

# INTERNOS

DECEMBER 2022



*Babe of Bethlehem*





*In loving memory of our dear brothers  
Br. Tony Simon Pulladan &  
Br. Bijo Palampurackal*



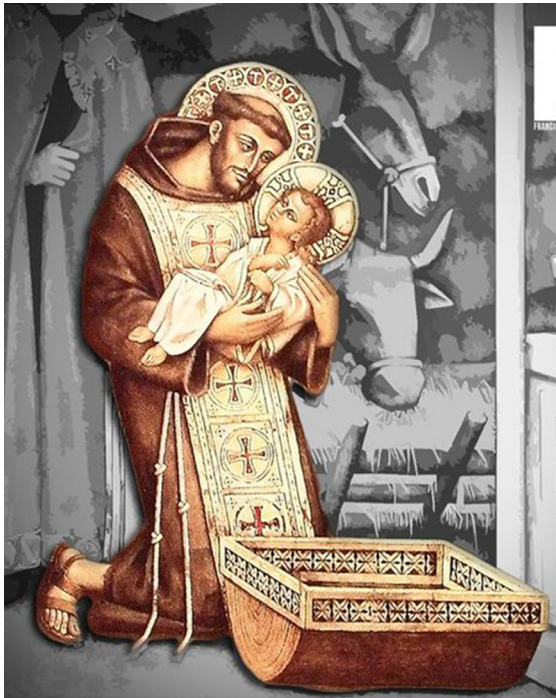
December 2022

# INTERNOS

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

[www.capkottayam.com](http://www.capkottayam.com)

E-mail: [capkottayam@gmail.com](mailto:capkottayam@gmail.com)



A booklet edited & published by  
St Joseph Capuchin Provincial House,  
Kottayam - 686 006  
Printed in December 2022  
Private Circulation Only

## CONTENTS

Editorial

Br. Provincial Speaks

Secretarial Information

News from Our Fraternities

Syro Malabar Mission: Adhilabad, Chanda & Jagdalpur

Namibian Mission

The Regent Speaks

Shots from Missions

Calvary News

Alverna Pre Novitiate, Bethery

Br. Tony Pulladan & Br. Bijo Palampurackal

Special thanks: Br. George Antony Assaricheril OFM Cap.

Br. Shaji Karimplanil



## EDITORIAL

The most ancient hymn which narrates about the incarnation of Jesus is seen in the letter of St. Paul to Philippians: “Though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” (Phil 2:6-7). He continues his letter writing about how he could practice this *Kenosis* in his life. He writes: “circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law a Pharisee, as to zeal a persecutor of the church, as to righteousness under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” (Phil 3: 5-8). So Christmas is celebration of self emptying of Christ out of his love towards humanity. It is a call to renounce or redefine everything that hinders us from encountering the other human beings. It may be our positions, our wealth, our life styles etc. It is a new way of living our charism as Christians and religious by considering the least in the society. We can speak about helping the poor, needy and suffering while sitting in an armchair. But it is not the method which Jesus has shown us through his incarnation. If we really love the poor and marginalized, we should first be like them, get into their situation, put ourselves in others’ shoes, then we will be able to see the things as they really experience. In order to save the humanity, a single word was enough for Jesus. But out of his love towards the suffering ones he

came as a man of suffering. Then he helped them to see the things with hope. This is the real message and theology of incarnation. There are many good examples of people who live this spirituality like St. Paul, St. Francis of Assisi, Mahatma Gandhi and so on. The sentence before the hymn in the letter to Philippians is this “Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...” (Phil 2: 3-5) So Christmas is a call to open our eyes to the most disadvantaged ones and have solidarity with them.

**Br Melvin Thalachirayil**

Provincial Secretary

## Provincial's Message



### “Babe of Bethlehem”

The question which is repeated from the beginning of humanity is what would be the reason or cause behind the incarnation of God. Many tried to answer it, but these answers were not sufficient to quench the thirst of the God-man St. Francis, he was in search of it. After meditating on the paschal mystery of Christ he found out that his love for humanity made him share humanity with man. This is what the great Franciscan Theologian Blessed John Duns Scotus meant when he said that love and only love impelled God to create us and to incarnate. You can give without loving. But you cannot love without giving. This is the spirituality behind the incarnation of Jesus. It is easy for a man to give his possessions to others because there are possibilities to regain them. But Jesus speaks of a greater sharing that is of laying one's on of life to others. He says, “Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends..”(Jn 15:17). It means giving oneself fully (Kenosis) without holding back is the greatest sign of love. It is what we see in the incarnation of Jesus. Even if a man doesn't sin, he would have become human. The only reason for the incarnation was God's pure love towards humanity.

In the days of St. Francis, the church more commonly practiced what theologians call a “High Christology”, that is the Church emphasized the truth that Jesus is God, and King, Lord of all. Francis reclaimed the human qualities of Jesus in his life and spirituality, and considered the Incarnation as the “Feast of Feasts” because it demonstrated God's tremendous Humility, that Christ, truly God and King, would lower himself to be born of Mary, and further, to be born

lowly, in a manger. Francis believed that humility and poverty were the keys to become more Christ-like. Three years before his death, while visiting the hermitage in Greccio, Francis wished to celebrate Christmas with Profound Joy to commemorate his great love of the Incarnation. The chapel of the hermitage was too tiny to accommodate the large number of people he planned to invite to such a grand feast. Francis discovered a cave in the mountain's rocks and asked local inhabitants to build a manger scene, complete with hay and live animals, in the cave. Being in Bethlehem 1200 years ago was amazing experience for the viewers. The whole Bethlehem came down to Greccio. St. Francis preached about the Humility of God shown in the Incarnation (God become flesh in Jesus). Each time Francis attempted to say the name of Jesus, overcome by emotion, he could only whisper the "Babe of Bethlehem" instead. Thomas of Celano who recorded this story tells us, "This vision was not unfitting, for the Child Jesus had been forgotten in the hearts of many; but, by the working of his grace, he was brought to life again through his servant St. Francis." (cf. the First Life of St. Francis, 86.)

By making a crib in Greccio, St. Francis could bring back mystery of incarnation to the existential and religious vision from the ontological understanding of the Christ (Like nature, person, hypostatic union,) which were the matters of the hot discussion in previous centuries and which was far away from the common man's understanding of God. Ordinary people can easily understand a God who comes down from heaven and made flesh out of his love towards them. But it is difficult for them to understand a God which is explained in philosophical terms or categories. We too are called as Franciscans to incarnate Christ to others by our simple ways of dealings. God is not a complicated reality but simple as a child in manger.

**Br. George Antony Assaricheril OFM Cap.**  
*Minister Provincial*



## Secretarial Informations

Br. Thomas Pullattuthadathil is appointed as the member of St. Joseph Capuchin Provincialate.

Br. Vinu Jose Pulinchuvallil went to Ireland to pursue his doctoral studies. (Ph: +353874477133)

Br. Thomas Sebastian returned to the province after his eight years of service in the Gulf mission.

Br. Anand Vellackakudiyil is appointed as the member of Assisi Bhavan, Chennur in Teleganana. (Ph:+91 6238791123)

Br. Joel Vaniapurackal is appointed as the parochial vicar of St. Xavier's Church, Chemmannar of Idukki Eparchy. (Ph: +91 6282581037)

Br. Emmanuel Erathel is appointed as the parochial vicar of St. John Maria Vianny Church, Panickankudy in Idukki diocese (Ph: +91 9495918436)

Br. Jince Vattavayalil is appointed as the parochial vicar of St. Mary's Church, Malippara in Kothamangalam Diocese (Ph:+91 8921879263)

Br. Adarsh is appointed as the member of Ranigiri Ashram Mannamthala and his ordination is on 31st December 2022 at Christ Raj Church, Valiyathovala (Ph: +91 9188084734)

Br. Abin Thekkumkattil is appointed as the parochial vicar of St. George Church, Kallanickal of Kothamangalam Diocese. (Ph: +91 9847077287)

Br. Edison Panoor is sent to Assisi Bhavan, Chennur for regency.

Br. George Nedumparmbil has gone to the Province of Genova, Italy, as a part of fraternal collaboration substituting Br. Mathew Valumannel.

Br. Abhilash Elamthuruthil went to United States for higher studies at Catholic University Washington.



## *News from our Fraternities*

### **CAPUCHIN PROVINCIAL HOUSE KOTTAYAM**

Greetings from St. Joseph Capuchin Province

#### **Mission Experience**

It was a great gain for the Provincialate to receive the missionary friars of St. Joseph Capuchin Province from different parts of the world. We were edified by their unassuming presence and the missionary experience they shared with us. Our congregation is a missionary congregation. On November 10, we held a missionary gathering for missionaries who were on leave. There were missionaries from the Gulf, Namibia, and Italy. They are Br. Joby Vengapallil, Br. Jinesh Paickal, Br. Mathew Valumannel, and Br. Toji Naluchira. We had a prayer service, which was followed by delicious food. The missionaries shared their joy at this fraternal gesture towards them. On other days, we are privileged to receive other missionaries like Br. Thomas V. T. Br. Joby Karikkampallychirayil, Br. Varghese Pulikkiyil, Br. Kuriakose Kattupara, Br. Antony John, and Br. George Kochuparambil.

#### **New Member**

We are glad to receive Br. Thomas Pullattuthadathil as the new member of the Provincial House. He was working at the St. Francis Ashram in Uzhavoor. He is now busy with renovating our front garden and attending the parlour. Br. Thomas Sebastian returned to the province after eight years of service in the Gulf. He then went to North America to visit his friends and relatives there. Br. George

Nedumparambil is back at the provincial house after his visit to Namibia and the ministry in Germany.

### **Sister Sickness**

Br. Thomas Thalakulam came here for rest after his operation at Amirta Hospital. Br. Sanuj, the regent, was watching over him as a mother watches over her child. Thank you, Br. Sanuj for your service mind. Br. Joel Saji, a brother from the prenovitiate, came here for surgery on his shoulder, and he got the treatment at Caritas Hospital, Thellakom. Br. Kuriakose Kattupara underwent cataract surgery at Chithanya Hospital in Adichira. He rested in the province before returning to Assam on December 8. Br. Thomas Padipurackal came to provincialate for treatment for the illness. Br. George Kochuparambil came from Assam for the treatment. Br. Abin Jose was admitted to the SH Medical Trust in Kottayam with a high fever and a cold. Thank God these brothers are getting cured soon. It is a good sign that the provincialate became a place of refuge for the brothers in their difficulties and hard times.

### **Feast of St. Francis, our dear father**

We had the novena in honour of St. Francis of Assisi. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> we had the transitus at 5:30 pm. People came from outside to participate in the prayer service. We served evening coffee to those who came for the transitus as a token of our appreciation for their support and love. Br. Bijo Kudilil lead prayers during the transitus. On 4<sup>th</sup> October, solemn Qurbana was celebrated by Br. Stephen Vammialil. Br. Abin Jose gave the homily during the Holy Eucharist. All the friars of the Provincialate community joined in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. For the festal lunch, we have the friars from Shola Woods, Br. Geo and Br. Sunny Parackal, as our invited guest.

## **Study in Ireland**

Br. Vinu Jose Pulinchuvallil left for Ireland to do his doctoral studies at St. Patrick University in the liturgy. We gave sent off to him on 16<sup>th</sup> November. He left for Ireland on 22 November. It was a loss for our community, who is known for his availability. But it is a gain and cause of proud for the province to send a friar to Ireland for higher study for the first time.

## **Celebrations of Feast Days**

We celebrated the birthday of Br. Thomas Thalakulam on November 26<sup>th</sup> at his sick bed. It was an expression of our fraternal love for him, as well as our assurance that we are with him during his difficult times. We also celebrated the birthday of Br. Melvin Thalachirayil on 7<sup>th</sup> December. We had the prayer section, which was followed by a sumptuous meal

## **Other Guests**

Bishop Thomas Tharayil, Bishop Joseph Kollamparambil, Fr. Joseph Vaniyapurackal, Br. John Baptist, the General councillor, , Br Wilson from the province of Mumbai, Br Rodson from the province of Goa, Br. Mathew Paikada, Br. Joseph Puthenpurackal, Br. Thomas Karingadayil, Br. Simon Neelanirappel, Br. Xavier Kochuparmbil, Br. Mathew Mulangassery., Br. Cherian Scaria, Br. Justine Ampazhathinkal, Br. George Valiyapadath, Br. Jithin Vadakkemuriyi, Br. Dinny, Br. Anup, Br. Adarsh, Br. Antony Alphonse, Br. Anish Varikanickal, Br. Sharon Plakkottathil, Br. Devasia Prasanth, Br. John Aikkara, Br. Martin Mannath, Br. Santhosh Peaceville, Br. Jince Palliparambil, Br. Thomas Pallelil, Br. Jinu Manthiyil, Br. Joseph Mathew Veliparmbil, Br. Wilson from Maharastra Capuchin province Fr. Roger, Br. Varghese Vazhayil, Br. C.V Sebastian, Br. Rony, Br. Anish Elampurayidathil, Br. Jinto Puthenpurackal











### **Visits and Ministries**

Br. Provincial is on his visit to our missions like Saudi Arabia, and Papua new guinea. He also went for taking retreat in Ranchi. Br. Shaji Karimplanil, our Guardian is always busy with retreats for priests, sisters and seminarians. He also teaches at the Capuchin Vidya Bhavan in Thellakom and the Vinjananilayam in Eluru. Br. Sandeep was busy mugging up lessons in preparation for the CA Examination. He went to Chennai to write the exam.

Br. Roy has submitted his thesis for doctoral studies and it got approved by the panel of professors. And now he is able to keep it for defence soon.

Br. Abin is busy with his youth animation programmes even outside Kerala and his vocation promotion activities. Br. Benedict is busy in the garden, Kitchen and Maintenance

Br. Stephen Vammiyalil acts as an expert and committed driver who drives tirelessly even without a halt. Br. Bijo Kudilil went to Assam to visit our mission region together with Br. Simon Neelanirappel, where he has done his regency. He now works for the Ranigiri Ashram in Trivandrum for a few weeks.

Wish you all the blessings of Christmas and New Year.

## ASSISI ASHRAM BHARANANGANAM

We wish the joy and serenity of Christmas to all through these pages of Internos.

### **Onam Celebrations**

We celebrated Onam together with the nativity of Our Lady. Onam was garnished by the 'athapokalamams' prepared by our brothers. 'Sadhya' was served at noon and 'Onakodi' gifted to each other.

### **Feast of St Francis**

The magnificent feast of our father St Francis was celebrated on Oct 4. It was prefixed by 10 days novena. The Transitus was celebrated quite different from the past years which was disrupted by covid-19. Large number of nuns and laities participated in the programme. The message was given by Fr Suresh.

On the day of feast, solemn mass was celebrated by Bp Sebastian Vaniyapurackal. For a change, he joined us a day before and had supper with us.

A banquet was arranged for all the priests and religious of the neighbouring parishes and religious homes.

### **Jubilee Celebration**

We celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Fr Mathew Ullat's ordination. Ceremony was organised by his family members in the Retreat centre. Mass was celebrated by Fr Provincial.

### **Picnic**

We had our annual picnic on Nov 21 and 22. We visited Povar lake, Resort, Neyyar dam and Parasala ashram. The tour was quite dramatic and eventful.

### **Jingle sounds**

The well awaited Christmas was nearer than ever with

the establishment of a massive star on top of our Ashram church. Our brothers started their crib work too.

### **Our Celebrations**

We celebrated the birthdays of Br Jose Edayal and Fr Jacob Chamakalayil and the Feasts of Fr Mathew Parinthricksal, Fr Mathew Thazhatuveetil, Fr Mathew Ullat and Fr Mathew Kudackanal.

## **SERAPHIC SEMINARY BHARANGANAM**

Christmas greetings from the little brothers of Seraphic Seminary

### **Onam Celebrations**

We celebrated our onam together with the ashram community on Sept 08. We were delighted to be in front of the 'atahpooakalams' which was the result of our toil. Onam games were organised a day before and winners were given small prizes.

### **Annual Retreat**

We had our annual retreat in Assisi retreat centre. We participated as two batches. It was a great renewal experience for our brothers.

### **The Visitation of Covid**

Covid visited us again but only in a minor way with just 3 brothers going to quarantine and missing out just 7 working days.

### **World Cup**

As the world cup got commenced in Qatar, waves of joy spread throughout the seminary. Brothers junctioned with different teams. The tournament is welcomed with great anticipation by our young guns.

### **Annual Trip**

We had our annual picnic on Nov 30. It was to Greenberg resort, we also visited Naduakni and Kulamavu ashrams.

## JUDE ASHRAM MUKHATHALA

Hearty greetings to all friars of Capuchin family! Hope that you all are busy with Gospel works. May the heavenly king bless you all with your needs and let him use you as a tool for making his kingdom! Here is a brief report on our activities in the months of October and November 2022.

### **The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**

As usual it was celebrated on the 4th of October and people in large numbers attended the feast and received the blessings of St. Francis. On 3rd October evening, we conducted Transitus in which around 200 people participated. An inspiring message was given by Br. Sone Thomas. In the week previous to the feast, we had novena in preparation for the feast and we community members took turns to preach on various virtues practiced by St. Francis. As part of the feast celebrations on 8th of October we had an Agape to share our Franciscan joy. Priests and sisters from the nearby parishes, religious houses and convents joined us. They were around 80 in total. The celebrations of the feast indeed helped us in every way and our parish community for a spiritual renewal and growth.

### **School Activities**

As usual, the school activities are going well in academic as well as extracurricular aspects. On the days of kalolsav, our students from LPS, HSS and CBSE are providing their talent in various events. LP school students secured overall championship in work experience and second overall in the school kalolsav from the Chathanoor Sub district. Higher Secondary School students also secured Overall





Championship in High School and Higher secondary work experience, Science, Mathematics and IT fest. Six of our students participated in the State level fest and secured A Grade. In the school Kalolsav High School secured Second



Overall and Higher Secondary section secured Third overall from the chathanoor Sub district. Many of the items were selected to the district level School kalolsav. Group Song, Guittar, English Poetry Writing and kannada poem recitation are selected for State level competition. St.Jude CBSE students got nine first positions in the kollam sahodaya kalolsav. This year,its Band Team got 'A Grade' in the state level competition. Now the preparations for the Christmas exam are also on its way.



### **Departure to the heavenly home**

Mrs. Achamma Chacko Purayidathil, beloved mother of Br. Sebastian Purayidathil left for her heavenly home on 25th September 2022. On the following day funeral was held at Paika parish. All the community members took part in the funeral service and prayed for his beloved mother. Condolences to Br. Sebastian Purayidathil.

### **Zonal Monthly Recollection**

We had our Zonal monthly recollection at St. Jude, Mukhathala on 11th November 2022. Brothers from Ranigiri Ashram Mannnamthala and St. Basil Ashram Pathanamthitta too joined for the recollection. It was begun with a fraternal sharing. Fr. Benjamin Elias OCD gave a beautiful talk on religious life, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and confession. After the prayer session, we had a fraternal meal. A special thanks to all the brothers who were present. It was a time of sharing, boosting up the fraternal bond among us.

### **Our Guests**

We the Mukhathala community is privileged to have these guests who gave blessings and support to our works with their presence. Most Rev. Dr. Joshua Mar Ignathios, (Bishop of Mavelikkara), Our Minister Provincial Br. George Antony, Br Stephen Vammiyalil, Br. Vinu Pulinchuvallil, Friars from Assisi Ashram Bharananganam, Br. Jose Edattukaran from St. Thomas Province were kind to be our guests which gave us a special occasion to serve them. We thank you all for being with us and for enriching us.

With regards and love.....

Brothers from St. Jude Ashram

**Wish you all a Merry Christmas and a  
Bright New Year 2023!**

# CAPUCHIN VIDYABHAVAN

## **1. Feast of St. Francis**

This year we celebrated our patron's feast in a solemn way. Our parish vicar celebrated the Holy Mass for us and we had agape with our neighbours as well as priests from different parishes and congregations who are related to us in our pastoral ministries.

## **2. Bye-bye, Bros.**

Capuchin Vidyabhavan bids farewell to our Deacons who are getting ordained this year. The first-year brothers put on a fantastic cultural eve with good food for the farewell. All the best wishes to our dear elder brothers for your future ministries.

## **3. Eco-Tourism**

The community had its annual picnic to Thenmala Eco-tourist spot. Brothers and fathers enjoyed the adventure park as well as the boat ride on Thenmala Reservoir. We also visited St. Thomas orthodox dayara, Kottarakkara with a good ecumenical supper.

## **4. Study with Rosary**

October is the month of the rosary and for brothers, it is also a time for exams. We had our semester exams from October 10th onwards. Also, we had the solemn conclusion of the month of the rosary with 10 days of solemn recital of the rosary with the people.

## **5. Retreat in preparation for Holy Orders**

Fr. Joy CMF guided the brothers through a Eucharistic retreat in preparation for their ordination. Mar Sebastian



Vaniyapurackal conferred the Holy Orders. This year, we have the ordination of 15 deacons, 17 sub-deacons, and 15 karoyusa.

### **6. When Sister Death Embraces**

It was a moment of great anguish and sorrow as two of our brothers, namely, Br. Tony Pulladan and Br. Bijo Palampurakkal, passed on to eternity as they drowned in the river Godavari on October 23rd. The funeral services of both of our dear brothers were held at Capuchin Vidyabhavan on different days, as the body of Br. Tony was traced only 5 days later. The funeral service of Br. Bijo







Palampurakkal was held on Friday, 28th October. Geevarghese Mar Aprem, Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Diocese, Mar Thomas Tharayil, Auxiliary Bishop of Changanasherry Diocese, and Mar Thomas Padiyath, Auxiliary Bishop of Samshabadh Diocese, were present for the funeral. On Sunday, October 30th, Br. Tony Pulladan's funeral service was held. Mar Prince Panengadan, Bishop of Adhilbhad Diocese, and Mar Jose Pandarassery, Auxiliary Bishop of Kottayam Diocese, were present for the funeral. Bp. Prince delivered a heart-touching message during the funeral mass about the life and services of Br. Tony at the Adhilabhad Mission. Dear brothers, we'll miss you till eternity. But we are happy that we have two intercessors in heaven.

### **7. Partakers in the Ministerial Priesthood of Jesus**

It was really unforgettable for all the brothers of Capuchin Vidyabhavan to witness their elder brothers



receiving the ministerial priesthood and becoming anointed ones of the Lord. The whole Capuchin Vidyabhavan community participated in the ordinations of Brs. Anand, Ebin and Jince as they were on conducive dates. Also, along with Fr. Rector, representatives from every batch participated in all the other ordinations. Ordinations were a golden opportunity to pray for our dear elder brothers and to take part in the most unforgettable event of their life.

### **8. Friars of the People**

We, the Capuchins, are always known for our socially responsible and timely public actions. This time, the entire Capuchin Vidyabhavan community actively participated in a protest rally organized by the janakeeyasamiti against the laxity on the part of the government in building an approach road to the Thellakom railway overbridge which is indeed a serious social concern.

### **9. Benvenuto**

We were so glad to have Br. John Baptist, General Councilor of the Capuchins, at Capuchin Vidyabhavan. Br. John Baptist paid a short fraternal visit to the seminary. We were edified by his most esteemed presence.

### **10. G-NET is GOING VIRAL !!!**

The G-Net camp is ever more active this year. Brothers





have successfully conducted G-Net camps at various parishes and schools in Kottayam. Some of the camps were overnight, while the majority were one-day programs. It is really exciting as we are getting a lot of camp invitations from various schools and parishes.

### **11. Rocking' around the Christmas Star**

It's once again December, and Christmas is near. As the advent season began, all of us here were in the mood for Christmas, preparing both spiritually and materially. The first-year theologians made a massive eco-friendly Christmas star as part of our preparations. There are more news coming.... keep waiting...

## SHANTI NIKETAN, NADUKANI

Dear Brothers

Greetings from Nadukani

It is chilly at night and windy by day as it is use to be here. As we prepare for Christmas, we remember that Jesus was born in poverty in a stable among the poorest people and the farm animals. What does it mean for today? We are called to look for the face of Christ in the poor, those at our own door and in the places far from here. Love can look like a cup of coffee, a hand held, a smile shared as a story heard. We firmly believe that, in the end, we will be judged by how we care for the poor.

As we are preparing ourselves to celebrate Christmas, we see that the whole world is gripped by football fever more than ever. It is a universal language that transcends any barriers and eliminates the difference between communities. When St. John Paul II addressed the leaders of the Union of European football federation in May 2000 in which he encouraged soccer to serve for the “promotion of greatness and the dignity of man”. He also then add that this sports can serve to encourage young people to learn the great value of life as to spread everywhere the great virtues that are the basis of a worth human society, such as tolerance respect for human dignity, peace and brotherhood. We are experience in World Cup after the Covid -19 pandemic that paralyzed the world. In the midst of the impact of a crisis caused by the pandemic and accelerated change in the time of the year and the impact

of war between Russia and Ukraine, we are called to build peace and harmony in our neighbourhood and communities.

### **The Lion is Back to its Den.**

Brother Kristudas, the founder of Nadukani friary is back home after a long break. We celebrated his birthday without cutting a cake to which he says that is not my cup of tea. Fr. Kristudas is alive and active with his natural wit and wisdom. Although he claims his memory card is deleted due to the brain surgery he had undergone but it is being disproved by his old friends who come to visit him.

Although he is the senior most of the community, he keeps himself active and busy with his short travels and daily activities. Thank you, Fr. Kristudas for your joyful presence.

### **The New Wheelchair**

In the book of Numbers, chapter 21, we read the story of Balaam who beat the donkey who was unwilling to move forward, the knee which was carrying Fr. Thomas Jacob so faithfully showed symptoms of reluctance to continue the job. When the problem was raised, Br. Provincial gave the green signal for an electric wheelchair by which he can drive by himself. Yes, nothing can take away our joy and happiness until we decide. Fr. Thomas Jacob makes others happy with his joyful presence.

### **Visit to Vizhinjam**

To extend our moral support to feel the solidarity with the people who fight for their existence Br. Alex and John Chollany visited Vizhinjam port site where the fishermen were in indefinite strike.

It was shocking as well as saddening experience to see how the people are thrown out to suffer by the authorities who are supposed to give protection to their life and

property of the people. At the same time we were deeply inspired by the priests and pastors who were with the people as for the people in their sufferings and struggle for their existence.

It was also a time of introspection for all of us. We were indeed challenged and questioned by the layman who accompanied us about the relevance of priests of today.

At one place priests are with the people undergoing hunger strike and on the other side priests are fighting in hostility on liturgy in which people have less or least interest

### **Visit North East**

Br. Jijo Kurian, our guardian had taken a break from busy schedule and gone for journey to North Eastern States. He said he had visited about nine states and returned back home rejuvenated.

### **Our guests**

Our ashram is never short of guests and visitors. We are privileged to have the presence of Fr. George Antony, our provincial, Prasad Cyprian, Provincial of St Francis province, Jerry Lobo OFM, Simon Neela nirappel, Fr. Jose kuchuparambil (Vicar of Cathedral church, Chaganasserry), Fr. Thomas Karukakulam, Br. Joseph Mathew Angadiyil, Br. Mathew Parinthricksal and so on in our community. Thank you dear brothers, for sharing your love and time with us.

Wish you all the Grace filled Christmas and hope filled New year



## RANIGIRI MANNANTHALA

Hearty Greetings from Ranigirians. We are happy to share our events with you all.

Once again, we have decided to have adoration and intercessory prayer every fourth Saturday from 6 pm to 7 pm under the leadership of one of the Koottaima, family units.

We celebrated the solemnity of the Holy Father, St. Francis, in a worthy manner with nine days of Novena. On 2nd October, we celebrated the Transitus with the parishioners and the neighbouring Franciscan fraternities. Festal Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Moban Chooravaday, the Vicar of St. Alphonsa Church, Pongammoodu.

On the 22nd of October, we organised a pilgrimage to Saint and Martyr Devasahayam Pillai, under the leadership of Fr. Abhilash. The participants felt refreshed after this spiritual nourishment.

Ten days of intense meditative Rosary prayer were an experience of renewal. We gathered together in the morning and evening, praying the Rosary, and the 31st was the concluding day.

Members of Mathruvedi organized "a cancer awareness program" by retired Dr. Kusuma Kumari, the retired oncologist from RCC, Trivandrum, which was well attended.

On October 25, we joined hands with the Lourde Forane to express our solidarity with the Fishermen at Vizhinjam on the 25th of October. We spent half a day at the dharna.

We were also shocked and saddened by the sudden demise of our brothers Tony and Bijo.



Br. Bijo Palapparambil was with us during the months of April and May. During his short stay with us, he won the hearts of the members of the Ranigiri parish with his simple life, deep convictions, and exemplary life. Fr. Tony Pullallttukalayil, being the batchmate of Frs. Abhilash and Jorlin, was dear to each one of us. Ranigiri represented the province's grief at Capuchin Vidyabhavan, Thellakom. Our Fr. Jorlin obliged to substitute for these deceased friars for two weeks at Chennur, Telangana.

Ranigiri Parish organised "Home Mission" in the parish during the 1950 Jubilee year of Apostle Thomas' mission in India. Holy Family Sisters who have the charism of this ministry were contacted. From November 7 to 17, three teams of Sisters visited the parish and made two-by-two family visits. Families welcomed them according to the schedule. It was indeed a new spiritual renewal experience. The second part of the "Mission" will be completed in the month of February.

On November 30th, we celebrated Jorlin Kumbilimoottil's birthday. The community and the members of the parish thankfully remembered, how he contributed to its liveliness through his availability to the community as the procurator and to the parish through his effective preaching, availability at the confessional, and lively pastoral ministry.

Preparing for Christmas: The Ranigirians are preparing for the anticipated Christmas celebration in 12 of the family

units. Families are encouraged to make Christmas cribs. There is competition for making the best crib in the family units and at the parish level.

**Higher Studies:** Two of our friars have been chosen for higher studies, Jorlin for MSW at the CMI Institute, and Abhilash, for Biblical Theology at Catholic University, Washington, USA. Fr. Jorlin is regularly attending the classes.



Fr. Abhilash, who came to the community and became the Vicar of the Ashram and Food Minister, is leaving the Ranigiri community by the 4th of December, for his higher studies. Within a short time, Abhi has won the hearts of inmates, priests, sisters, and parishioners. His simple and unassuming way of life, availability, and care for everyone in need, made him close to their hearts. We wish you, dear brother, all the best in your studies, and we promise our prayers.

Heartfelt Welcome to Fr. Bijo Kudilil and Deacon Adarsh Vadakketh

We are grateful to Fr. Provincial for his timely fraternal visits and for sending brothers according to the needs of the community in Ranigiri. We are happy to note that Fr. Bijo Kudilil is with us for a month and Adarsh Vadakkethu for his diaconate ministry and, after ordination on the 31st of December, for his pastoral ministry.

We wish you all a happy Christmas and a blessed  
New Year of 2023.

## ST FRANCIS ASHRAM, UZHAVOOR

Fraternernal Greetings from St. Franics Ashram Uzhavoor.

Here we are busy with the pastoral ministries. So many religious and priests come for confession. Fr. Stephen Poyyanil is busy with the ministry of confession. Fr. Guardian takes up local ministries and other house hold activities. Fr. Joseph Puthenpurackal was away from the house for 15 days for preaching retreat in Oman and USA. Fr. Alex Vachaparambil is fully involved in monthly recollections and confession in parishes and convents. Br. Thomas Pullattuthadathil is transferred to Capuchin Provincialate, Kottayam. Many friars visited our Ashram during these days. Br. Simon Neelanirappel, Br.. Scaria Kalloor, Michael Parooseril, Shaiju Mannumattathil, Siby Paradiyil, Sam Zacharias, Stephen Vammiyalil, Br. Sebastian Choondakattil, Br. Amal and Br. Sandeep visited us and shared our community life. We begin our Silver Jubilee celebration of our Ashram on 24<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you so much.



## PADRE PIO ASHRAM MUNDAKAYAM

The Priests at Padre Pio Ashram have started joyful preparation for Christmas. We wish you the joy and happiness of Jesus' birth in your heart. The fathers at Padre Pio Ashram are doing well. Fr. Felician is very active in his role as confessor. Brother George is working very well to make the community more healthy and happy. Fr. Shaji is doing agricultural activities beautifully. Fr. Matthew is actively dealing with counselling. The community is very active in many things and fraternal life is going smoothly. We maintain a good relationship with nearby parishes and we support them by offering various services, especially confession.

We celebrated the feast of St. Padre Pio on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The main celebrant of the feast was Fr. James Muthannattu, parish priest of St. Antony's Church (Our vicar). His presence added more joy to the celebration. We had nine days of the novena in preparation for the feast. Priests and sisters from neighbouring areas joined us in this celebration. On October 4, we celebrated the feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a lot of enthusiasm and divinity.

We are thankful to all who visited us during this period. We hope and pray that everything goes well for you all.

## ALPHONSA ASHRAM EDAMATTOM, RAJAKUMARY

### **Greetings from Alphonsa Ashram Edamattam, Rajakumari**

After the celebration of the feast of St Alphonsa the Patron of our Ashram and the celebration of the feast of St Francis our father, we are on the way preparing for the celebration of Christmas. Here we both, Bros. James Purayidathil and Joseph Matttathil, busy carrying out pastoral ministry in different parishes in the neighborhood and taking care of the farm here. Last couple of years our Ashram was occupied by the fourth year seminarians of the diocese of Idukki and they will be moving out to their own building nearby shortly.

We were blessed with many guests on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> of November on the occasion of the Ordination of Br Emmanuel Erathel. Br Lawrence the Capuchin provincial of Madurai, Br Wilson from the province of Mumbai, Br Rodson from the province of Goa, Br George Antony our provincial, other fathers and brothers from our province came over here on the way to Chemmanar where the Ordination was celebrated. We are so grateful to Br Emmanuel Erathel who came over here and celebrated his first Holy Mass in the Ashram Chapel.

The diocesan occupation of our Ashram is going to end, may be in the middle of December. We welcome you all to come over here to spend your time in high ranges.

Wish all of you Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

**Fr. Sibychen Puthiyidom, the Postulator for the cause of Servant of God Puthenpurambil Thommachen (Pioneer of SFO in Kerala) submits the documents of the Archepharchial inquiry which is to be sending to Rome, to the Archbishop Mar Joseph Perumthottam.**





# Congratulations to the Newly ordained priests

Congratulations to  
**Br. Anand Shaji Vallacakudyiyil**





Congratulations to  
**Br. Joel Mathew Vaniapurackal**





Congratulations to  
**Br. Emmanuel Erathel**





Congratulations to  
**Br. Jince George Vattavayalil**



Congratulations to  
**Br. Abin Jacob Thekkumkattil**





## SYRO-MALABAR MISSION

Adhilabad, Chanda & Jagdalpur

### SEVA SADAN THEKUMATLA, TELANGANA

Greetings of love and peace.

Dear loving brothers in Jesus Christ and St. Francis,

May I prayerfully wish all of you a very blessed Christmas and a grace filled new year 2023. May our Mother Mary may with us in every moment and every event of our lives throughout the whole year to guide us and protect us from every evil and danger.

On 23rd Oct, I was at Loreto Ashram, Muvatupuzha. At about 6.45. p.m. as I was about to go to the chapel for the evening prayer I received a phone call from our provincial secretary Br. Melvin giving me the shocking and sad news about drowning of our two brothers - Br. Tony and Br. Bijo- in the river Godawari. Br. Secretary asked me to inform all the neighbouring priests of Thekumatla. When I called one priest, he informed me that they had already received the sad news. Immediately I went to the chapel of Loreto Ashram and told the vice master to inform our novices and the community and to ask them to pray for our brothers. Then I called my religious sisters and told them to pray for our brothers, I called my brother and asked him to tell all prayer groups in my home parish. I asked some of the religious sisters in the diocese of Vijayawada and Eluru. I informed two of our catholic families at Thekumatla and asked them to go to Chennur immediately and help Br. Antony Alphonse in those sorrowful moments.

Br. Tony who celebrated his last Holy Mass for our small community of Thekumatla on Sunday, 23rd Oct., as I was in Kerala. Whenever Br. Tony passed by Tekumatla, he used to visit Seva Sadan house and spent a little time with me, as I was often alone here. Whenever he saw me working in the garden, he used to join immediately before proceeding to his destination. Whenever he had some programme in the neighbouring parishes or centers he used to spend the overnight at Seva sadan Thekumatla. Br. Tony used to come over to Thekumatla to help me to conduct medical camps in the villages, conduct sports and games for the Children's Day celebration and the international day of youth and women. During the time of my COVID-19, I was at Chennur and everytime it was Br. Tony who used to bring food to my room and did all the assistance I needed in those fifteen days of my stay at Chennur. Br. Tony, you are always in my thoughts. Dear beloved brother Tony, may my prayer of thanks go with you and may you be in eternal joy of your Lord Jesus.

Br. Bijo was here at Thekumatla only for four months. During that time Br. Bijo used to be in Chennur for three days to teach in the school and the rest of the four days of the week he was at Thekumatla. Whenever there was any extra programme like independence day celebration, any feast celebration, Br. Bijo used to spend more days at Chennur. During the last four months he was a constant companion in the chapel, in the dining room, in the kitchen, in the garden. Br. Bijo takes utmost care to keep the house and surrounding clean and neat. When we visited other institutions and if he found some good garden plants, he used to get some plants for our garden. He used to tell me, do not get upset about the persons who show their egos. Br. Bijo used to tell me "I will not be here in the next year". Dear Brother, you must have meant that in the coming



academic year you would not be here. But your words like a prophet say that you are not here with me in the coming New Year 2023. The F.M.M Sisters of Godawarikhani were shocked and speechless when I called them to pray for you and Br. Tony. They remembered that you had visited them just a few days before you left us.

On 22nd morning, while I was having my breakfast at Laverna Ashram, Vagamon Brother called me and enquired about my health and told me to convey his greeting to the brothers there. I never thought that the call of yours is your last sharing with me. On the next day you are not there. Dear beloved Bro. Bijo I miss you very much. In your eternal joy keep me also in your heart..

## NAMIBIAN MISSION

### ST LUKE MISSION, SIBINDA, NAMIBIA

Greetings from St. Michael Mission and Holy Spirit Mission Khorixas, Happy to share some of the news from our Missions.

#### **Pastoral Work**

Holy Mass in the churches and the outstation are going on well. We conducted Workshop for the Word and communion ministers in the of October, which was facilitated by Fr. Saju MSFS. The attendance was 45 from 12 Churches under St. Michael and Khorixas. Regular visit of the sick and classes for different groups are going on well. We conducted Holy Mass for the leaners for the preparation of their Examinations. First Holy Communion was celebrated in four different communities. Conclusion of the Rosary month was celebrated with Holy Mass and rosary procession. Br. Toji returned to mission on 30" of November after short holidays. We are now busy with Baptism in different communities and getting ready for Christmas.

Group of children from St. Michael were initiated to Broukring/ Jogwh Association. Month of November was celebrated the month departed souls. Holy Mass for the dead celebrated in all the communities in St. Michael and Holy spirit Khorixas. Arch bishop made his pastoral visit to St. Michael in November and was happy with the overall situation in St. Michael. He held meeting with school hostel members and visited the school and Hotel. He was impressed with the farming project like piggery, vegetable garden, fish farming etc. He extended financial support to develop those projects further and to start a chicken project.







## Repair Renovations

Holy Spirt Mission Khorixas undergoing a major renovation. Construction of a wall fence around the Mission is in progress. Other Renovations work will follow soon. St. Michael the repair is underway since the school is closed for holidays

## School And hostel

Children were busy with their final examinations and Grade seven children conducted their farewell party in Swakopmount. Hostel conducted different sports and cultural competitions and prizes were distributed on the Occasion of the hostel day celebration. Children and teachers and hostel staff gone for the annual Holiday until 11 of January.

## Visitors

St. Michael is always a happy destination for the visitors both Malayali community as well as others. We receive them with Kattirachi and wine. We had privilege to receive CMI priest, MSFS priest and SH sisters as part of Malayali community and many local priest and lay leaders.

Wish you a very Blessed Christmas and Prospers New Year.



## THE REGENT SPEAKS...

Fraternal Greetings from Regency brothers...

We began the Regency program on 1st of June 2022. Br. Bijo Palampurackal and Br. Anup Puthenpurayil left for mission at Telangana and Chattisgarh respectively.

### **Initial Retreat**

As a preparation for the regency program the other 12 brothers had a retreat at Konnakuzhy Ashram. Konnakuzhy Ashram offered us a favourable atmosphere to have a contemplative mood. There we could spend more time in prayer, reflection, reading and manual works. Br. Jose Edattukaran guided us into the depth of spirituality and true Franciscan way of life. He also emphasized the life of Christ and the need of attaining God-consciousness by developing one's own interiority. His sharing and cheerful comments helped us to have a new vision of life. The retreat was named 'IN CHRIST'. The very presence of Br. Jose Edattukaran, a simple man with great vigor and spirit, was a real challenge to us all, who was the guardian there.

On 5th June, after the retreat we moved to Akashaparavas, we had the program at different places. One group was at 'Pratyasa bhavan' Kannur, another at Kumily and Kattappana and another group at FOJ, Kurumal. We spent almost one month at these respective places taking care of marginalized section in our society.

### **Days in Attapadi**

We next camped at Narasimukku Ashram, Attapadi from 30th June to 20th July. Our first mission was planting trees in the reserve forest at Chemmannur part of the Silent Valley, where we planted about thousands of trees as part

of the 'Vanamahotsav'. From 5th July to 8<sup>th</sup>, we had the classes on the Capuchin Constitution by Fr. Wilson Kodungakaran. We had an invitation from Goolikadavu Parish to take up a youth program for nearly 100 students and young people. We could do a marvelous program over there. We had our monthly collection on 11th July and which was led by one of the fathers from the Rogationist congregation. On the 11th July, Fr Pauly Madassery, Provincial of St. Thomas province had made a fraternal visit to us and he met every one of us and senior friars in the Narasimukku Ahram.

From July 12th to 17th were interesting days for us, we spent our days at Chittoor Parish, Attapadi. Our aim was to have an exposure to Adivasi people and their hamlets. We had an initial class from one of the community organisers and the rest of the days our plan was to have a good contact with the Adivasi people, but unfortunately those days it was raining cats and dogs. And due to it, our program got changed and we could do little to be with the Adivasis. Our programs in Chittoor Parish concluded on 17th and on the last day we could conduct a one-day program for catechism students of the parish. We organised and conducted it well. Children made their valuable remarks about the classes and it was a good time for us to check our capacity in conducting one day programs including music, classes, inspirational talks, etc. The parish priest had recognised our efforts and he had made good remarks about the program. Our last program in Attappadi was visiting Aadi, a center aimed at helping the Adivasis which is run by Jesuit fathers on 18th of the same month.

### **Time to study: IGNOU Exams**

We had our Degree exams between July 7th to August 27th. For which all of the brothers from the three provinces went to their respective provinces for exam preparation.

Br. Pradeep, had gone for Counsellors Training Program at Dindigul at the same time as he had already done his degrees. We had participated in the *Vizhinjam samaram* in solidarity with the fisher folk, it was organized under the banner of JPIC. Friars from different places gathered at Kodappanakunnu Ashram, Trivandrum. By 9:30, we reached at samara pantal and we found hundreds of people from different places who stood in solidarity with fisher folk.

### **Navajeevan Trust**

One of the most awaited programs was at the Navajeevan Trust, which was held between 28 August to 7<sup>th</sup> September. The life experience of P. U. Thomas chettan really enriched us. We could participate in the services Navajeevan trust had been offering for years, such as *Kanjivitharanam* in the hospital premises, taking care of the destitute and the differently abled people and serving as a bystander in the Kottayam Medical College who doesn't have a bystander. Those were the times to feel the pain of poor people who have nobody to take care. The situation reminded us of the Gospel passage: You clothed me, when I was naked and you visited me when I was in the sick bed. During those days sister sickness had made a visit to some of our brothers, but everybody recovered soon.

### **Sehion Preshitha Sangam, Edakochi**

The days with Judeson chetan and Preshitha sangam were one of the most memorable days in Regency, the program was held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of September. Karunya yatra was an awesome program for us, it started on 8<sup>th</sup> of September on the Onam day and the program was flagged off by the bishop of Kochi Diocese. The main focus of Karunyatra was to go through the 14 districts of Kerala. We met the destitute, differently abled in the streets and

gave them bath, good dresses and Onasadhya. There were people who had not taken a bath for long and who were not able to have their daily meals, the program lasted for 2 weeks. The program was really worthy and we were enriched with lots of memorable experiences. We also participated in *podichoru* distribution, which he has been doing for 1500 people daily for the past 25 years.

### **Street play at Kannur**

We were curious and excited about the street play to be done by ourselves. And so we encouraged each other and prepared for this adventure. Our guide was Fr. Scaria Kalloor. The program lasted from 21st September to 15th October. Mr. Rajesh Manathana was director of our street drama. The major theme of the play was against the use of drugs. And with the help of Mr Rajesh Manathana, we could perform the play in many schools, colleges, and bus stations and was able to perform the drama in more than 40 occasions. In addition to Street drama, Fr. Scaria gave us a class on JPIC . We had a golden opportunity to work with Fr. Scaria at Chavassery, where he conducted a peace conference in a riot affected area.

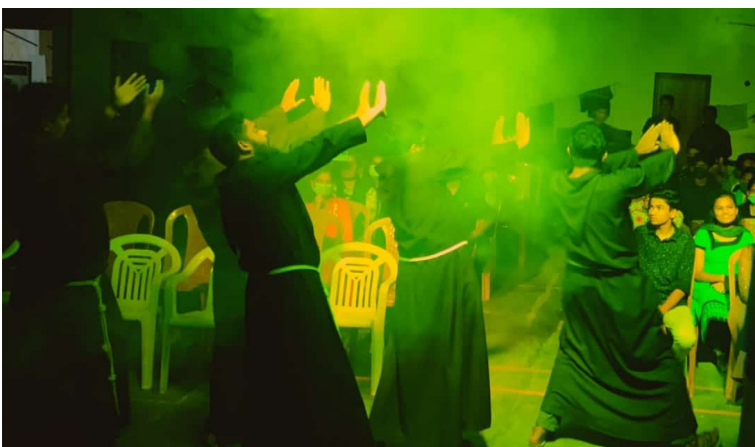
We had our Regency evaluation meeting in the Pavanatma provincialate at Melechow. In preparation for the St. Francis' feast we had our confession as well as monthly recollection on 3rd October, and celebrated the feast at the provincialate. On 3rd October along with services of transitus, we, Regency Brothers, recreated the transitus in the parish chapel through a drama.

### **Vocation Drive**

Our next program was the vocation drive. It was from Oct 15th to November 7th. Brothers went to their respective provinces for the vocation drive. Vocation promoters guided us to do it wonderfully well.













at Shreyas office, and on next days we were able to visit Adivasi colonies, Water shed programs. on 16 November, we could organize a Sports Day for parents in Adivasi colonies followed by a Medical camp and on 19<sup>th</sup>, a grand Sports Day was organized for the tribal kids residing in Bathery unit consisting of 250 kids from of 14 colonies. It was a grand success and in the evening we concluded our program at Bathery and took a bus to Muvattupuzha.

### **Grace of work...**

On Nov 20 we reached Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha and had our breakfast and left for our next mission at Muthalakodam, Thodupuzha to experience the sweat and toil of manual labour. We reached our destination on the same day and cleansed our new home and by evening our home was blessed by Vicar of Muthalakodam Forane. On 22nd November onwards our brothers started going for different works and still continue to do it with lots of vigour and enthusiasm.

Wish you all a very Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year 2023...

# SHOTS FROM MISSIONS

## Papua New Guinea





## Namibian Mission





## CALVARY NEWS

### **Merry Christmas**

We the members of Calvary Ashram, wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and a bright New Year. May the coming year be a blessing for your life.

### **Post Novitiate Program**

The first and second year brothers had their post novitiate program. For three weeks they were in small parishes in remote villages. The first year brothers, in three groups (Elanad, Anthikad & Veeranchira), lived by questing and reentered the service of house visiting. The second year brothers, in two groups (Thrikariyur & Perumballur) lived by manual labor and with its wages. The simple life they led was really witnessing. They came back with a renewed spirit and vigor.

### **Canonical Visit**

Br. Pauly Madassery, visited our fraternity on 15 November. He stayed with us for five days, and had personal sharing with each one of us. He also conducted meeting with various groups: the student-friars and solemnly professed friars. Understanding the need of the student-friars he gifted us with computers. Canonical Visitation was a time of 'celebration of brotherhood' which renewed our spiritual life, and fanned the flame of our charism.

### **New Priests**

Our new priests of this year reached Calvary and celebrated Holy Mass. Community extended a warm welcome to them. They cherished their good memories in Calvary

and expressed their gratitude. Thank you dear fathers for your kind visit; your energetic presence created a new vibe here. We wish you all the best for your future ministry.

### **Symphony**

Calvary Institute of Philosophy and Religion, celebrated its 'College-Day' namely 'Symphony 2022'. Br. Pauly Madassery inaugurated the program. Smt. Dr. R. Bindu, honorable minister for higher education, Kerala, was the chief guest. Our seminarians performed various cultural programs, and it was an expression of hard work and commitment, and also an opportunity to improve our talents. Brs. Wilson Pynadath and Rijo Muringathery helped our brothers to conduct the event with variety of entertainment programs. Friars from different provinces and priests of various religious congregations, and our neighbors enjoyed the wonderful cultural evening.

### **Fraternal Visits**

Calvary was happy to have a number of guests during this period. Brs. Lotus M, Joseph, Simon Neelanirappel, Jinu Manthiyil, Jojo Manimala, Jane, Thomas V.T, Martin Mannath, Xavier Christi, Alexander Kizhekkekadavil, Fernandes, Fr. George Rajmohan IMS and Fr. GibinThazhekanare are some of them. Dear brothers, we are enriched by your visit, please do come again.

## ALVERNA PRE-NOVITIATE SULTAN BETHERY

### **The Feast of Saint Padre Pio**

On 2nd October, we had the celebration of the feast of Padre Pio in Panamaram Shrine. The Shrine rector Br George Kurivila had invited our community for the celebration. As they were celebrating the feast of Saint Francis at same day, at 9:30 a.m. the *transitus* was led by our community. Mar George Njaralakatt, the Arch bishop Emeritus of Thalassery celebrated Holy Mass and gave a beautiful homily. After the Holy Mass the celebration was followed by solemn procession. Seventeen priests fully vested carried the holy Relics of Padre Pio, St. Francis and 15 Capuchin saints. The procession was well organized without hindering the traffic and well attended. It was actually the celebration of all Capuchin saints. After the procession, Agape meal was served to all participants.

### **The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi**

On 3rd October evening we had solemn Holy Mass celebrated by the Parish Vicar of Assumption Forane Church in Sultan Bathery. It was followed by *Transitus* and we gave food for the people and the neighbouring religious communities who came to celebrate the feast with us. On 4<sup>th</sup>, we had a grand celebration. At the evening, the solemn Eucharistic celebration was led by Br. Shaji Anikathottam. Then the evening prayer was conducted by Br. Martinian and the celebrations were ended by dining together with the priests and many religious.



## **The month of Rosary and the visit of Custos**

At the end of month of October, for 10 days, we had rosary at the evening followed by Holy Mass. The rosary was conducted by two brothers in each day and on 31<sup>st</sup>, we had solemn Holy Mass followed by Solemn Rosary. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Br. Renny, the custos of Nirmalamatha custody. He stayed two days with us and shared his mission experience.

## **Franciscan Retreat**

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, we started our Franciscan retreat. Br. E.K Joseph was the Preacher. It was a 4 days retreat. The days were spent in silence, prayer and meditation.

## **Priestly Ordination**

We could get the chance to attend the priestly ordination of Deacons in Wayanad district; we were divided into 3 groups to attend ordination.

## **Visit of the Newly Ordained Priests**

On 28<sup>th</sup> November the newly ordained priests and deacons came to visit our community. They reached at noon and we had our friendly Volley ball match with them. At 5:00 p.m., we begin the solemn Holy Mass in which 15 new priest were celebrants. After the Holy Mass, we had the kissing of the hands to show our love and respect. To share our love more we had a supper with them. After that they departed from us .Thank you fathers and brothers for your fraternal visit

## **Guest lectures**

On 17th to 20th October Fr Siju Puthenpurackal, the parish priest of Wadakkanad cane to take a special classes

about legal aid. On 17th November, Sr.Lissa SH came to take a class about psychology. On 22nd to 25th November we had our Liturgy class. Br. Xavier Christy was our professor. Br. George Kurivila came to take class about church history.

### **Preparation for Christmas**

We have entered into the season of advent. We had prepared a beautiful huge star and it was lightened by Br. Martiainan . On 11th December, we got chance to share our Christmas Joy with people in our locality. We had divided into 3 groups. Our brothers have done small programs with them and shared the fraternal Joy.

### **Fraternal visit**

On 9th October, Br. Thomas Karingadayil, the Provincial of Pavanatma, Br Simon Neelanirappel, the vicar provincial of St Joseph Province and Br. Jinu Manthiyil came to stay with us. The Regent Brothers came to stay with us for their regency program in Sultan Bathery. On the eve of 5th December, Br. Ebin Devasia, a newly ordained priest came to visit our community and in the morning he celebrated Mass for us. Br. Stephen Jayaraj, Br. Libin Jacob, Br. Joby Vengappilly, Br. Jose Thomas Karingadayil and Br. Aji Kadakunnel also visited our community. Thank you brothers for your visit.

We wish you all Happy Christmas and New year.



### **BR. TONY SIMON PULLADAN**

Br. Tony Simon Pulladan was born on March 10, 1991 at Kaipuzha, in the Archdiocese of Kottayam, as the son of P.T. Simon and Mariamma Simon. He was the second of the four children. He joined the Capuchins in 2006 at Seraphic Seminary Bharananganam. Br. Tony was vested on May 14, 2010 and made his religious commitment on May 15, 2011. He began his studies in theology at Sacred Heart Theological College in Shillong and finished at Capuchin Vidyabhavan in Thellakom. On November 18, 2019, he was ordained as a priest. After his ordination, Br. Tony gained pastoral experience by working at St. Thomas Church Kallara. Br. Tony is a polite and ostensibly quiet individual. He was observed devoting more time to personal prayer. He was gifted with exceptional musical abilities and could play the flute, violin, tabla, keyboard, and many other instruments. He particularly cared for the underprivileged



and the disadvantaged. He was a kind, generous, and sociable man. His dedication to the Franciscan way of life was evident in his simple way of living. After his six months of experience in the parish, he was sent to the Syro-Malabar Mission in Telangana. He was a good missionary who could attract people to Jesus using his musical talents. He was teaching at the Assisi School in Chennur. He was helping Bp. Prince Panengaden, the Bishop of Adilabad, in retreat preaching with his musical ministry. Br. Tony Pullattukalayil and Br. Bijo Palampurackal, while taking a bath in the Godavari river, got drowned on October 23, 2022, near Chennur, Telangana. Br. Tony was trying to save Br. Bijo, who lost control in the deep waters, but both of them drowned. Br. Tony's body was discovered five days later, three kilometres from the place of the accident. His funeral was conducted on October 30, 2022, and his body was laid to rest in the vault of Capuchin Vidyabhavan Thellakom.



### **BR. BIJO PALAMPURACKAL**

Br. Bijo Palampurackal, born on August 24, 1984, at Kanakary in Pala diocese as the only son of Thomas P. T and Gracy Thomas, later settled down at Mallappally in Chaganassery Archdiocese. After taking his graduation in India, he left for the United Kingdom to study MBA, where his elder sister was working. From there, he made a pilgrimage to Lourde, where he got inspiration to follow Jesus in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi. With the permission of his parents, after completing his studies, he joined Seraphic Seminary Bharananganam on June 2016. He was vested on May 14, 2018 and made his religious commitment on May 15, 2019. As a promising young friar, he manifested his love for his Capuchin vocation by being faithful to the demands of the commitment he made to the

Lord. He possessed deep convictions about life and was quite interested in Capuchin life. He was responsible and intelligent. He was a sensible, thoughtful man. He was fully convinced of his vocation. He had a kind, compassionate disposition and was always willing to help others. His appreciation for Franciscan values was notable. He was a gracious host and an outstanding cook. During his regency, he opted to go to our Missions in Telengana State. On weekdays, he was teaching at Assisi School, Chennur, and at weekends, he used to go to Seva Sadan, Thekumatla. He was very much loved by his students there. While taking bath in River Godavari on October 23, 2022, about 06.10 pm in Errayipet village (Parepally), approximately 12 km from Chennur, Br. Bijo was caught up in an undercurrent and was drowned. Despite all attempts to save him, he was carried away by the strong current. In the attempt to save him, Fr. Tony Pullattukalayil also drowned in the deep waters. On the next day, Br. Bijo's body was recovered from the nearby region. On October 28, the funeral took place, and his body was interred in the vault of the Capuchin Vidyabhavan at Thellakom.







*Congratulations to*  
the brothers who received  
Diaconate & Minor Orders.





*Congratulations to*  
the newly ordained priests

