

INTERNOS

DECEMBER 2023



800
Greccio

Blessing of the newly renovated
St. Thomas Ashram Kavalam



INTERNOS

December 2023

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

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Special thanks:

Br. George Antony Assaricheril OFM Cap

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Jithin Capuchin



EDITORIAL



Br Melvin Thalachirayil

Provincial Secretary

How can a king be a servant? How can a Creator become a creature? How can a Master be a slave? These were the questions that disturbed Francis throughout his life. He was in search of answers. As a primary step, in front of the Bishop of Assisi, he left all that he had. He started begging and immersed himself in reading the Bible, taking it seriously. He went to the Holy Land in search of this truth, yet it did not quench his thirst for understanding

Francis could not grasp or imagine the real depth of love that God had for his sons and daughters. He began to recapitulate the entire Christ event and desired to show people how much God loves them. As a primary step, he created a

crib at Greccio so that people could realize how much the Son of God had humbled himself, being born in a manger among oxen and calves, out of love for humanity.

This profound realization was intended to help people shed their old selves and turn towards God. Francis's lips were filled with sweetness when he called Jesus the 'Babe of Bethlehem.' He preached to the people about the poverty of the child in the manger, emphasizing that Jesus made himself poor for the sake of all humanity. He aspired to be the least of all, thus emancipating everyone from marginalized situations. St. Athanasius said, 'God became man so that man can become God.' Our father Francis reflected on the poverty of God in the manger and made minority and poverty the pillars of the Franciscan order. **So let us celebrate the 800th years of the first crib with this spirit of minority and poverty of Christ which St. Francis tries to manifest.**



BR, PROVINCIAL SPEAKS

We are Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of the First Nativity Scene by St. Francis of Assisi. Thomas of Celano, the earliest biographer of St. Francis of Assisi, expressed the fervent celebration of the birthday of the Child Jesus by St. Francis as the “feast of feasts”. According to Celano, St. Francis considered it a momentous occasion, emphasizing the profound act of God becoming a tiny infant and embracing humanity (2 Celano, 199).



In the weeks leading up to Christmas 1223, a burning desire emerged in St. Francis’s heart – the desire to portray the Nativity in a way that could be easily understood by all, allowing people to grasp the tangible reality of God made man. His goal was to animate the Gospel, enabling individuals to experience the awe and wonder of the sacred moment. With remarkable ingenuity and spiritual insight, St. Francis orchestrated a simple manger, real ox and donkey, and

gathered villagers to witness this powerful depiction of the Holy Family.

St. Francis aimed to convey precisely what God had done for humanity and “how poor he chose to be for our sakes.” Having embraced a life of bitter poverty on the societal margins, Francis perceived the Son of God placing himself, in a sense, on the periphery of divinity. He envisioned a truly human Jesus, not a divine being hidden behind a deceptive physical facade. The humility of the Incarnation and the Cross remained his constant focus, contemplating Bethlehem and Calvary. St. Francis thus made clear the extent of God’s extension: ‘so much human’ of the divine.

St. Francis’s initiative marked the inception of a beautiful tradition that has since spread worldwide. The Nativity scene, or crib, has become a beloved symbol of the Christmas season, serving as a reminder of the profound humility and love characterizing the arrival of our Savior.

As we reflect on this historic occasion, let us contemplate the enduring message of simplicity, compassion, and

faith that St Francis sought to convey. Amid a world often filled with complexity and noise, the Nativity scene beckons us to embrace the simplicity of Christ's message and approach the mystery of the Incarnation with childlike wonder.

G. K Chesterton once stated, "If I had only one sermon to preach, it would be a sermon against pride." This sentiment aligns with Chesterton's admiration for St Francis of Assisi. Francis identified pride as the cancerous growth spoiling the innocence of humanity. From the humility of the Incarnation, he learned that pride is dismantled by the sermon-in-action known as 'minority,' akin to what the shepherds witnessed in the Bethlehem manger. Overwhelmed by what they had "heard and seen," the shepherds returned to their flocks "glorifying and praising God"

In the spirit of Greccio, where the true meaning of Jesus' birth had been forgotten and lost by many, may the experience of the Crib, erected in the midst of fraternities of lesser brothers, lead many back to the source of salvation – Jesus.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous
Christmas season!

Secretarial Information

Br. John Chollanickal is appointed as the Guardian of Shanti Niketan Ashram, Nadukani

Br. Thomas Padipurackal is appointed as the vicar, and **Br. Jorlin Kumblimootil** is appointed as the procurator of Sanjoe Capuchin Ashram, Aruvikuzhy.

Br. Sibychen Puthiyidom is appointed as the collaborator for the Roman phase of the cause for beatification of the Servant of God Puthenparambil Thommachen.

New priest appointments

Br. Jophy Vayalil is appointed as Asst Parish priest of St Joseph's church Nellimattam in the Eparchy of Kothamangalam

Br. Jisso Chalayil is appointed as the Asst Parish Priest of St John the Baptist Church, Kaloore in the diocese of Kothamangalam

Br. Jiffin Palliyath is appointed as Asst Parish priest of St Mary's Church Udayagiri in the Eparchy of Idukki .

Br. Tibin Thengumthettayil is appointed as the Asst Parish Priest of St Mary's Church Vazhavara in the Eparchy of Idukki.

Br. Annop Mylettu is appointed as the Asst Parish Priest of St George Church Periganadu in the Epharchy of Mavelikara

Br. Joseph Mathew Kalathiparambil is appointed as the Asst Parish Priest of St Ritha's Forane Church, Kaliyar in the Eparchy of Kothamangalam

Br. Akhil Manjakunnel is appointed as the Asst Parish Priest of St. Thomas Forane Church, Churuli in the Eparchy of Idukki

Namibian Appointments

Br. Varghese Pulikkiyil is appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Francis Catholic Mission, Bukalo

Br. Jinesh Xavier is appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Luke Catholic Mission Sibinda, Namibia

Br. Jince George Vattavayalil is appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Holy Famiy Mission, Katima Mulio, Nambia.

Br. Annop Kuzhiyampala appointed as the Guardian of Holy Family Mission Katima Mulio, Namibia.

News From our Fraternities



ST. JOSEPH PROVINCALATE
S.H MOUNT., KOTTAYAM

Feast of St. Francis:

The celebration of the Feast of St. Francis was a spiritually enriching time for our community. The focus was on reflecting upon our charism and calling. The transtius ceremony took place the previous day at 5:30 pm, with around 50 participants. Festal mass was celebrated by Br. Georgekutty Thottuvayil, and the presence of missionaries like Br. Joby Karikkampalichiriyil, Br. Joby Vengapally, Br. Maneesh, and Br. Sunny Manjakunnel added joy to the day.

Celebrations:

Occasional missionary gatherings were organized to honor missionaries during their holidays, such as send-offs and birthdays. These gatherings brought great joy to the

Provincialate community and provided an opportunity to appreciate the tireless work of missionaries in mission areas. Special masses and prayers were held in honor of Br. Jobin on October 24 and Br. Melvin on December 8, 2023 on their birthdays.

Ordinations:

Our community took great pride in being a representation at all the ordinations across our provinces. On November 20th, we hosted a reception to honor the newly ordained priests. Brother Cherian Valiyaveedu extended congratulations and offered heartfelt wishes for their future lives and ministries.

Preachers Meetings:

A mission band meeting, led by Br. Joseph Puthepurackal, the in-charge of mission retreats, was held on September 13, 2023. Approximately 20 preachers attended the gathering.

Interprovincial Formation Meeting:

On December 2, the interprovincial formation meeting took place. All Syro-Malabar provincials and formators of formation houses from these provinces participated from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

SFO (Secular Franciscan Order):

A one-day program for SFO members, in preparation for the Feast of St. Francis, was conducted by Br. Thomaskutty Vettickal.

Sickness:

Unfortunately, Br. Justine and Br. Jithin Koodakattu were affected by H1N1 and were admitted to the hospital. Thankfully, they have since recovered.

Guests:

The Provincialate community had the privilege of hosting esteemed guests, including Br. General, Br. Kilian, Br. Maurizio, Br. Nobert, Br. Damian, Br. Kennedy from Goa, Br. Wilson from Maharashtra, and Br. Lawrence, Provincial of the Southern Tamilnadu province. We also welcomed the presence of our missionaries: Br. Thomas V T, Br. Joby Vengapally, Br. Joby Karikkampallichiryil from Abu Dhabi, Br. Maneesh, Br. Sunny Manjakunnel, Br. Anish Varickanickal, Br. Jithin Koodakattu, and Br. John Prakash.









ASSISI ASHRAM BHARANAGANAM

Now is the moment to stay updated on the recent events and festivities in our cherished Ashram. Let's explore the lively fabric of life in Assisi.

Seraphic Feast

The Feast of our Seraphic Father was observed on the third and fourth of October. On the 3rd afternoon, we shared the Transitus ceremony with the sisters and neighbors. Br. John Chollany delivered a poignant message for the occasion, and our brothers enacted the final moments of Francis, evoking deep emotions in the audience. The following day, we celebrated the Festal Mass in the morning and enjoyed a festive dinner with around 100 neighboring priests and sisters. The collaborative efforts of all our brothers made these days truly wonderful.

Chapter of Mats

The Chapter of Mats was held at Assisi Ashram Bharananganam, where we had the honor of hosting the General and Counsellors along with the Indian Provincials and

Counsellors from all provinces. We cherished the opportunity to contribute to the seamless execution of this significant event. The dedicated efforts of our brothers, from the eldest to the youngest, played a pivotal role in making it a remarkable success. Both the General and all participants expressed their satisfaction and appreciation.

Feasting and Remembering

We joyously celebrated the birthdays of Br. Jacob Chamakala and Br. Adarsh Vadakkethu. On these special days, the community came together in prayer, expressing gratitude to the Almighty for the blessings bestowed upon us through these dedicated brothers. Your presence is highly valued, dear brothers, and we extend our heartfelt thanks for all that you contribute to this community.

New Member

After completing his treatment, Brother Joseph Zacharias joined our community to access better healthcare, and his presence brings additional joy to our Friary. Bishop John Nellikkunnel visited to know Brother Joseph Zacharias' well-being, and our community felt blessed by his presence. Father Sunny Parackan had the privilege of attending a heritage course in Rome on November 8th. We extended our best wishes

to him, and upon his return on December 10th, he was reinvigorated with the spirit of Francis.

New Priests, New Joy

On the 19th of November, newly ordained priests graced us with their presence, joyfully celebrating sacred mass with us. We shared our heartfelt congratulations, accompanied by wishes adorned with the utmost beauty for their transformative journey in ministerial priesthood.

Echoes of Departure

Br. Felician entered eternal rest on September 29, 2023, and his funeral took place on September 30, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. As we reflect on his memory, we celebrate his inspiring presence and authentic Franciscan life. Bishops Mar Jose Pulikal and Joseph Kallarangattu paid their respects, and Provincial Br. George Antony led the funeral service, attended by numerous friars, sisters, and lay individuals. In addition, we received the somber news of the passing of Mrs. Elikkuty Augusthy, the elder sister of Br. Jose Enthanal, and Mr. Joseph Parintherickal, the elder brother of Br. Mathew Parintherickal. As a community, we offered prayers for their souls and paid our respects. Our deepest condolences go out to you, dear brothers, for your loss.

Welcoming Christmas

Our brothers made a big and beautiful star on December 1st to kick off the Christmas season. Dear brothers, we truly appreciate your hard work and dedication.





LORETO ASHRAM MUVATTUPUZHA

Greetings from the Loreto Community!

The Joy of Working:

The novices embarked on a journey to the hills of the high ranges to visit and work at the hill station of Vagamon. Nineteen brothers left on the 11th of September, heading to La Verna Ashram, while others stayed back to look after Loreto. The KSRTC ride was thoroughly enjoyed, relishing each landmark. Carrying wooden logs from the steep mountain top to the base point was a Herculean task, but it was made easier by the fraternal cooperation of all brothers under the leadership of Brs. Varghese, our Guardian, and Rentu, our Master. After loading the logs onto two trucks, we returned on the 14th.

The New Semester:

The second semester in the novitiate commenced on the 19th of September. After the morning mass, we prayerfully changed our rooms and offices. Brs. Saijo and James Bongrum were appointed Deans.

Journey to our Seraphic Father:

Preparations for the feast of our Seraphic Father began with great fervor. The novena started on the 25th of September, with each brother delivering an inspiring message on the values cherished by St. Francis. Br. Master encouraged us to make a deeper journey into the spirit of St. Francis through intense prayer and reflection. The 'Transitus' ceremony was enacted visually by the novices through a heart-touching drama on the passage of St. Francis to the heavenly Father, led by Br. Aloysius. After the Transitus, we served delicious snacks. The Eucharistic celebration on the feast day was presided over by Mar George Madathikandathil, Bishop of Kothamangalam. He delivered a wonderful homily and blessed us. Bishop Emeritus Mar George Punnakkottil and 53 priests were present. We observed ten days of solemn rosary in our chapel in October.

Harvesting and Retreat:

On November 2nd, we joyfully harvested our paddy, a great moment of celebration. From November 9th, we delved into the depths of Indian Sanyasa through a retreat conducted by Br. Devanand. The retreat, enriched with bhajans, archanas, and Om mantras, concluded with Bharathiya pooja.

Anointed Brothers of the Lord:

On November 23rd, new priests of the three Syro-Malabar provinces stepped into Loreto. The

celebration included a sumptuous meal, and the next day, they celebrated a Solemn Holy Mass. We wish them long years of ministry in the Lord's vineyard.

Brothers' Birthdays:

We celebrated the birthdays of Br. Emmanuel, our vice master, on October 12th, Br. Cherian Palukunnel on November 6th, Br. Thomas Thalakulam on November 26th, and Br. Jithin Koodakatu on December 3rd. Each celebration was marked with prayer and festivity.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo:

As we entered the season of Advent, a season of bliss and joy, the novices experienced spiritual awakening. A Franciscan touch was added to the star on top of Loreto buildings for all to see and admire. Crib work is in progress.

Fraternal Visits:

Fr. John Murickal celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood at Loreto on October 18th. Brothers Paul Koolipurackal, Biju Adackapara, Joby Vengappalli, and Michael Parooseril also visited our fraternity.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2024. May the joy and peace of Christmas be yours throughout the New Year.

Best wishes,





ST. JUDE ASHRAM
MUKHATHALA, KOLLAM

Greetings of Peace and Joy!

Joy of Togetherness:

The newly constituted community of St Jude, consisting of six brothers, is fully involved in pastoral and school ministries. Our fraternity is alive and active, sharing each other's burdens under the efficient leadership of our Guardian.

Onam Celebrations:

We eagerly awaited the charming warmth of the Onam season, and colorful celebrations were conducted in St Jude LPS & Nursery, St Jude HSS, and St Jude CBSE School. 'Onappayassam' was served for all school students, and the entire St Jude Campus was adorned with Saintjudians wearing traditional dresses and 'Athappookkalam.' The friars celebrated Onam with 'Onasadhya' in the Ashram in a traditional way.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi:

We celebrated the feast with the members of our parishes - Mukhathala, Perumpuzha, and Pallimon - on October 3rd at St Jude Parish Mukhathala. The 'Transitus' was

conducted, and about 300 people participated. During the service, Br. Mathew Vattakkunnel, our school Bursar, delivered an inspiring speech. The week before the feast, we had a Novena, and community members took turns preaching on various topics related to St. Francis of Assisi. On October 4th, the feast day, we invited the entire staff of St. Jude institutions for a meeting and Festal meal, a first-time gathering for the St. Jude family. On October 7th, we had a prayer session followed by an Agape with our local Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joshua Mar Ignatios, priests, religious sisters, and parish representatives.

St. Jude Schools:

Our schools are actively engaged in curricular and extra-curricular activities. St. Jude LPS secured First Overall Championship in 'Sastrolsavam 2023' and Third Overall Championship in 'Kalolsavam 2023' at the Sub District Level. St. Jude HSS secured First Overall Championship in 'Sastrolsavam' at Sub District level, winning 12 First A Grade in individual items and 9 First A Grade in group items at the Sub District School Kalolsavam. In the State level School Sastrolsavam 2023, our three students secured A Grade. St. Jude CBSE School excelled in 'Sahodaya Sargolsav 2023,' winning several first and second

positions. The school also achieved remarkable positions in various competitions.

Celebrations:

We celebrated the birthdays of Br. Jisho Thomas on June 9th and the Feast Day of Br. Mathew Vattakkunnel on September 21st. These celebration days were special and sweet, appreciating their dedicated work and fraternal love. Prayer services were conducted on each celebration day.

Zonal Monthly Recollection:

Our Zonal monthly recollection on September 27th at St. Jude, Mukhathala, was attended by members of our fraternities from Mannanthala, Parasala, and Pathanamthitta. The session included fraternal sharing, a talk by Rev. Fr. Varghese Malieckal OCD, Confession, and Eucharistic Adoration.

Our Guests:

We were privileged to have several brothers as our guests, including Most Rev. Dr. Joshua Mar Ignatios, Our Provincial Minister Br. George Antony, Br. Stephen Vammyalil, Br. Francis Christy, Br. Benedict Vattoth, Br. Xavier Kochurumbil, Br. John Thottukulappananiyil, Br. John Vazhappanady, and Br. Georgekutty Thottuvayil. Thanks for your graceful presence and blessings.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2024!





GETHSEMANY ASHRAM CHANGANASSERY

Greetings from the Gethsemane Community!

The brothers are actively engaged in various ministries, striving to meet the manifold spiritual needs of the people. All four of us are diligently occupied with our respective responsibilities. The community was well-represented at the ordinations of new priests in different locations.

During the last ten days of October, we solemnly recited the rosary, culminating in a Holy Mass celebrated by Br. Sibychen Puthiyidom on the 31st, accompanied by an excellent sermon. Br. Guardian makes an effort to connect with people by visiting homes and establishing contact, while Br. Thomaskutty is busy preaching retreats and engaging with the SFO (Secular Franciscan Order) Fraternities.

New Constructions:

We are pleased to announce the completion of a beautiful conference hall, recently renovated for various meetings and celebrations. The left yard of the ashram chapel

has been expanded to accommodate more people, with an extended roof.

Feast of St. Francis:

In preparation for the Feast of St. Francis, we observed a ten-day novena, with daily celebrations of the Holy Eucharist and homilies in the evenings. On October 3rd, Br. Aby Kizakekuttu from Capuchin Vidyabhavan delivered the homily, and on October 4th, Bishop Thomas Tharayil, the Auxiliary Bishop of Changanacherry Archdiocese, presided over the Festal Holy Eucharist.

Our Guests:

We were honored to host several guests, including Brs. Sunny Manjakunnel and Maneesh from the PNG mission, Br. George Puthenpurackal, Br. Lixon from Pavanatma Province, Brs. Francis Christy, Thomas Thalakulam, Michael Paroosseril, Chacko Manniserry, Martin Mannath, Jeby, Prince Karottuchirackal, and Sebastain Chundakkattil. We extend our heartfelt thanks to them for their fraternal love.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,



CAPUCHIN VIDYABHAVAN
THELLAKOM, KOTTAYAM

Commemorating Seraphic Father's Feast

We observed St. Francis of Assisi's feast day with utmost reverence, which was preceded by novena commemoration. Reflective sessions marked the novena, culminating in Transitus on October 3rd, followed by a communal dinner with our friary's neighbors. October 4th witnessed a solemn liturgical celebration, featuring a stirring speech by Br. Melvin Thalachivayil and presided over by Br. Joby Vengapilly. The festal liturgy gave way to a joyous lunch, attended by quite a few priests and religious.

Time for Unbound Happiness!

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23). Br. Jomon Pushpamangalam's heart transplant, skillfully conducted by experts from Medical College Kottayam, unfolded smoothly. Following the surgery, a month-long hospital surveillance ensued, and now, he resides at our friary, continuing to be under close monitoring. Each

heartbeat reflects his robust health, a testament to the success of the procedure.

Our community embarked on a captivating trip to Wayanad, where the exploration of its natural wonders was an integral part of the experience. The journey led us to the Edakkal Caves, where prehistoric petroglyphs whispered tales from ages past. The warmth and generosity of the Panamaram community enriched our adventure, making the trip a truly fulfilling experience.

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). By the grace of the Lord, Mar George Madathikandathil of the Kothamangalam Eparchy bestowed minor orders upon all the brothers. The third-year received Diaconate, the second-year Subdiaconate (Heupadiakna), and the first-year Karoyusa, marking significant steps in their spiritual journey.

Capuchin Vidyabhavan served as a central hub for a religious meeting hosted by the Kottayam unit of the CRI, bringing together priests and religious from diverse congregations. Fr. Sebastian Kalarickal led the

event's organization, and Father Philip Nelpuraparambil, the vicar of Lourde Matha Parish, delivered the inaugural address. Adding to the joy, the gathering at Capuchin Vidyabhavan featured a delightful event as well - a carol singing competition.

Spiritual and Intellectual Renewals

Rev. Fr. Capistan Lopez delivered an extension talk on *Media and Communication*, emphasizing the nuanced usage of media and appropriate communication techniques. The seminar delved into the captivating realm where words, images, and sounds converge, shaping our interactions and perceptions.

Rev. Fr. Binoy Karumaruthinkal PDM guided our deacons' annual retreat in Kallukunnu, Kattappana. The sermons, akin to fulfilling meals, offered fresh interpretations and insights into the scripture. The retreat was permeated with a profound sense of joy and solidarity, providing a transformative experience where brothers received the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. Fr. Shibin TOR led an annual retreat that proved to be a profound spiritual encounter, reinvigorating the faith of the participants and fostering a renewed sense of

cohesion. The retreat served as a sanctuary for personal reflection and spiritual growth, deepening the connection with God. Enriched by scriptural references, the sermons provided a fresh perspective on spiritual wisdom.

Exams and Send-Off

The semester exams commenced on October 9th, serving as the culmination of our efforts in the classroom. The Brothers dedicated themselves wholeheartedly to rigorous study sessions in preparation. The overall experience with the exams was positive, reflecting the fruits of our collective commitment to academic pursuits.

Our community expressed gratitude to the New Priests for their dedicated services during the farewell ceremony, and Fr. Rector extended blessings and well wishes for their forthcoming religious life. This year witnessed fifteen ordinations, with 4 from St. Thomas province, 4 from Pavanatma province, and 7 from St. Joseph province, marking a significant milestone in the collective journey of our faith.

They are Still Here!

On October 22nd our community came together to commemorate the first anniversary of the passing of Brs. Tony

Pullattukalayil and Bijo Palampurackal. Honoring the memory of Br. Bijo, a mass was celebrated by Br. George Antony, our provincial minister. On October 23rd, the batch mates of Br. Tony celebrated a mass in his honor. Family members joined in a special liturgical service and a shared meal, cherishing the lives of their beloved departed.

Ministry Abroad and Chapter Local

Brs. Scaria Nelluveli and James Vazhcharickal embarked on overseas ministries for a few months. Br. Scaria served in the United Arab Emirates, while Br. James contributed to ministry in Germany. Their time abroad not only enriched their personal experiences but also allowed them to extend their services to new and diverse communities.

The local chapter convened on October 29th in our Community, appointing Brother James as the secretary. Brother Prince was acknowledged for his steadfast dedication to the community, and gratitude was expressed for his efforts in implementing decisions from the previous local chapter meeting.

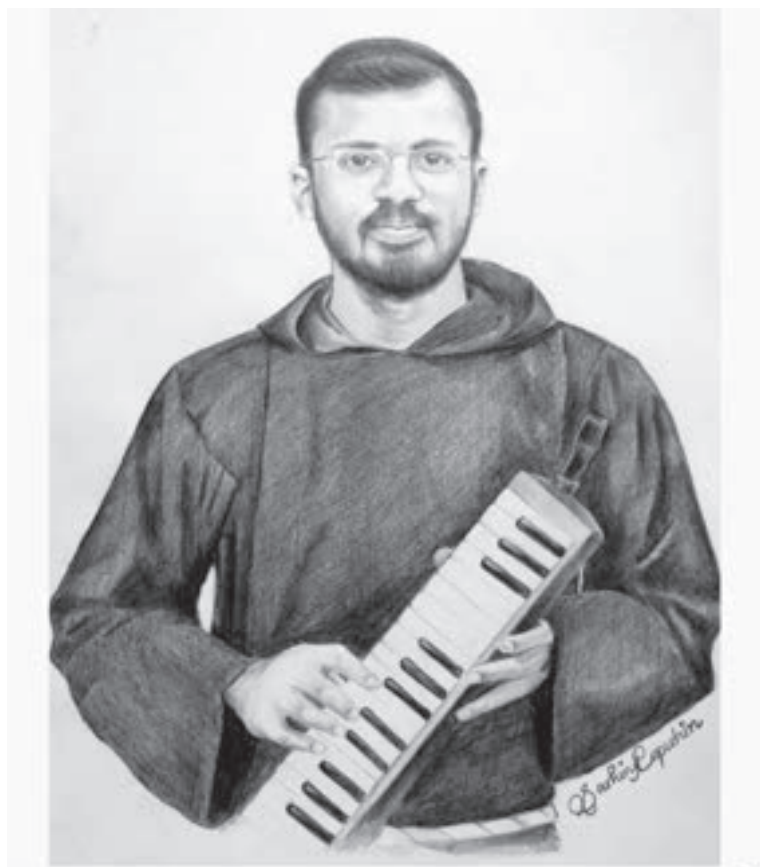
Feast and Festivity

The community joyously commemorated Br. Scaria Nelluveli's feast with a liturgical

celebration brimming with cheerful greetings. Br. Jophy's ordination, presided over by Mar Raphy Manjaly, Archbishop of Agra, marked a momentous occasion, showering blessings and grace upon the entire community. The church, bathed in the morning sunlight, was filled to capacity with family, friends, and fellow believers. The atmosphere resonated with anticipation and a profound sense of sacred reverence.

In the festive spirit of Christmas, the media team of our theology house initiated an online carol singing competition named *Carol Bells*, drawing a remarkable response with a large number of participants. The GNet team organized numerous camps at various parishes and schools, proactively reaching out to a diverse group of children. The enthusiastic feedback from participants highlighted the camps' success in providing an engaging and enriching experience for all involved.







PADRE PIO ASHRAM MUNDAKKAYAM

We begin by extending heartfelt Christmas greetings and wishes for wellness to everyone. May the blessings of Infant Jesus be with you always. The past four months have been a journey of both joy and sorrow for Padre Pio Ashram, and we would like to take this opportunity to share the events that unfolded.

With a heavy heart, we share the sad news of the unexpected passing of our beloved Fr. Felician, affectionately known as Valiyachan. His departure to heavenly bliss brought profound grief to all of us. Fr. Felician served as a confessor at our ashram, guiding those who sought him for prayer and confession. He was our spiritual director and a role model for all Franciscan Capuchin brothers. We find solace in knowing that he is interceding for us in heaven, praying for our spiritual wellness and good health.

On a positive note, the feast of St. Padre Pio was celebrated with great joy and happiness by the community. The holy mass for the feast was presided over by Fr. Sareesh, Fr. Aby, and a few brothers from the Thellakam

Capuchin Vidhyabhavan. The celebration brought together people from the community, along with priests, sisters, and other benefactors. The joyful occasion was followed by a festive meal.

Looking ahead, the functioning of the ashram is progressing smoothly. Superior Achan and Fr. Francis are overseeing farm activities. Fr. Mathew continues to offer counseling services, and Fr. Staney is in good health. The community remains active, and we have recently welcomed many guests to our ashram. We are grateful for their presence and blessings in our lives and eagerly anticipate future meetings.

Once again, we extend warm wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year to all.



Annual Retreat



800
Cipeccio



AMALA ASHRAM
THOPRAMKUDY

We are delighted to connect with you through these pages. May we extend our warmest Christmas greetings to each one of you. May the Babe of Bethlehem bless you abundantly, allowing you to experience His presence profoundly.

Thopramkudy doesn't seem to be cold even in this winter season but is turning slightly warm and pleasant. It's a beautiful and enchanting time to relish the marvelous beauty of the land. Praise the Lord! We cordially invite you to join us.

The feast of our Father was joyfully celebrated with a good community of parish priests and religious. It was a wonderful fraternal gathering. On October 3rd, we observed the transitus followed by a dinner. Everyone present for all ordinations except two. Our province retreat was very fruitful. We regret not being able to attend the funeral services of the fathers of Frs. Liju and Vinu.

Since our last meeting, there have been some developments. Our dear Fr. Patric Aroocherril has moved to Portincula Ashram, Kattappana, for better opportunities. We wish him a peaceful stay at our Portincula. Unfortunately, our language course has been pending for two months. The Amala Centre was

vibrant and active with the students, and we miss it dearly.

The Amala farm is thriving thanks to the hard work of Fr. James P. Spiritual renewal initiatives are also gaining momentum with ministries outside. Fr. James is on the move, and Fr. Augustine is growing in his active stillness, engaging in regular confession ministry and Mass.

A notable and successful event was the first eparchial assembly of Idukki Diocese. Fr. Chacko represented the Capuchins of Idukki. The meticulous preparations, coordination, media coverage, groupings, topics, discussions, resource persons, and punctuality made it an inspiring event. Fr. Guardian was away assisting in two mission retreats and is currently occupied with house visits. All three of us are in sound health and wellness. Our local chapter has decided to cultivate the land optimally and utilize the retreat center effectively.

We are delighted and grateful for the fraternal concern and visits from our brothers Varghese Vazhayil, Jose Velacherry, Maneesh (our great PG missionary), Xavier Kochurumpil, S. Suariankuzhy, J. Vaniyapurakal, etc. May God bless all of you abundantly.

Once again, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

Hoping to see you in the next Internos,

Amala Capuchin Brothers.





ST. MICHAEL ASHRAM
PALLIKKAMURY, THODUPUZHA

Hello! Greetings of Peace and Joy from Pallickamury Community.

We, the community, wish you a very happy Christmas and a God-experiencing New Year. May the Holy Spirit strengthen all of us to glorify the name of our Lord throughout the year 2024

Festal Celebration:

We had a great festal celebration of St. Michael with wonderful cooperation from well-wishers and the people around. Our Provincial Br. George Antony was the main celebrant, and he blessed us with a very good and meaningful homily. The distribution of snacks added joy to the occasion. Transitus was conducted by Br. Suresh and Br. Sebastian, followed by Agape for the sisters, SFO members, and neighbors. For St. Francis' feast, we had a solemn mass by Fr. Johnson of Udumbannoor Parish, and a grand dinner was hosted for the invited priests and coir members.

Visit by Friars:

The visit by any friars is a joyful experience. Bros. Joseph Puthenpura, Mathew Mulangassery,

Antony Vechoor, and Stephen Vamyalil gave us such pleasure. We were blessed with the visit of Bros. Joby and Jins. We thank you, Bros. Joby and Jins, for the generosity of your hearts in visiting us during your holidays. It was a pleasant joy that Bishop Sebastian Vaniyappurakkal gave us an unexpected visit and joined our simple noon meal with us.

Ministries:

All of us are engaged in various types of ministry. Bro. Suresh recently preached for the Jacobites at Sharjah and is currently occupied with single or mission retreats. Br. Santhosh is engaged in confession in various places. Br. Sebastian regularly helps with the mission band and is also busy with the vegetable garden. Bro. John is often invited for solemn high Mass by nearby parishes, and Bro. Jibu is busy with his teaching. The majority of the community attended the ordinations of some of our new priests.

Sister Health:

Br. Vargheese Kottukappally is fully in rest, finding it difficult to attend any community activities. Bro. Suresh had surgery on his hand and is now okay.

Wishing you all Peace and Joy.



SYRO-MALABAR MISSION**Adhilabad, Chanda & Jagdalpur****Assisi Bhavan, Chennur**

The year began with a simple yet heartfelt celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. While grand festivities were put on hold due to recent losses, the memory of departed brothers remained close to everyone's hearts.

On October 23rd, the community gathered to remember Father Tony and Br.Bijo Palampurakal First's first death anniversary. Attended by forty fathers, fifty sisters, and dedicated teachers, the solemn occasion provided space for shared memories and comfort.

Fr. Paulson's Recovery and TUV's Return:

The community breathed a sigh of relief as Brother Paulson recovered from a brief hospitalization for typhoid. He is now back at Assisi Bhavan and in good health.

Another cause for celebration was the return of the TUV after undergoing necessary repairs. This

essential vehicle ensures the smooth operation of various community activities.

Birthdays, Gatherings, and Guests:

The community joyfully celebrated Fr. Anand's birthday on November 22nd, sending him warm wishes for wisdom, joy, and good health.

On September 17th, all Franciscan congregations in the Adilabad diocese gathered, fostering a spirit of fraternity and sharing the spirit of St. Francis.

Throughout the year, Assisi Bhavan welcomed esteemed guests such as Conventual Fathers, Fr. Prasanth, Fr. Anand's family, Fr. Cherian Scaria, Fr. Jince, Dinny, Fr. Manu, Fr. Jose CMI, Fr. Mathew Paikada, Fr. Anish's parents, Fr. Jince and Lijin, missionaries from Africa and Arabia, and Bishop Ephrem from Chanda.

Parish News:

The parish community celebrated the Sick and Elderly Day on September 3rd, honoring and caring for those most vulnerable.

The Rosary Month was observed with great devotion, culminating in a joyous rally and a communal dinner.

The arrival of the Jubilee Candle symbolizes the light of faith and the parish's journey together. Processions carrying the radiant candle were

conducted to the villages, strengthening bonds and reaffirming shared faith.

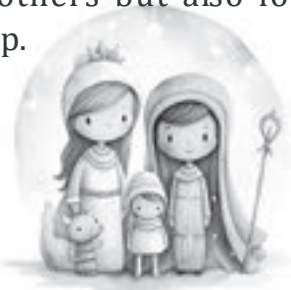
School Updates:

Charity Day on September 5th, coinciding with the feast of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, saw the school organize a vibrant food fest fundraiser. The incredible sum of 15,000 rupees raised was used to provide a heartwarming meal for residents of a local orphanage.

The school received recognition and permission for classes 8-10, marking a significant step in its commitment to quality education.

In remembrance of Fr. Tony's passion for cycling, a "Cycle Rally for Peace" was held on October 13th. Forty children participated in this inspiring event.

The Fr. Tony and Br. Bijo Memorial Football Tournament, held on October 21st, brought together eight teams in a spirited competition. Social Welfare School Jaipur emerged as champions, followed by St. Mary's School Bellampally and St. Thomas School Bajapur. The tournament not only honored the departed brothers but also fostered unity and sportsmanship.







800
GRECCIO

Seva Sadan, Tekumtla

Dear Brothers in St. Francis,

Loving and prayerful greetings to all of you for the great feast of Christmas. May the Holy Babe of Bethlehem bring peace, joy, and blessings upon all of us. It gives us joy to wish everyone a happy, prosperous, and grace-filled new year of 2024. We gratefully remember all of you for your support, encouragement, and prayers.

The feast of St. Francis, our father, was celebrated in the Conventul house in the presence of many priests and a number of religious, both men and women. His Excellency Bishop Prince Antony, assisted by Bishop Joseph Kunnath, bishop emeritus, and Fr. Joseph Manivkathal, the V.G., presided over the Holy Eucharist.

In October, the month of devotion to Mother Mary, we conducted the Holy Rosary in our Chapel with the sisters and the small community of people for one week, and at every family for another week. We concluded the month with a small candle procession around our house and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The Samaritan sisters blessed their newly constructed convent on 5th August 2023. In the presence of many priests and religious. On this

occasion, Bishop Prince Antony blessed the convent while Bishop emeritus Bishop Joseph Kunnath opened the house.

Our usual regular program of conducting the free medical camp had taken place. A good number of poor and elderly persons benefited from our medical camps. A doctor, namely Dr. Soujan, came from Bellampally to assist us in our medical camps. We do not receive any financial help from any funding groups. The medical camps are conducted with the support of many generous persons. We look forward to many more generous individuals coming forward to support us in this service.

A number of persons paid us visits in the last three months. Frs. Cherian Scaria, the Vicar Provincial, and Mathew Paikada made flying visits. Thank you, fathers, for your brotherly visits. Please do come again. Father, mother, and sister of Fr. Anish also paid a visit to us. We had the joy of having with us the mother and brother of Fr. Anand. Two sisters of Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph from Chennai graced us with their visit. Two nephews of Fr. Prashant visited us.

On 22nd Oct, we commemorated the memory of Fr. Tony and Br. Bijo with the people of this by celebrating Holy Eucharist for them.

On 22nd Nov, we celebrated the birthday of Fr. Anand with due solemnity. In the morning, Fr. Anand officiated Holy Eucharist. In the evening, we had an hour of prayer in the presence of fathers from Chennur and the conventual community and Samaritan sisters followed by a shape. Thank you, fathers and sisters, for your encouraging presence.



Jagdalpur Mission: Maria Bhavan, Bhairamgarh

Fraternal Greetings and Festal Tidings of Christmas!

Apologies for our absence in the last Internos edition blame it on the excitement of changes at Maria Bhavan, Bhairamgarh. Br. Mathew Paikada ventured to Karanje, leaving room for the dynamic Br. Jince Jose. The Parish community showered Br. Jince with a warm welcome and bid a heartfelt adieu to Br. Paikada after his three years of dedicated service.

St. Francis Feast:

From September 23 to October 1, we celebrated St. Francis with a Hindi-translated novena and a Solemn Mass. CMI Provincial Fr. Santhosh intended to join us, but his plans were foiled by his driver's father's demise. Nonetheless, the feast day brought together 40 fathers and sisters for a touching prayer session followed by a feast fit for the occasion.

Land Purchase

Securing land for our Capuchin Ashram near Jagdalpur was no small feat, but your prayers worked wonders! On October 18, in the presence of Br. Provincial and Br. Mathew Paikada, we acquired a 3-acre plot in Bastar, just 3 km from town. The challenge was real, but so was the divine assistance.

Youth Fest:

In my 3 years' journey as the Youth Director of the Diocese, I am proud to inform you that as a team of Diocesan fathers, religious, and youth, we orchestrated a mega-event from November 12-15 for 700 + youths. Spiritual upliftment, faith formation, cultural showcases, and sports activities all blended seamlessly. Brothers Amal Nattuvazhiparambil and Joel Vaniapurackal rocked the Caps Band, injecting vibrant energy into the fest.

A Cordial Welcome:

Our hearts were aglow with joy as we extended a warm welcome to Br. Provincial, who not only visited us once but twice, showing a special interest in settling the land purchase. Adding to our delight, Br. Cherian Scaria, our Vicar-provincial and councillor for the missions, graced us with his presence, offering concrete suggestions that wove an extra layer into our fraternal bond. Special joy enveloped us during the visit of Brothers Jins Perikilamtharappel, Lijin Pulickiyil, and Sharon Plakkootathil. Their brief stay brought an extra sparkle to our community. In a twist of events, the Assisi School football team recently engaged in a match organized by Bijapur St. Thomas School. Despite the unfortunate loss for our team, it turned out to be a victory as it paved the way for Br. Paulson's first-ever visit to Maria Bhavan Bhairamgarh.

Nirmal Vidyalay:

Embracing winds of change, Maria Bhavan and Nirmal Vidyalay stand at the crossroads of transformation. Our call echoes urgently as we find ourselves in dire need of a regent for the ministries, with a special focus on the school. Over the past three years, dedicated souls graced us, but as they gracefully step away, a void remains, despite the unwavering cooperation of Br. Jince, who professes disinterest in school affairs. Yet, he not only manages part of the office work diligently but tends to a flourishing vegetable garden. Our plea resounds – we seek someone vibrant and dedicated, ready to not only assist in the school but also fervently engage in various ministries.

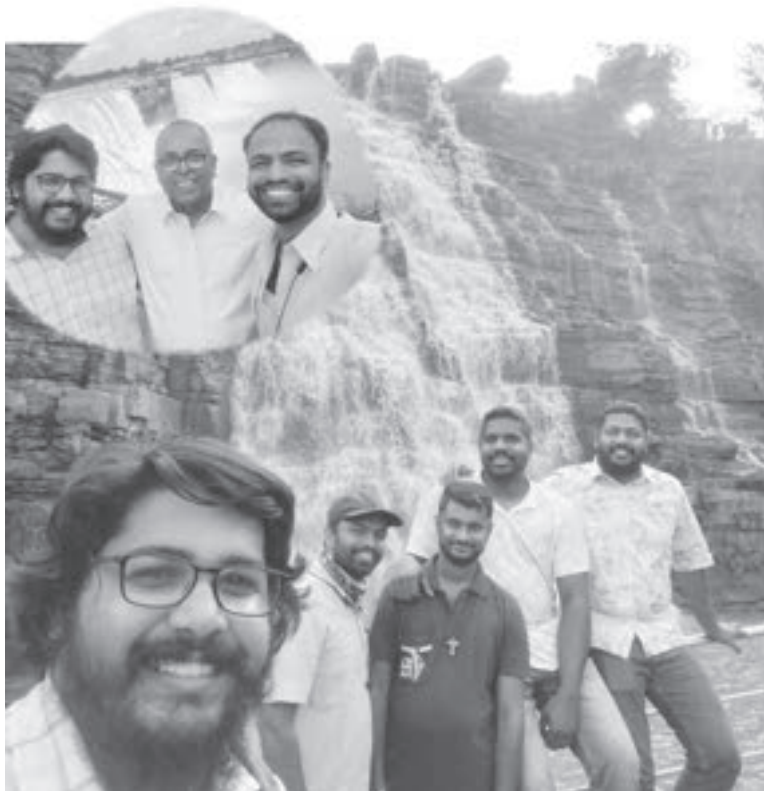
The long-awaited dream of a proper school structure came to fruition with the laying of the foundation stone by Bp. Joseph Kollampampil on November 14. Two years of longing for a solid foundation turned into a breathtaking reality, and the presence of students, parents, Parishioners, and the Diocesan planning commission added a gracious touch to this monumental event.

Preshitharam Sisters:

As we reflect on three remarkable years with the Preshitharam Sisters, it's with a mix of gratitude and anticipation that we share this news.

Their impactful presence in the Parish and Nirmal Vidyalay continues, and we are privileged to have them until the academic school year concludes. The decision for them to move on is a planned transition after their contract concludes. Currently, the Diocese places priority on our mission, seeking Franciscan Sisters to carry forward the torch of service and evangelization. If you have any congregation in mind willing to embark on this mission, kindly reach out at 9645079598/8078902272.

Wishing you a Christmas filled with joy and a New Year blessed with bliss.







Capuchin Mission Namibia

Dear Brothers,

Greetings from the Capuchin Mission in Namibia. We are thrilled to share our stories from Namibia with you.

Farewell to Fr. Jose

After 14 years of dedicated service in the Namibian mission, Fr. Jose has embarked on a new mission in Saudi Arabia. We cannot thank him enough for his tremendous contributions to Namibia. During his tenure as the parish priest in Holy Family Mission, St Michael Mission, and Holy Spirit Parish in Khorixas, he accomplished remarkable work. The people in these parishes fondly remember his service with deep gratitude. During the farewell mass, all the friars were present. Br. Jinesh and Br. Varghese officially expressed their gratitude for his exceptional service. We extend our best wishes and pray for God's blessings upon his new ministry.

Feast of St. Francis and Retreat

This year, we combined our retreat with the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. To enhance the occasion, we were honored to have Fr. Shaji as our retreat preacher. Following the feast celebration, all Capuchins gathered at St. Francis House in Bukalo

for our annual three-day retreat. We express our gratitude to Fr. Shaji Karimplanil for his dedication and fraternal concern in coming here to lead our annual retreat.

Change is always good

Following his tenure as a member and parish priest of Holy Family Mission in Katima, Br. Nithin has moved to a new mission in the Windhoek Archdiocese. He has been appointed as the parish priest of Holy Spirit Parish in Khoirxas. Br. Anoop is now appointed to the new parish of Holy Family Mission. Br. Toji, who previously managed the hostel at St. Michael Mission, has been entrusted with the new responsibility as the parish priest of St. Michael Mission in Outjo. We extend our best wishes and pray for God's abundant blessings upon them in their new roles.

New Missionary - Br. Jince

The Namibian mission joyfully welcomes our new missionary, Br. Jince. Br. Anoop and Br. Jinesh welcomed him at the airport. He is now appointed as the assistant parish priest of Holy Family Mission alongside Fr. Anoop. We are confident that his enthusiasm and creativity will bring more life to Holy Family Mission.

Visitors

The visits of friars always bring joy to our lives. This season, we were privileged to welcome two

distinguished guests to our mission. Fr. Shaji Karimplanil came to lead our annual retreat, and Br. Babichan Earthayil also visited us. Their visits, though at different times, allowed them to celebrate mass and visit almost all the parishes of our missions. We express our gratitude to these brothers for their fraternal visits.

Blessing of the Renovated Parish Church in Bukalo Mission

Under the guidance of Br. Jinesh, the Bukalo mission successfully completed the renovation of the parish church. The renovation project commenced in 2018 and concluded last month. The church can now accommodate 350 people for Mass. We gratefully remember Fr. Chacko, the former parish priest, for his contributions towards the renovation of the church.

Climate Change

Climate change is a stark reality. Namibia is experiencing increasing temperatures with a scarcity of rain. The country is grappling with record heat, reaching 46 degrees Celsius in the Zambezi region. Drought conditions are looming. We earnestly hope and pray for showers in the coming months.

Visit of Brother Thieves

Visits from thieves have become a concern at Holy Family Mission. We are facing continuous challenges due to the theft of various items. Street lights, cooking

pots, fridges, stoves, and other necessities are being taken by these thieves. Such incidents are disheartening for us when we witness these attacks within the mission. We earnestly hope and pray that these occurrences will come to an end soon.

Dear All,

Christmas is fast approaching. All the parishes and people are preparing to welcome Christ. We, too, are busy with the preparations. We extend warm wishes to all of you for a joyous Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

Until we meet again in these pages, goodbye.



Calvary News

Greetings of Peace and Joy from Calvary Ashram...

Achievements...

With great pride and joy, we announce that our Calvary Institute of Philosophy and Religion has been erected as an Ecclesiastical Higher Education Institution by the Holy See and affiliated with the Faculty of Philosophy of Jnanadeepa, Institute of Philosophy and Theology (Pontifical Athenaeum), Pune. The community expresses gratitude towards all who worked behind this achievement, especially Rector, Br. Jaison Vadakkan, and Prefect of Studies, Br. Treejo Chakkalackal.

Calvary Feast...

The Calvary feast was celebrated on the 17th of September in all colors. In preparation for the feast, we had a novena for nine days, during which brothers gave messages preparing everyone spiritually for the feast. On the previous day of the feast, we had the Solemn High Mass at the Calvary Grotto, and the procession thereafter. The newly ordained priests of St. Thomas province officiated the liturgy. On the day of the Feast, we had the solemn high mass for which the Vicar General of Thrissur Archdiocese, Fr. Jose Vallooran, was the main celebrant. On the same evening, there was a

cultural program conducted by the Family Units of Calvary Zone and the various pious organizations, which added more color to the celebrations.

Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

We celebrated the Feast of St. Francis meaningfully. The community prepared for the feast by novena with prayers and reflections. As usual, on the 3rd of October, we had the Transitus ceremony where our brothers displayed the last moments of our father Francis. It was prayerful and heart-touching. After that, we served light food for the people who participated in it.

On the feast day morning, we had the Solemn Festal Mass in which Bishop Emeritus Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhi was the main celebrant. Sisters from various congregations joined us for the Eucharist and the breakfast thereafter. We had invited our neighboring priests for lunch. It was a great occasion for enriching our friendship with them and also for sharing our joy and gratitude.

Feast Celebration of our brothers

On November 11, we celebrated the feast/birthday of our Brs. Peter Pajikaran, Treejo Chackalackal, and Wilson Pynadath. On the previous day, we had a prayer session to pray for them. On the day of celebration, we had a Solemn concelebrated Holy Mass. During the festal meal, the Guardian

thankfully remembered the services that they are rendering to the community and the people.

On October 4, besides being the feast of St. Francis, our joy was double because it was also the day of celebration of Br. Francis Christi. The previous day, we prayed for him, wished him, and thanked him for the grace with which he is precious to our community.

Our Budding Artists

Our flower garden, inside the Ashram, is now adorned with a new statue of St. Francis. Having received some initial guidelines from Brs. Bibin Kolenchery and Bitto Thalakkottur, our brothers made it. This wonderful piece of artwork was completed and unveiled on the occasion of the Feast of St. Francis.

Farewell and Appointment

It was great news for our community when we heard that our beloved Br. Raphie Paliekkarahas been appointed as the new provincial minister of Krist Jyothi Province. The community wished him everything best and expressed our sincere gratitude for all the services he rendered. With joyous but yet heavy hearts, we bid farewell to him. He has left a great gap in our community that is difficult to fill.

On a gladder note, our community is blessed with the presence of the newly ordained priest, Br. Midhun Panikkamveliyil, who is temporarily appointed to our community. Hearty welcome dear brother.

Ordination

The long-awaited graceful day of Br. Midhun's ordination arrived on the 18th of November. Brothers put their whole heart, soul, and mind into making this day memorable and graceful. Bp. Mar. Sebastian Adayanthrath anointed him. The choir for the liturgy was melodious and prayerful. The church was decorated beautifully. The whole community was enthusiastic and energetic in making the event wonderful fitting to the worth and glory of the priesthood.

New Priest Day...

23 November was our New Priest Day. The newly ordained priests of this year who had their formation in Calvary visited us and offered the thanksgiving Holy mass. We congratulated them for their special gift of Priesthood and wished them the best for their future ministries.

Extension lectures

The Rule and Ratio formation were discussed in the student's community under the guidance of our Franciscan scholars Brs. Lotus Paul and Mathai Akkara. It was an occasion to delve deep into the Franciscan charism.

Annual Retreat

Brothers had their annual retreat in December, animated by Fr. Shubin TOR. The reflections, prayers,

adoration, Holy Mass, silence, etc. were enriching moments of spiritual renewal.

Community outing

Our community had a one-day outing to Dream World amusement park. On the way, we visited our Ashram at Konnakuzhi. Thanks to our Brs. Jose Ponnore and Francis Edattukaran for their warm welcome and delicious breakfast. The whole day was of fun and happiness; above all, it was also an occasion of community building.

Rare gems

We were privileged to welcome the Vicar General of our Order, Br. Jose Angel Torres Rivera. He paid a fraternal visit as he was in Kerala to attend the Chapter of Mats. He spent some time with us and enlightened us on the need for fraternal cooperation and collaboration.

It was a moment of great pleasure for Calvary to have Bp. Mar. Andrews Thazhathu. He paid an informal visit and had an interactive session. He spoke on what people expect from the religious and inspired us to live our vocation with commitment and dedication.

Calvary had an opportunity to listen and interact with Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil, who was abducted by IS extremists. He spent almost half a day with us, sharing his experiences and answering our queries. We were motivated by his experiences; he convinced us that prayer is the power and forgiveness is the medicine.

Post-novitiate

First and second-year brothers had their post-novitiate program from October 16 to November 4. Brothers were in 7 various parishes: Anakampoyil, Chempukadavu, Koorottupara (Diocese of Thamarassery), Attupuram, Vellarakad, Aloor (Trichur Archdiocese), and Cheenikkapara (Palakkad Diocese). It was a joyful experience of living the Franciscan charism more radically and challenging. We realized the value of simple Capuchin living. We are grateful to the parish priests of the respective places who helped us and inspired us.

Our Guests...

Br. Herman Minj, the provincial of St. Fidelis province, accompanied by Brs. Ranjith and Anil visited us. Br. George Antony the provincial of St. Joseph Province, and Br. Jaison Kalan, the Provincial





ALVERNA ASHRAM SULTHAN BETHERY

We, the Alverna brothers, wish you all the joy and serenity of Christmas through these folios of Internos.

Following Our Father St. Francis

In the month of September, we had a week of Franciscanism class led by Br. EK Joseph. This class reminds us of the Franciscan values and the way they should be cultivated in our lives. As a follow-up, he also preached a Franciscan retreat for us. It encouraged us to go deeper into our Capuchin life.

Festal Days

We solemnly celebrated the feast of St. Francis. The Feast was preceded by 9 days of novena, and brothers charmingly delivered good messages on those days. We decorated the church, creating an ambiance of prayer for the faithful. Many common folks and religious nuns participated in the 'Transitus,' with our Asst. Parish Priest as the main celebrant. The transtitus and the agape that followed were attended by many faithful and religious nuns.

On the festal day, a solemn mass was celebrated by Br. George Kurivilayil. In the evening, our friary was graced by the arrival of priests and religious from our neighborhood.

VisitTo Panamaram

As part of the feast of St. Padre Pio, all our community members participated in the festal celebration at Panamaram. It was a moment where our Franciscan fraternity was manifested.

Being with our blessed Virgin Mary

We had 10 days of solemn rosary in October, along with the faithful. We also made a big rosary with coconut shells and participated in the rosary procession conducted by the Bathery Forane church.

Rejoicing With the Community

We were glad to go for a short one-day outing to 'EDACKALL CAVES' and 'SOOCHI PARA WATER FALLS.' The beauty of Wayanad amazed our minds. It was also a time to enjoy brotherhood and gain some insights into historical events. We also watched the movie "FACE OF THE FACELESS," which portrays the life of Bl. Rani Maria, inspiring us to take up challenges in our lives.

Ordinations

We attended the ordination of Br. Akhil at Manimooly and Br. Tijo at Kuppayakode. It was a time when we were revitalized and inspired to move forward and keep the treasure in earthen pots.

Provincials Visitation

In November, we were blessed with the presence of the provincials of St. Thomas & Pavanathama province. Br. Jasion Kalan and Br. Thomas Karingadayil visited on 22nd NOV and 13th NOV respectively. They met the brothers personally and as a community. They were very friendly with us, and both of them extended their love by sponsoring ice creams.

Extended Lecturss

We had a one-week class on liturgy under Br. Xavier Christy. Additionally, we had lectures on psychosexual integration conducted by Sr. Liz & Sr. Elizabeth from SH convent

Guests

We were also blessed with many guests: Brs. Jibi Porathur, Jose Vettikat & his German friend, David Chitavkal, Biju Elampachaveetill, Joseph Chalisser, Joju Chowaller, and the newly ordained brothers who also had a volleyball match with us.

We wish you all a very warm Christmas and a happy new year.





800
Greccio



Sept: 29

**Br. Felician
Vayalil**

Born: 08.11.1938
 Professed : 01.05.1961
 Ordination: 03.10.1967
 Died: 29.09.2023

He was very much sought after by the faithful for confession and spiritual direction. He was known for his commitment to the religious life,

Br. Felician Vayalil was born on 8 November 1938 at Anakkallu, in the present diocese of Kanjirappally. He was born into the Vayalil family as the youngest son of Mr. Chacko Ouseppu and Aleykutty. After completing his schooling at Govt. UP School Anakkallu, St. Dominic School Kanjirappally and AMHS Kalaketty, he joined the Capuchins on 13 June 1957 at Seraphic Santi Ashram Coimbatore. He made his Simple Profession on 1 May 1961 at Monde Mariano Frankipet Novitiate House. He completed his philosophical studies at St. Antony's Philosophate Kollam and Calvary Ashram Thrissur and the Theological studies at Kottagiri. He was ordained Priest on 3 October

1967. He took a licentiate degree in Franciscan Spirituality.

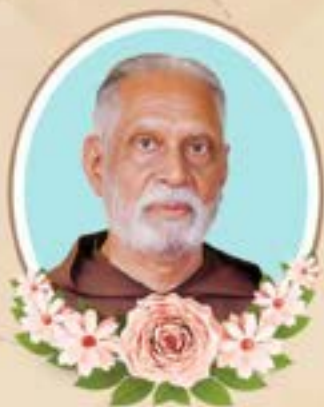
The initial years of his religious life were spent at Seraphic Juniarate Bharananganam as the Rector. Then his missionary zeal led him to the Northern Missions on July 24, 1969. From 1969 to 1976, he served at Dharwal St. Therasas Ashram in Punjab as co-ordinator of the Sevasadhan rehabilitation center, founder and manager of St. Thomas School, Mastkot, and as the founder and organizer of the mass media and audio vision unit at Jalandhar. From 1976 to 1982, he rendered his service at St. Thomas Ashram Kalanoor, Punjab, and St. Francis Ashram, Gurudaspur, as Guardian, School Manager, Audio Vision Mobile Unit organizer, and founder and director of the Christian information center. From 1983 to 1986, he served at Bilaspur Udayabhavan Ashram in UP as Guardian, school manager, parish priest, and chaplain. From 1986 to 1993, he served at Alverna Ashram Dehousy in Himachal Pradesh as Guardian and chaplain. From 1993 to 2001, he served at St. Francis Ashram,

Batala, in Punjab; St Francis Ashram, Karthapur; Kristujyothi Vice Provincialate, Delhi; and St. Francis Ashram, Kalanaur with various responsibilities. From 2001 to 2003, he was a member of Loreto Ashram, Muvattupuzha, and Ranigiri Ashram, Mannamthala. From 2005 to 2008, he was appointed at St. Jude Ashram, Mukathala, as Guardian and school manager. From 2008 to 2012, he served at Amala Ashram, Thopramkudy as a member and at Portiuncula Ashram, Kattappana as the chaplain at St. Johns Hospital, Kattappana. From 2015 to 2023, he was a member of Padre Pio Ashram, Mundakayam. On September 16, 2023, after having noticed some swelling on his legs and physical weakness, he was taken to our provincial infirmary at Bharananganam for further check-ups and treatment. Shortly after, he was diagnosed with advanced liver cancer. He was treated at Marian Medical Centre, Mar Sleeva Medicity Pala, and Marygiri Hospital Bharananganam. On 29 September 2023 in the early hours, he was called

by the Lord for his eternal reward. The funeral service was held on September 30, 2023, and his mortal remains are laid to rest in the vault of the cemetery of Assisi Ashram, Bharananganam.

Br. Felician was a dynamic person with many leadership and pastoral qualities. He was a zealous missionary with various initiatives for the spiritual and social well-being of the people. He was a man of commitment and dedication. He was very much sought after by the faithful for confession and spiritual direction. He was known for his commitment to the religious life, maintaining punctuality and regularity in his religious life. May the good Lord grant him eternal peace.





In Loving Memory of

Br. Felician Vayalil Capuchin
Assisi Ashram Bharanaganam

Born	08-11-1938
S. Profession	01-05-1961
F. Profession	01-05-1964
Ordination	03-10-1967
Died	29-09-2023



May millions of lamps illuminate
your life with endless joy,
prosperity, health & wealth forever.

Wishing you & your family a

Happy New Year

"Christmas invites us to contemplate the
mystery of **God's love** made visible
in the **vulnerability of a child.**"

Pope Benedict XVI:

