*, *Kidukkachi Guyz* and *Ponnappanz*. The Tug of War was the most entertaining event of the Onam celebration. The group games and '*Onakkalikal*' were admirably

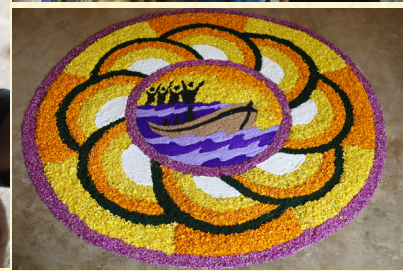
conducted by the second-year brothers. The Onam celebration reached its zenith with the '*Onasadhya*' prepared by the third-year brothers. A beautiful and stunning '*Pookkalam*' was prepared by the first-year brothers. As socially responsible citizens, the brothers also portrayed the 'Vizhinjam strike' in their *pookkalam*.

Atma Mithra: To be a friend to all

Atma Mitra is an organization to support the children of AIDS-affected parents. This Onam was very special for the *Atma Mithra* family. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a gathering of the *Atma Mithra* family was not conducted for the past two years. But during this Onam, we were able to organize a gathering of the *Atmamithra* family, in which about 60 children and their parents participated. The gathering that began on September 9 morning included ice-breaking sessions, group activities, informative classes and a cultural evening. The gathering was concluded on September 10 with a picnic at Wagamon Hills and Pine Forest. It was a great joy for all the *Atmamithra* friends to come once again to Capuchin Vidyabhavan.

Capuchin Vidyabhavan wishes all of you a Happy Feast of our father, St. Francis of Assisi. May he continue to intercede for us before God.





RANIGIRI MANNANTHALA

Greetings of peace and joy from Ranigiri Ashram, Mananthala. All of us participated in the Renewal chapter. We could entrust the house to Fr. Mathew from the Thalassery diocese, who recently joined us for studies at the Law Academy, Perrorkada.

“May God’s peace be on this home” LK 10:5

Heeding this word of God, we visited all the families in the parish. The family units were equally divided among the three of us, and we went to the families, heard them, blessed them, and consecrated them to the Sacred Heart. On the feast day of the Sacred Heart, we had a small prayer session with lit candles in the parlour of our ashram, and we blessed the whole house, consecrating it to the Sacred Heart.

St. Thomas day & St. Alphonsa day

We are entering into the 1950th year of the arrival of St. Thomas in India. The Arch Diocese of Changanassery zealously organised various programmes regarding this jubilee celebration of the St. Thomas mission in India. On the third of July, we had a solemn Mass, and then in the following weeks, we inaugurated the jubilee celebrations in every single-family unit of the parish. There was even an open floor discussion in every family unit to seek the best means to meaningfully celebrate the jubilee year. Many good suggestions came from the parishioners.

The celebration of the Feast of St. Alphonsa was conducted at the parish and forane levels. We gave a reception to the *“St. Alphonsa Pedaka Yathra”* on the 29th of July. The

catechism students, teachers, and their parents joined the procession to Ponganmoodu St. Alphonsa shrine under the leadership of Br. Abhilash.

The community also represented the death anniversary of the parents of Br. John Aikkara and Br. Abhilash in the month of July.

Ranigiri Parish Feast

The Parish Council and *Koottaima* Presidents decided to celebrate the Parish Feast in a simple manner and contribute the savings towards the completion of the house through the parish *Karuthal Fund*. We emphasised the spiritual renewal of the festal celebrations and decided to celebrate the Ranigiri Parish Feast with more of a spiritual tone. In line with the spiritual celebrations, we had 33 days of *Vimala Hrudaya Prathishta*, 15 days of fasting and prayer, and 9 days of Novena preparation, meditating each day on a Marian theme. The main celebrants for the liturgical celebration were Br. Thomas Thalakulam, Br. Moncy Iykara, Fr. Morley Kaithaparambil, Our Forane Parish priest, Forane Directors of Catechism, *Mathrupithru Vedi*, and *Yuvadeepti*. The climax of the celebration was on the 15th of August with ***Thirunal Rasa Kurbana***, Procession & Agape. In this regard, we have two more pieces of good news to share with you. The first is that Ranigiri Parish has grown to 373 families and it has given birth to the twelfth *koottaima*, namely, St. Clare's; and the next is that the Ranigiri Parish has begun to conduct an adoration of thanksgiving and prayer every fourth Saturday at 7.30–8.30 PM. We hope that more people will join us to help us grow as a praying community.

Ranigiri - always a contributing mother

Cooperating with the Archdiocese, Ranigiri contributed Rs. 1,35,000.00 to the *Karuthal Fund*. The local *Karuthal Fund*,

along with savings from the Lenten fasting, came up to 3,36,000. The parish council decided to enter this amount into the Ranigiri Charity Fund for the construction of a house. On the 5th of September, Ranigiri spent 8 lakhs to rebuild and renovate the house of a needy family in the parish.

We are pilgrims in this world.

Bearing these beautiful lines in our hearts, we had a community pilgrimage to Kattadimala, the place of ***Devasahayam Pilla's*** martyrdom. We also visited his tomb and the place where the miraculous spring gushed up when the saint knelt. The pilgrimage was indeed spiritually enriching, and we pray that the intercession of the saint is with you all.

Becoming the voice of the voiceless

On the 23rd of August, as members of Syro Malabar Church, the Ashram community, and the parish joined at *Vizhinjam* to express our solidarity with fisherfolk whose lives are on the verge of exploitation. We spent time with them and the representatives addressed them in public. We felt that they deserve our support.

We wish you all the very best. Thank you





ST FRANCIS ASHRAM, UZHAVOOR

Dear loving brothers, we are so happy to share our fraternal memories with you. By God's grace, our community is very vibrant and alive with many creative ministries. Our guardian is busy with repair work and cultivation of land. Br Thomas Pullattuthadathil is fully engaged in agricultural activities. Br Stephen Poyyanil is always occupied with the ministry of confession. Many priests and sisters come to our Ashram for confession and prayer. Lay people come to meet Br Joseph Puthenpurackal to solve their family problems. People visit our St Antony's Shrine and get consolation.

The New Arrival

Our community is very alive with the presence of Br Alex Vachaparambil, our new community member. As he is blessed with a lot of talents, he is invited by different parishes to celebrate mass and hear confession. With his arrival, our community is able to take up local ministries. We specially thank our minister Provincial for appointing him as a member of our community. We keep you all in our prayers. Wish you a very happy feast of our holy father, St Francis.

PADRE PIO ASHRAM MUNDAKAYAM

Greetings from Padre Pio Ashram Mundakayam.

All of us are doing well. The community life also goes on cordially. Recently, a grotto of Mother Mary was completed at the entrance of the ashram under the supervision of Br Guardian. It gives a blessed welcome to the guests and they light candles and pray in the grotto. Br Guardian looks around the agricultural works without rest and makes the plot clean and beautiful. Br Felician is, as usual, busy with his holy mass and confession duties. He is always available to attend to people with a cheerful smile. Br George effectively coordinates the activities of the ashram by discharging his functions as the Economo as well as being in charge of the kitchen. He always takes extra care in arranging sumptuous food for our guests. Br Mathew is tightly packed with his functions in 'The School of Happiness' and the daily counselling sessions. He also actively takes part in the activities of the ashram as the Vicar.

The community took joyous and active participation in celebrating the feasts of St Thomas and St Alphonsa on 3rd and 28th July respectively, alongside the feast of the Assumption of Mother Mary and India's independence on 15th August, and the feast of the Nativity of Mother Mary and Onam celebrations on 8th September.

This period can be considered a prosperous one for 'The School of Happiness'. The first semester of our first batch came to an end and all the candidates came out of the exam hall with smiling faces. They all greatly commented on the

efforts taken on the part of the institute in moulding them to appear for the exam in such a confident manner. With their conversations with candidates from other institutes, they are grateful to us for providing fruitful training and mentorship which no other institute provides. The first batch is in preparation for the second semester.

The most joyous news is our increase in admission for the second batch. We received 70 admissions for the new batch (it was 61 for the first batch, thus showing an increase of about 10 candidates). Certainly, it is the result of all hard work and the goodwill of 'The School of Happiness'. Above all, the Almighty God's plan for this institute is being fulfilled through our hands.

The School of Happiness also conducts various outreach programs, webinars and psychotherapy programs outside the institute. Counselling sessions are also going on very well. We are very glad to ensure peace of mind for those who approach us. We are expecting a greater scope of expansion and we have the potential. We also intend to hire part-time faculties to reduce the workload of the current faculties.

We were blessed with the visits of our brothers, nearby priests, nuns and laity.

By God's grace, all good things of life come to us easily and effortlessly.

ST. BASIL CAPUCHIN ASHRAM PATHANAMTHITTA

Peace and Joy from Brothers from St. Basil Capuchin Ashram, Pathanamthitta.

After a long term of service, Mrs. Santhamma Chechi, who was helping us in the kitchen, retired from her service for health reasons. The community thanked her for the service she rendered to the community.

Fr. Shaiju Mannumattathil has been appointed as a teacher at the Malankara Diocese of Pathanamthitta's Ashwasa Bhavan Special School in Cheekanal. We are grateful to the bishop, His Grace Samuel Mar Ireneaus, and the curia for providing him with this opportunity. His service is well appreciated by the authorities. Br. Shaiju was recently honoured by the panchayat authorities of Mylapra for his social commitment and selfless service to differently-abled children. We, the community members, are proud of him for his great achievement and the social acceptance he has received.

Our community is serving the Diocese by taking care of two parishes, Br. Shaiju Mannumattathil is the parish priest of St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church in Marygiri, Mylapra, and Br. Rony Kizhakkedathu is the parish priest of St. Mary's Malankara Catholic Church in Kumplampoika.

With the support of the community, we are able to animate the parish community with a more spiritual orientation. Br. Mathew Thandiyakudil completed his heritage course in Italy and he is back in the community. It was an experience of

spiritual transformation for him. He experienced the ever-glowing spirit of St. Francis. More than a spiritual tour, it was a journey together with St. Francis into the nucleus of Franciscan spirituality. He began to undertake retreats with a renewed spirit.

Br. Rony Kizhakkedathu is busy with parish ministries, Works of Assisi Magazine, and his MA studies. During the class days, he stays at St. Thomas Ashram, Kavalam, and returns to Pathanamthitta at the weekends.

ALPHONSA ASHRAM EDAMATTOM, RAJAKUMARY

Greetings from the brothers of Alphonsa Ashram Edamattom, Rajakumary.

Unlike other years, we had heavy rainfall. It makes a lot of interruption in the lives of people in the high ranges, especially it causes a lot of damage to the crops. We are also the victims of this unusual weather condition. And during the last few months, after the covid-19 time, we have a lot of involvement in our pastoral and social ministries. Brs James Purayidathil and Joseph Mattathil are busy with their own ministries; especially Br James is helping in our neighbouring parishes. He is also busy stitching habits. On the 1-8 of September, he was rendering his service in the parish of Rajakumary which is a famous Marian Pilgrimage centre in Idukki diocese. He is also busy with stitching habits for the brothers of our province.

St Alphonsa feast

We are happy that this year we celebrated the feast of StAlphonsa, our patron, with its due solemnity. On 28th July we had invited a good number of priests and sisters from our neighbourhood. Br Joseph Puthenpurackal was kind enough to come over andcelebrate holy Eucharist; he also gave a one-hour talk which was so appealing to the gathering. We gave *payasam* to the public and supper to all invited.

Independence Day

On the day of Independence and the feast of Assumption of Our lady into heaven, a good number of people from our neighbourhood participated in the liturgical event.

Onam

Fathers and brothers from the diocese of Idukki who reside in our Ashram celebratedonam in a colourful way. In spite of constant rainy days, Onam celebration was good. Due to rain, the *Unjal* was swinging alone outside! And, all celebrations were restricted to indoors!

Sister Sickness

As a surprise, sister sickness visited Br. Mattattil and he had to undergo treatment in Medicity, Cherpunkal. Finally, he is out of the woods!

UPDATES FROM SANJO CAPUCHIN ASHRAM, UNDER PARASALA EPARCHY

We, friars from Parasala wish you a happy feast of St Francis, our father.

Br George Antony Assaricheril, the Provincial Minister laid the foundation stone for the new Capuchin Ashram named Sanjo Capuchin Ashram on September 28, 2022, in the presence of Msgr. Jose Konnathuvilla, Vicar General of Parasala, District vicar, religious, priests, and laity. The construction of the new ashram is progressing well under the direction of Fr Joseph Keeprath OFM Cap and Br John Aikkara. Br John Aikkara and Br Thomas Padipurackal now serve in the Diocese of Parasala. We now serve in four parishes. Br John is a parish priest at Rosa Mystica M.C.C. Aruvikuzhy (Ashram Church) and St Thomas M.C.C. Konnikonam. Br Thomas Padipura is parish priest at St Thomas M.C.C Kankuzhy and St Mary's Punalal. We are looking after four parishes under Kattakada Ecclesiastical district. All our priestly work here is going well. We have parish ministry as well as pastoral and social works under the direction of the Bishop. The Provincial Minister came to visit us and celebrated mass. We observed *Dukrana Perunal* in its entirety in Kankuzhy parish, and Br Joseph Puthenpurackal held a bible convention there. Our definitory is very friendly to us. It is a new place, culture, language, and experience.....



SYRO-MALABAR MISSION

Adhilabad, Chanda & Jagdalpur

ASSISI BHAVAN, CHENNUR

Greetings and festal wishes of our Brother Francis from Assisi Bhavan

Summer camp

We had arranged keyboard, dance, martial arts and music classes for the children of our school and for the children from our locality during the summer holidays in the month of May. The camp was for almost one month. Around 35 students were attending the classes. In the beginning of April, for 2 weeks there was Navodaya coaching for the children who are interested to appear for the Navodaya exam along with volleyball coaching under the guidance of Fr. Anish.

Welcome

This year too we are blessed with the presence of Regent Br. Bijo. Br. Bijo and Br. Anoop came to this mission for their regency on the 30th of May. We welcomed them cordially to our mission. We wish them a pleasant stay here in this Syro-Malabar mission.

Feast of Our Guardian

We celebrated the feast of our beloved brother Fr. Antony Alphonse on the 16th of June. Fathers and Sisters from our neighbouring community were there for the festal dinner. Fr. Alphonse is really a brother who unites our community

and makes alive our community. We are so blessed by the presence and guidance of Fr. Antony Alphonse.

Flood

In the first and second week of July, we had heavy rain and the people of our locality were affected by the severe flood. Some of the houses collapsed and the cultivation of the people was also affected a lot. We visited the villages where the flood was badly affected and did need help.

Our Guests

We were happy to welcome the sisters of Fr. Tony. They were with us for 1 week. Fathers and sisters from our neighbouring communities often nourish us with their visits.

Parish Ministry

Under the leadership of Fr. Anish our Church is so vibrant and growing. We have regular house visits and village ministries.

Assisi School

The reopening of our school was on 13th of June. This year a good number of students have joined our school. Since the number is increasing we had to buy a new vehicle for our school. We have bought a school bus. This year, three teachers from Manipur and two from Meghalaya have joined our teaching staff. We are so proud to say that 4 of our students got seats at Jawahar Navodaya School.

Ministries

Brothers are engaged in various ministries along with school and parish ministries. Fr. Tony had gone to teach the

keyboard to the children of our diocese. A camp was arranged by the diocese for 2 weeks in the pastoral center for the children and youth of Adilabad diocese to give them some training in keyboard and dance. The Keyboard class was taken by Fr. Tony. Around 40 children attended the class.

Fr. Anish had gone to Jagadlpur for giving a retreat to the novices of SABS Congregation. His retreat was so appreciated by the sisters.





SEVA SADAN TEKUMATLA

Greetings of love and peace to all brothers. Wish a very happy feast of St.Padre Pio, the patron saint of Seva Sadan Ashram Tekumatla. We wish everybody a very happy feast of St.Francis our father

Medical Camp

We extend our service of medical camp to the needy sick people of Tekumatla and two other neighbouring villages namely Pagadapally and Gangipally. The medical camps are conducted once a month in two villages. Every month we have a medical camp at Tekumatla and one of the above-mentioned villages. About 80 to 120 patients are attended and given free medicines. . A Doctor named Dr. Soujanya from Bellampally comes every month to assist us with the medical camp. The doctor herself is from a poor family and so she understands the need of the helpless backward poor families. Thanks to the doctor who generously spends her Sunday holiday for poor patients in this area. The Samaritan sisters of Tekumatla community assist the doctor with check-up and distributing medicines. Very many thanks to you dear sisters. Most of the beneficiaries are old aged people who by themselves are not able to go to distant hospitals. This service is supported by our Provincial and thanks to the concern and interest of the province to support this mission.

Guests

We were graced by the visit of a few priests during the last few months. Fr. Alphonse from Chennur community visited us along with two regent brothers Br Anup and Bijo. Fr. Damurl and Suvarnaraju , Capuchins of Marymatha province visited us along with their youngest brother Fr. Benchamin Lasalette from Kovvur Parish. Fr. Benchamin is the one who started a Lasalette community in the Adilabad diocese. Dear Fr. Benchamin, we wish you everything the best in your endeavours. Fr. Dinny, Fr. Jose CMI and Br. Subin also paid a visit to us. Dear friends come again

Br. Regent

Br Bijo, a regent joined our Sevasadan community in the second week of June. Three days a week he will be teaching in the Assisi School at Chennur and four days a week he will be here in this community. A hearty welcome to dear Br. Bijo. Thanks to the Provincial superiors for this arrangement.

Family Prayers

As we have only two families here we conduct family prayers once a month in their families. The Samaritan sisters and Br. Bijo also joins the family prayer.

After a little lapse of time, we had our CRI meeting and Brs. Prashant and Bijo participated in the CRI meeting

May we wish all a very happy and grace-filled feast St. Francis.



NAMIBIAN MISSION

ST LUKE MISSION, SIBINDA, NAMIBIA

Greetings of peace and joy from St Luke mission, Namibia. After a long interval, once again, I would like to share with you some of the news from this mission. Next month will mark four years since we constructed our friary in this new mission. We have 16 outstation churches spread out in a 100 km range. Although all these communities are poor, they are very much interested in church activities. Many Angolan refugees are also part of our church. They are very strong in their faith and are very committed to church matters.

In our mission centre, we had scarcity of water. Three years ago, with the help of a German fund, I dug a borehole in the mission ground. Now we have a lot of water. All the people around the mission are depending on this borehole for water. And as you know, here, people keep goats and cattle, and it is their sole income. They find it difficult to water their animals. Therefore, they approached me for help. I supply water in our vehicles to their farms and houses. They are ready to meet the fuel expenses. We take a pump and a 1000-litre tank in the pick-up. I began it during the COVID-19 time when the church was closed and I was spending most of my time reading and in other activities. People appreciate this ministry very much; even our traditional opponents, like Seventh-day Adventists, are now our good friends.

Also, as we are working in the village, people find it difficult to top up their electricity. Here we have the system of

prepaid electricity. You can charge your metre even with 10 Namibian dollars. To buy 10 dollars of electricity in batteries, they have to travel 75 km to the next town or depend on someone who goes to the town. To alleviate their problem, I bought a machine from the company where one can buy electricity, pay for Dish TV, and even charge their cell phones. People are so happy with this new service and they are always in our friary compound.

We have also started a flour mill (Hammer Mill) with the help of our dear Fr George Antony, the provincial. It is working very well. People had no access to a mill. They were selling their maize and Mahangu, and other grains and buying the flour at double the price. And now they have a flour mill near them, which solves many of their problems. Our new mission is still in its infancy stage, and we need a lot of fund to develop this mission. One should not get the idea that we are only providing material help to the people. We have built three outstation churches with the help of agencies and are waiting for the blessing. We do not have a bishop, and it has been almost two years since the office has been vacant, and now Rome is in the process of appointing a bishop. When we have a bishop, we will start blessing all these churches. At present, people are praying in these churches.

Our dear provincial councilor, Fr George Nedumparambil visited this mission last month. He encouraged all the friars and appreciated very much the work the friars were doing here. We were so happy to have him here. Although he spent only two weeks, he made a good impression on the minds of the people. Again this week, our General Definitor for Africa made his official visit, and he was taken up by our

mission work. We were all edified by his simplicity and brotherly concern. Thank you, brothers, for your kind visit. We wish all the brothers the feast of St Francis, our father as his feast is coming close to us.

Thank you,
Fraternally yours,
Br Varghese Pulikkkiyil OFMCap.

ST MICHAEL CATHOLIC MISSION OUTJO

Warmest Greetings from St Michael Catholic Mission Outjo, and Holy Spirit Parish Khorixas, Namibia...

We are really enjoying the protection of God in our day-to-day life in the missions. We are happy to reach you with our streams of events from our mission.

The activities of the parish and school are going on well.

We conducted training programs and workshops for different pious groups. Children are preparing for the sacraments of baptism, the first Holy Communion, and confirmation. We received a new vehicle for our new mission.

We were having the central deanery meeting, which was a time of information sharing and improving our pastoral activities. The day for the elderly was celebrated well with Holy Mass, special prayers, and meals together in all churches. The house visits and blessings in Holy Cross Church, Kamanjab, are almost done. A few marriage blessings are done during the months of July and August.

The school and hostel opened after the winter holidays for the second term on the 17th of July. There was sports competition between nearby schools. It was time for them to show their talents. We thank our sisters, and teachers for lovingly and patiently training our learners. We also conducted interviews for next year's learners.

We had harvesting of the Brim fish, which was the hard work of Fr Jose.

Br George Nedumparambil made his fraternal visit, and his presence added spice to our Capuchin brotherhood. Fr Norbert, the general councillor, visited us. It was a wonderful time with him.

And that's all from St Michael Mission Namibia.

We pray for you and wish you all a happy feast of our seraphic father.

HOLY FAMILY MISSION KATIMA MULILO

Hai, dear brothers! Greetings to all from the Namibian mission. We are indeed happy to meet you all on these pages of Internos. Let us share with you some of our mission joys.

Mission life

Mission life is getting into its full-fledged form after the outbreak of COVID-19. Parish life is active again. People are slowly coming back to the church. The workshops and weekend programmes have restarted.

Vicariate youth gathering

The Vicariate youth gathering for this year was conducted at the Holy Family mission. Youths from all the parishes and missions in Rundu Vicariate came for the rally. We hosted 450 youths at the mission. We had lessons, sports, and music activities conducted during the youth gathering. Participants expressed their satisfaction and appreciation as they went back.

New churches

As the church is growing, we have to look for more space for the people to gather together for worship. This year we were blessed to finish the construction of two more churches: St James Church, Isize and St. Annes Church, Kalumba. Both of these churches were entirely funded for their construction by local contributions. As the administrator of Rundu Vicariate came for the opening of St James Church at Isize, he congratulated the people for their great achievement. We thank God the Almighty for making us the instruments for this work.

The opening of the Guest House

At the mission, we had a very old building that was not in good condition to use. After consultation with Br Provincial and the friars, we decided to rebuild it, aiming to make it a guest house which can be given to people who come for a short stay. By the grace of God, we reconstructed it and it is starting to function very well now. Our accommodation facility is one of the lowest-rate facilities in our town. We consider this facility as a project for self-reliance in the mission.

Visitation of the General Councilor

The Namibian mission was very much glad to welcome BrNobert, our General Councillor, to the mission. On the 4th

of September, he came to Namibia. BrJinesh Xavier, the delegate of the mission, went in person to welcome him. He visited all the Capuchin missions in Namibia and met all the friars. On the 7th of September, we had a common meeting with Br Nobert. He was overjoyed to see us and the mission work we are doing. He thanked and congratulated the Province for sending friars to work at the mission. He went back on the 8th of September. We thank the General Curia and especially Br Nobert for his kind visit.

Guests

We were very much glad to have some guests among us. Fr George Nedumparambil made a fraternal visit to the Namibian mission as he was travelling to Germany for his pastoral work. The Provincials of the SH congregation from Idukki province and Delhi province visited us as they came to visit Namibia. Thank you, friends, for your kind visit.

As we approach the feast of our dear father, St Francis, we wish you all a joyous feast and a blessing from our father, St Francis. Let us remember each other in our prayers that we will be able to continue this mission with more love. Until we meet again on these pages, goodbye.









NIRMALA MATHA CUSTODY

Assam - Meghalaya

CAPUCHIN HOUSE, GUWAHATI

Dear brothers, The Nirmala Matha Custody friars would like to share with you the following significant events that occurred in some of our centres.

Economo cum Principals' meeting

The Economo cum Principals' meeting was held in the Capuchin House, Guwahati on 20th August 2022. Friars who are the economos of their respective fraternities and principals of their respective schools attended the meeting. The meeting was called with the purpose of making the brothers know about the importance of proper accounting and the need to play a responsible role as principals in the school. The animators of the meeting were Br. Jose Pandianparambil, the Regional Economo and Br. Renny VP, the Custos. The meeting dealt with various aspects of religious life. The animators spoke about many subjects regarding fraternal life, pastoral activities, administration, personal commitment and human formation. The meeting concluded by 3.30 pm and the brothers departed to their respective fraternities.

Birthday of Fr. Renny, the Custos

The Community celebrated the Birthday of Br. Renny VP, the Custos and Guardian of the House on 10th July 2022. Friars from nearby communities attended the birthday Celebration which was held in the evening. There was a fraternal meal prepared in honor of Br. Renny VP, the Custos. It was a

wonderful moment to celebrate the birthday of the Custos, who is also the guardian of the Community. The community was very grateful to the brothers who have come for the celebration.

Welcoming a New Friar

The community heartily welcomed Br. James Thekkemuriyil, who had come to work for the Nirmala Custody for a while, on July 8, 2022. He is appointed at Mariampur community. Br. Renny VP, the Custos and Guardian and Br. Jose the Economo extended a warm welcome to Br. James.

Guardian's Meeting and Welcome of new Friar

The Guardians' meeting was held in the community on 10th September 2022. All the guardians from all the fraternities participated in it. Br. Renny VP, the Custos and Br. Jose Pandianparambil, the Economo, were the main animators of the meeting. The meeting started at 9.00 am and got over at 4.00 pm. The Custos took the opportunity to welcome Br. Jobis to the Custody. In the name of all he expressed his gratitude to the Provincial for sending him to the Custody. At the end of the program the Custos thanked everyone and wished them a safe journey back to their respective fraternities.



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI COMMUNITY, MATHA MAJERBURI

Retreat for Children

A Retreat for Garo Children was arranged for all the children of the Parish from 1-3 July 2022. It was held in MatiaGaropara. Fr. Brilliant Sangma OFM Cap with his team from Mariampur came to animate the retreat. Many children participated in the retreat and benefitted a lot. We thank Fr. Brilliant for sparing time to come and animate the retreat.

Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

The feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel was celebrated in a simple manner in the Parish Church on 16th July 2022. CMC Sisters arranged the program of the day. Neighboring fathers and sisters were invited to the festal celebration. Br. Lamphrang was the main celebrant of the Holy Mass. And Br. Joro, Br. Jones and Br. Gregorious joined for the lunch after the Holy Mass.

Independence Day Celebration in the School

The School community celebrated the Independence Day 2022 in a very grand manner. Students performed their cultural programs beautifully and showed their patriotic love towards the country through their programs. Teachers helped the students in preparing the programs very well. The chief guest of the day was the Principal of the School, Br. Lamphrang OFM Cap. At the end of the program the Principal thanked everybody especially the students for the beautiful program they had put up. And he appreciated the teachers for their cooperation.

Teacher's Day Celebration

The Teacher's Day was celebrated in a very grand way this year in the school. Students performed various cultural dances, remixes, songs, skits and fashion show. The teachers were greeted with gifts and they received lots of wishes from the students. The day was filled with enjoyment and the principal of the School, Br. Lamphrang thanked everyone at the end of the program.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COMMUNITY, BYRNIHAT

One-Day Convention

A one-day convention for all the faithful especially of the Parish was conducted on 2th April 2022 under the initiative of Br. Anil Joseph OFM Cap and Br. KmenlangNongrum OFM Cap. The one-day convention is arranged on every first Saturday of the month. A few people arrived on the opening day of the convention. In the morning there was the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration which was then followed by the sharing of the Word of God. Counselling and the sacrament of Reconciliation was made available to all. A good number of youths, children and adults earnestly participated in the following conventions. This initiative is a great help for the spiritual revival of the lives of the Catholics in and around the Parish. The Convention goes on upto these days and the number of faithful participated in it grows up from time to time.

Birthday Celebrations

The community celebrated the Birthday of Br. Anil Joseph on 5th August 2022. The day was solemnized by the celebration of the Holy Mass at 6.30 pm in the Parish Church. Friars from nearby fraternities and other religious communities participated in the celebration of the Holy Mass. Br. Renny VP, the Custos was present on the occasion and he was very grateful to Br. Anil Joseph for the commitment he has been showing in serving the faithful of the Parish and bringing up the Parish structurally.

The Community also celebrated the Birthday of Br. Sunil Kattupara on 24th August 2022. The community could arrange the celebration in a very simple and small manner in which only the community members and other associates participated in it. The community remains grateful to God for the gift of Br. Sunil Kattupara, his religious life and his commitment to the call of God. The community thanked him for his selfless service to the faithful of the parish and also to the needs of the community.



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI COMMUNITY, SAHSNIANG

Retreat for Women

The retreat for the women's group was arranged on 6th August 2022 and Br. Paul Koolipurackal, the Parish Priest of Mowjem, animated the retreat. Many women came and attended the program. It was beneficial for the women group to have a retreat in a very charismatic way. They appreciated Br. Paul Koolipurackal for animating the retreat so well. The Parish Priest, Br. Genstar Nongkhlaw thanked Br. Paul Koolipurackal and the faithful for attending the retreat voluntarily. He wished them all a good family life after the retreat.

Youth Retreat

A Youth Retreat was arranged in the Parish on 15th July 2022. Fr. Festus Shadap SDB came and animated the Retreat. Youth from all the villages of the Parish participated in the retreat. The retreat was very lively and the youth experienced newness in life. They were grateful to Fr. Festus Shadap for animating so well. At the end of the retreat the Parish Priest thanked each and every one, especially the animator for the successful retreat.

ST. PADRE PIO SEMINARY, UMKTIEH

Visits of the Church leaders from Mowjem

On 5th August 2022 Br. Paul Koolipurackal came along with the church leaders from Mowjem for a visit. They had come for a convention at MSFS Retreat Centre Umroi. The community warmly welcomed them and was happy to receive them. The community provided them tea and snacks. The group enjoyed the moment and moved around seeing the beautiful scenery of the surroundings of the Seminary.

Meeting of the Committee of Ratio Formationis

There was a meeting with regard to the subject on Ratio Formationis on 1st June 2022. It was attended by Br. Renny VP (Custos), Br. Francis V., Br. Tomy P., Br. Kuriakose, Br. Kmenlang N., Br. Sam Z., Br. Genstar N., Br. Mathew K., Br. John P., Br. Biju M., and Br. Ricky M

Canonical Visit

On 12th July 2022 Br. Renny VP, the Custos, paid a Canonical visitation to our community. There was a personal meeting of all the Staffs and students and a general meeting with all. The visit was a blessing for the community as there were opportunities to share the community experiences with the Regional Superior and especially to talk about the solutions to the many requirements of the community.

Inauguration Day

On 13th July 2022, we had the inauguration of the New Academic Year 2022-2023. Br. Renny VP, our Custos, had come to officially declare it opened. It was attended also by Br. Kmenlang Nongrum, the Vocation Promoter.

Independence Day

Our Country celebrates its 75th anniversary of its Independence this year. Our Community too on this day 15th August 2022, wholeheartedly solemnized this event by raising our National Flag, parade and organizing lot of activities to mark this great event.



ST. ALPHONSA COMMUNITY KHERMIA

First Holy Communion

The community at Khermia arranged and prepared the first communion for the children of the parish for the first time after becoming a parish on 31 July 2022. Seven children received the first holy communion on that day. Br. Francis Valiyakunnel presided over the Holy Eucharist and concelebrated by Br. Simon Ekka. It was a great privilege for the families of the children who received the first Holy Communion. The people were thankful to God for the great gift of the sacrament and more especially for providing ministers who could administer the sacrament to the siblings.

Welcome to Fr. Brian and Fr. Joslie, Capuchins from Tamlu Nagaland

On 30 July 2022 the community whole-heartedly welcomed Fr. Brian and Fr. Joslie, the two Capuchins from Tamlu Nagaland. They spent a good time in the community and interacted with the community members. The community members were very happy to welcome them and they in return expressed their gratitude to the brothers of the community for the hospitality.

Visit of Br. Kuriakose Kattoopara

Br. Kuriakose Kattoopara, the parish priest and guardian of Lamabari Community visited our community on 10 August 2022. The community welcomed him whole heartedly along with some people from nearby houses.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COMMUNITY, MOWJEM

Grandparents Day

The Community arranged a day for the Grandparents on 24th July 2022. The day began with a short talk given by Br. Lamphrang OFM Cap in the morning which was then followed by the Holy Mass. Br. Lamphrang M. presided over the Holy Eucharist and Br. Paul K. and Br. Nicholas Marak were the concelebrants. Faithful from all the substations of the parish came and participated in the celebration. The day ended with the adoration and benediction which was animated by Br. Lamphrang. The grandparents who had completed 50 years and 25 years of marriage respectively were gifted with one blanket each. The faithful remained grateful to Br. Paul for the goodness and help he showed to them.

Teacher's Day Celebration

The school community at Mowjem celebrated the teacher's day on 5th September 2022. Students both big and small participated very enthusiastically. The students gave performances including brief skits, singing, and dancing. Teachers were felicitated and gifted with the gifts by the students. The day was filled with joy and happiness. The teachers were very much thankful to the students who worked hard to arrange a beautiful stage and decorated it so well. The celebration ended with a lunch together.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI COMMUNITY, MAWLANGDEP

Convention of the Faithful

The Parish Community held the convention of the faithful on 10 July 2022. Fr. Joby MSFS was the animator of the convention. Both men and women participated in the convention. The convention was very much beneficial for parish community. It was a great help for the spiritual renewal of the parishioners. The Br. Gwmshar Daimary, the Parish Priest thanked the faithful for participating enthusiastically in the convention and all those who helped the convention to take place successfully.

Family Cell and Parent's Day Celebration

On 13 July 2022 the Community celebrated the Family Cell and Parent's Day Celebration in the Parish. Fr. George Jaraiñ and Mr. Julius Nongdhar animated the program. Many married couples participated in the program. The youth of the parish too paid a tribute and respect to the parents for their active participation in bringing up their children in the family. The day was a memorable day for the parish and the Parish Priest was grateful to God and to the people who responded well by participating in the program.

Independence Day 2022

The 15th August is always a great and memorable day for the whole country and for the school at Mawlangdep in particular. The students and the teachers under the leadership of the school Principal celebrated the Independence Day 2022 in a very grand and auspicious way. The program consisted of

the flag hoisting, the salute, the singing of the National Anthem, the Independence Day speech from the student and then the message from the school Principal. The students did very well in all the activities which made the celebration to go on successfully.

Farewell to Br. Sam Zachrias

The community at Mawlangdepbade good bye to Br. Sam Zachrias who was on transfer to the mother Province, Kerala. The community was grateful to Br. Sam for his service in the community and the school for a year. The parishioners were invited to come and bid farewell to Br. Sam on 5 September 2022. Along with Br. Sam, Sr. Elsit and 7 other postulants were given the farewell on the same day. The school community bade farewell to Br. Sam on 8 September 2022. The students and teachers remained grateful to Br. Sam for his service in the school and they expressed their feelings of gratitude and love. In the name of the community and the school Br. Gwmshar Daimary, the Parish Priest thanked Br. Sam for all he had contributed to the betterment of the School and the Parish and he wished him all God's blessing in the new place.





ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, LAMABARI

Independence Day Celebration

This year, Independence Day preparations began three to four days prior to August 15. For the preparation Br. Kuriakose and Br. Jithin arranged a rally for all the students. Students took part enthusiastically in the rally. And on the 15th August there was a flag hoisting and the singing of the National Anthem. Br. Kuriakose was the chief guest of the day. Children enjoyed in celebrating the Independence Day.

Village touring arranged

Br. Kuriakose Kattoopara, the Parish Priest, arranged a village touring for the sisters from 26th August 2022. It was really fortunate that a group of Holy Family sisters visited each family with all of the individuals there. Talking with ample time for reconciliation, prayer, counselling, etc. It was indeed a kind of renewal of the family in the family. Br. Kuriakose was very thankful to the sisters for cooperating with the arrangement of village touring.

Visit of Br. Saji

The community was very happy to welcome Br. Saji on 25 August 2022, who came for the holidays from Bahrain Mission. He was accompanied by Br. Renny, the Custos. Br. Kuriakose and Br. Jithin extended their love and gratitude to Br. Saji for paying a visit and sharing his mission experience with them.



ALVERNA ASHRAM SULTAN BATHERY

Greetings from Alverna Sultan Batherly.

Alverna's day of joy was completed on June 15th with the arrival of all the pre-novices of the year 2022–2023. We have three brothers from St. Joseph Province, eight each from St. Thomas Province, Pavantma Province, and Nirmala Matha Custody of Assam-Meghalaya.

Preparing with Prayer

We had our retreat before our reopening on June 17th. It was animated by Fr. Vincent Kurisumootil from Vimalagiri Retreat Centre, Pattaram, Kannur. It was a prayerful and zealous experience. The retreat was over by the 20th of June.

Happy Birthday, la la la

On the 23rd of June, we celebrated the birthday of Br. Lijo P. J., our beloved brother. On the same day, we were visited by the building committee of the Pavantma Province.

Inauguration

The inauguration of our academic year was held on the 22nd of June with the motto "Towards the Master in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi."

At the Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Thomas Karingadayil, the provincial of Pavanatma Province, was the main celebrant. Fr. Jaison Kalan was the chief guest who inaugurated the ceremony. Fr. Xavier Kochurumbil, the councillor of St. Joseph Province, Fr. Biju Mathew, the rector of Padre Pio Seminary, Shillong, and Fr. Geroqe Kuzhivilayil, the Guardian of San Pio Ashram, Panamaram, were also present for the function.

It was a memorable and joyful day. The *Lectio Brevis* was presented by Br. Srudhin, the vice-rector.

All for the love of Jesus.

The feast of the Sacred Heart on June 24th was a day of prayer and happiness. We had our special prayer section and house blessing in the evening. Br. Rinesuo from Nirmala Matha custody delivered an inspiring message, exhorting us to fill our hearts and make our love perfect with the love of Jesus.

Feasts and celebrations

On July 3rd we celebrated the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. We had a solemn Eucharistic celebration in our chapel followed by a festal lunch. On that day, all the staff went to attend a retreat except Br. Srudhin.

We celebrated the feast of St. Alphonsa, the first saint of Kerala. We started the nine days of novena on July 19 as the preparation for the feast. On the evening of July 28th, we had a solemn Eucharistic celebration by Br. Srudhin.

On August 11th, we celebrated the feast of St. Clare. We had a special prayer section led by Br. Martinian. We had a solemn mass in our chapel.

On August 15th we celebrated Independence Day and also the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On that day, our Guardian, Br. Siby celebrated the solemn mass. After the mass, we hoisted the national flag. Br. Jose delivered a beautiful message in honour of our freedom fighters.

Be with the master.

On July 26th we had our monthly recollection. Br. George Kuzhivilayil animated the session. Also, on September 14th, we had a monthly recollection. It was conducted by Br. Biju Madahvath. On the days of recollection, we made our confession and spent more time before the Blessed Sacrament.

Arpoo 2K22

On the 7th of September, we began our Onam celebrations with competitions under the leadership of Br. Srudhin and Br. Siby. On September 8th we celebrated Onam. We had a splendid celebration with a sumptuous meal of 21 dishes. We also prepared *pookalam* in our chapel. We had three guests from Padre Pio Ashram, Panamaram. We shared lunch together with them. On the 11th of September, we were invited to the Onam celebrations of our locality. We shared our fraternal joy with the people. We were specially invited to the volleyball match. We won the match. On the same day, September 8th, we celebrated the nativity of Our Lady. We had a solemn Eucharistic celebration. The mass was celebrated by Br. Lijo P.J. He gave a good sermon about the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Onam.

Fraternal Visit

We had guests in the person of Br. Thomas Kalapurackal, Br. Jose Karingadayil, Br. Linto George, Br. Albin K Abraham, Br. Tinson Sebastian, Br. Saji, Br. Antony, Br. Jijo, Br. Joseph, Br. Jose Nirappel. Br. Provincial also visited us and Br. E. K. Joseph made his presence here known by teaching Franciscanism.







BEST WISHES TO OUR ORDINADI

Br. Anand Shaji Vellacakudiyil



Br. Anand was born on November 22, 1992 to the late Mr. Shaji Joseph and Mrs. Daisy Shaji in the parish of Anikad that belongs to the eparchy of Kothamangalam. He has an elder brother. Br. Anand joined the capuchin order on June 10, 2010. He did his novitiate in Vellarikkund, Kasarkod district. Br. Anand made his simple profession on May 15, 2015, and made his solemn profession on April 30, 2021.

Our community is blessed with the esteemed presence of Br. Anand. He is a very simple friar, who tries to contribute his maximum to the community. A person who is ever ready to help his companions in all the possible ways he can, physically, materially and spiritually. He is a man of relationships. He builds up and maintains fruitful and effective relationships. He is a person endowed with many good qualities, and also very hard-working and committed person with a sense of responsibility. One of the peculiar characteristics of Br. Anand is his love for nature and animals. He has served our community with generosity, and we have profited a lot from him.

It would indeed be a blessing for any community to have a proficient and committed friar like Br. Anand. Dear Anand, we take this opportunity to congratulate and wish you all the blessings of God as you are about to take up new responsibilities, and we pray that you may be a blessing to many people. We wish you a bright future and a joyful Franciscan life. Br. Anand, we are really grateful to you for all that you have been to us. We extend God's blessings, and be assured of our continuous prayers as you are stepping towards the altar of the Lord on October 31, 2022.



**Br. Joel Mathew
Vaniapurackal**

Br. Joel was born on January 3, 1993 to Mr. Mathukutty Chacko and Mrs. Mercy Mathew. He belongs to the parish of St. Joseph Church, Veroor, in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry. Br. Joel has a younger sister. He joined the Capuchin Order after having completed his plus-two on June 4. He made his simple profession on May 15, 2015 and solemn profession on April 30, 2020.

Br. Joel is a gifted pianist and graceful musician. With his magical music he draws the heart of the people closer to God. Br. Joel is a very good in academic line and plays different

Games with exceptional skills. He is also good at computer related works and he has proven himself with photo and video editing works. The community has always benefited by the very many good talents of Br. Joel and everyone has great admiration for the various God-given talents.

Br. Joel is a simple friar, a true Franciscan who tries to live out his vocation with utmost sincerity. He has deep passion and commitment for this way of life. Br. Joel is always full of joy and enthusiasm, and he makes sure to radiate this joy around him. Anyone who comes closer to him is touched by his love and concerns. He is ever ready to help anyone who is in need. Br. Joel is very serious about his life and vocation. He has great dreams about his Franciscan life and is continuously striving hard to materialize his Franciscan vision. Br. Joel will be ordained by His Grace Mar Joseph Perumthottam on November 3, at St. Joseph Church Veroor.

Br. Joel, as you are stepping out of the formation house and nearing the altar of our lord we congratulate you and wish you God's abundant blessings. We have always profited by your loving presence and we are sure that you will continue to be so wherever you are. We are really proud of you and happy to say that you will be an asset to the Capuchin Order, our province and to the different communities. Br. Joel once again we wish you all the best in all your future endeavours, and we promise our continued prayers and support.

Br. Emmanuel Jose Erathel

**“I can do all these through him
who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13)**

Br. Emmanuel Jose was born
as the youngest child of Mr. Jose

Mathew and Mrs. Salimma Jose in the Erathel family at Chemmannar on October 11, 1993. He has got an elder brother. After having completed his Higher Secondary schooling, he joined the Capuchin Order at Bharananganam on June 4, 2011. He made his first Profession on May 15, 2015 and made the Perpetual Profession on April 31, 2021.

Br. Emmanuel is a loving and caring brother to everybody. He does everything with a wonderful gentle touch, and it brightens the community in which he lives. He is incredibly creative in his words, actions, and also in his whole life. His friendship is valuable and unique. He is endowed with the craft of carpentry and painting and Vidyabhavan benefited much from him. Above all, he is a man filled with enthusiasm for the Lord and His people. Dear brother, as you are stepping towards the ministerial priesthood of our Lord, we rejoice with you and thank the Almighty for the gifts He has bestowed on you. We wish you everything best for your future ministry. May the good Lord bless you abundantly. May He strengthen and guide you in all your ways.



Br. Jince George Vattavayalil



Br. Jince George was born on October 27, 1994 at Chethippuzha, Changanassery. He was born as the

third child of Mr. Georgekutty V.A and Mrs. Jessy George. He is blessed with two elder sisters. Br. Jince belongs to Sacred Heart Church, Chethippuzha. After completing his studies, he realized his call to be a follower of Christ in the path of St. Francis of Assisi. He became a member of our Order by making the first commitment on May 15, 2015, and perpetual profession on April 30, 2021.

Br. Jince is a person who can radiate joy to all who come in contact with him. His jovial character makes him dear to all. He is blessed with community skills, and proved himself to be an effective preacher besides being capable of organizing events in its fullness. He is a person who renders his best to every responsibility entrusted to him. By his whole hearted commitment, he offers himself to all, and this brotherly character makes him very special and well accepted. He is a good listener to the needs and worries of others. His presence is a great blessing for the whole community. He is committed to his call and lives out his Franciscan vocation with great contentment.

Br. Jince Gorge will be ordained by His Excellency Mar Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop of the Diocese of

Changanassery on November 5, 2022 at his native parish, Sacred Heart Church Chethippuzha. Dear Br.Jince, as you are about to participate in the priestly mission of Christ we wish everything best for your missionary life. Let the good God bless you abundantly, so that you may become an instrument of God's love and peace to all

Br. Adarsh Thomas Vadakkethu

Our Father St Francis considered every brother as a gift given by God. When the Lord gave him brothers, as we read in his Testament, he thanked God for each of them who came to join his fraternity. It is with the same enthusiasm that we praise and



thank God for the person of Brother Adarsh Vadakketh. On October 3, 1994 the Vadakketh family of Mr. Thomas and Mrs.Thressiakkutty were overjoyed at the birth of their second child Adarsh. At the completion of his studies at Valiyathovala Christ Raj Higher Secondary School, Adarsh clearly recognised the inner voice of God inviting him to work in the Lord's Vineyard. As a young man imbued with the love of God, he wanted to follow in the footsteps of Saint Francis in serving God and his people; hence, he joined the Capuchins in 2010. He made his first commitment to God in 2015 and the final surrender of himself came in April 2021.

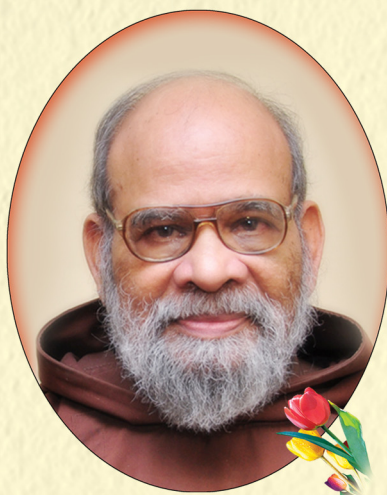
Br Adarsh is especially noted for his calm nature, committed religious life, deep convictions, and friendly manner, which makes his endearing presence strongly felt in the community. He can never be a detached observer or an idle bystander. His winning smile is another asset that endears him to everyone. His Motto in priestly life is “to live is to love; to love is to get worn out”. We, as his companions and brothers, have only good things to speak about this determined young man. We are inspired by his commitment, prayerfulness, and maturity. Above all, these good qualities spread a light of prudence, creativity, and intelligence. As he is going to get ordained by Mar Jose Pulikal, the Bishop of Kanjirappally on December 31, 2022, dear Br Adarsh, we wish you the very best, and pray that the good Lord keeps you ever dear to Him.

Br. Abin Jacob Thekkumkattil



Br Abin Jacob, son of Mr. Raju Jacob and Molly Raju was born on April 19, 1995. He belongs to St. Ephrem's church Thamarakunnu in the Eparchy of Kanjirappally. He is the eldest son of the good and pious couple, and elder brother to Bibin and Maria. Br Abin joined the Order after his secondary education at seraphic seminary Bharananganam. Right from the first year of formation, he has a unique vision about life and has also proved to be a genuine Franciscan through his words and deeds. He wants to live a simple life, and likes to contribute his maximum to the well-being of the community. He is definitely one of the best in the batch in terms of academic excellence. He is always open to the needs of others, be it academic, physical, material or spiritual. He is, indeed, a man of relationships, he builds and maintains fruitful and effective relationships. Uniqueness of his personality is that he is a man of contemplation and action. Further he has also good leadership quality, missionary zeal and also good in music especially in playing thabala. It would, indeed, be a blessing for any community to have a proficient and committed friar like Br Abin. He will definitely suit any role that is assigned to him because he is ever ready to do any service.

Now as he is entering in to the ministerial priesthood we are all sure that he would reach greater heights in his efforts to spread the values of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God. We take this opportunity to congratulate Br. Abin and wish all the blessings he stands in need as he is about to take up new ministries. Let him be the lamp that shines in the lives of many.



Br. Cyriac Pananthanam

(July 20th)

“I have put my spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations; He will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed, he will not break and a dimly burning wick he will not quench. He will faithfully bring forth justice” (Isaiah 42:3). These words of the prophet Isaiah spoken regarding the Messiah continues to reverberate in the lives of some of the followers of Jesus as well. Those who knew and have lived with Br. Cyriac will certainly vouch for the statement that Br. Cyriac belonged to the category of people who followed their master almost literally in this regard! Br. Cyriac with his silent services, and humble and simple lifestyle was indeed a genuine son of the Poverello of Assisi

Born on 11th July 1935 in a very devout Catholic family of Mr. Mathew and Mrs. Aley Pananthanam in the parish of Athirampuzha, of the present Archdiocese of Chaganacherry

Sebastian, as he was named in Baptism, grew up in piety and wisdom. He had his elementary education in the parish school at Athirampuzha and continued his primary school studies at K.E school at Mannanam from where he completed his VIII Standard. From his early days he must have been impressed by the poor, simple and humble life of the ‘Troubadour of Assisi’, whose life was a challenging invitation for a young man seeking after perfection. How he came into contact with the Capuchins is not very clear. But definitely, it must have been due to his habit of reading anything and everything that could be got hold of. Providence of the loving Lord had it that he got the chance of getting some piece of Franciscan literature as well as coming into contact with some Capuchin preachers who were active in the typical Capuchin Mission Retreats. Now, whatever may have been the ways the Lord made use of in making Br. Cyriac a Capuchin, the fact remains that he was faithful to the choice he made in his tender years, till the last breath of his life.

Following the loving invitation of the master to follow the poor man of Assisi, he joined the Capuchin Novitiate at Farangipet in Mangalore and was vested in the Capuchin habit in 1959, and made his first profession on 19th May 1960. This followed, a period of Professorium, that is a course of religious formation for the non-clerical candidates, at Kollam and Kotagiri. At the completion of Professorium, he made his solemn profession on 19th May 1963, at the Friary Kottagiri in Tamil Nadu. As a full-fledged Capuchin friar, Br. Cyriac started off his life’s journey, which led him to various Capuchin houses to render his generous services to his confreres, to the people around our ashrams and to those who came to him for material and spiritual helps. He had always a smiling face and a welcoming attitude to everyone, irrespective of their social status, economic

backgrounds, and religious affiliations. This approach made those who came to him comfortable in his presence.

In the meantime Br. Cyriac's family shifted their residence from Athrirampuzha to the parish of Paingottoor in the Diocese of Kothamangalam. Br. Cyriac's services were made available to the houses of the undivided Indian Capuchin province, as well as to the undivided St. Joseph province of Kerala. He served the fraternities at Kollam, Kotagiri, Kavalam, Bharangananam, Perambra, Payyannur, Bathery, Valiyathura, Muvattupuzha, Thellakom and the provincial house at S.H Mount. Impressed by the genuine Capuchin spirit and exemplary life of Br. Cyriac, his confreres elected him as a Provincial Councilor during the triennium of Br. Raymond Kavumpuram as the provincial Minister. In the various houses where was posted he rendered selfless services to the brothers and to everyone who was in need of his service in various capacities. At times he was in the kitchen or in the parlor, or doing the sundry household duties. In all these, he was very faithful and diligent, that was the experience of the brothers who lived with him.

In the infirmary, his service to the community and to the province at large was the recapitulation and submit of his life services, ever since he became a Capuchin Friar, namely, a life of prayer and radiating peace and contentment. It was something very remarkable in the life of Br. Cyriac and this was specially noted during his confinement within the four walls of the Infirmary room that he was very often found reading some book, periodical or News Paper. This certainly made him to spend the day without boredom! Anyone who visited him was certainly more rewarded than the little comfort the visitor could offer him in his life of loneliness, and pain.

One could never hear from him a word of complaint against anybody or anything. Although many things were not happening, as it should have been, especially in the context of the long and painful confinement to one's bed. The visitor, however, could leave Br. Cyriac's room without much prick of conscience for not having shown more fraternal love and care, to a confrere who spent his entire lifetime for the welfare of the province, and that of the individual friar who had the privilege of living with him.

Regarding his services in the different communities of the United Provinces of India and Kerala, one could honestly say that Br Cyriac did his best, and gave his maximum attention to the tasks entrusted to him, whether it be the work in the garden, or in the kitchen, or being in charge of the parlour, or guests department, etc. Now that he is no more with us, we can only wish and pray that the Lord send us such genuine friars to revitalize, and re energize all of us to live our Capuchin vocation in our own times. His life of commitment and services came to a happy conclusion on 20th July 2022, at around 11:30 am. During this period, the first batch of the friars was having their annual retreat in Assisi Renewal center. Receiving the news of the passing away of Br. Cyriac, many rushed to his bed side to pay him their fraternal homage and to pray for the departed soul. On the next day, at 8:00 am his mortal remains were brought from the mortuary at Marigiri hospital, and was kept in the chapel for the confreres, relatives and the general public to pay their last respects to the departed soul. During the course of the day, many including Mar. Jacob Murikan, the auxiliary bishop of Pala, came and prayed for the repose of his soul.

The Retreat programs were shortened on the concluding day, and the funeral services were conducted by Br. George

Antony, the provincial of St. Joseph's Province, with Br. Pauly Madasserry, the provincial of St. Thomas province and Br. Thomas Kalapurackal, the vicar provincial of Pavanatma province as concelebrants. In the presence of many confreres from the different Capuchin provinces, the members of the various religious communities of men and women and a good many lay people in and around Bharangananam he was laid to rest in the vault of Assisi Ashram, Bharangananam. May his soul rest in peace and may his tomb be a constant reminder to the friars to live their Capuchin vocation to the full.



Blessing of St. Francis

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May he show his face to you and be merciful to you,
May he turn his countenance to you and give you peace.
May the Lord bless you. Amen



The deeds you do may be the only sermon
some persons will hear today.

St. Francis