



St. Paul's Messenger

Department of Education and Media

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Provincial's Message

The Beginning and the End !

Dear and loving fathers and brothers,

We are in the last month of an academic year 2017 - 2018. And we are in the last week of our Lenten season! Within few days we will begin a new academic year and a new liturgical season!!

Before we start the new academic year, it is better to take a stalk of our achievements and failures, good times and bad times, income and expenditure and so on. Our past and our experience make the base for our future plans. The wise builder calculates his resource and then decides whether to build his house (Lk 14: 28 - 31). Dear and loving fathers as we plan for the next academic year, let us dream for the best of our house or institution. Let us execute the plans with long lasting vision. It needs an attitude of ownership and an attitude of sacrifice without any expectation. When we own the institution and spend our time, energy and ideas for the institution, we will experience the inner satisfaction. And the institution or our house will become a place of worship.

The Lent also gives us an opportunity to evaluate not only our spiritual activities but also the secular activities. One more Lenten season is passing away. I believe, that we could use this season for a thorough evaluation and a radical renewal. We need to check whether we have grown more in our maturity and spirituality by remembering the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is true that we prayed more, did fasting and did more good deeds. Check whether these good deeds made us more near to Jesus or have we become more 'Jesus like'. Prayer, Fasting and Alms giving are the virtues we practiced intensely during this lent.

What was my intention through my prayer? Or for what did I pray more? The answer is very simple, but to understand, it is very complex. The simple answer is: The sanctification of my soul and the sanctification of the whole world. First, I have to become holy, which will make me worthy to pray for others. If I am not pure in my heart, my prayer will not be answered. Therefore the first and foremost purpose of our prayer is the sanctification of our own heart, mind and soul. Did we achieve the Purity??

And the Fasting or renunciation (Upavasam) we do during the Lent should accompany our prayer in purifying the whole faculty of a person. When we renounce the unnecessary thoughts from our mind and avoid the unwanted wrong habits from our life style and when we try to be away from the situations that may lead to sinful ways, we will walk in the way of Jesus. And become closer to Jesus Christ. This is the true meaning of Upavasam.

Avoiding the sinful way alone is not enough. As we move away from the wrong path, we also need to be more active in doing the good deeds. All the good things that we do to others are called as 'alms giving'. Alms giving is the third activity involved in the observance of Lent. Remember the gospel passage Mathew 25: 31 - 46. "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me". When we do the good things let it be for the poor and the needy. Then only we can say that we are doing it selflessly.

May this Lenten season make us more pure in heart through the prayer and allow us to be always with Jesus (Upavasam) by avoiding all sinful thoughts, deeds and words from our lifestyle. And finally let us live for others (Alms giving) through our committed religious life. Next academic year will be more fruitful and energetic with the power of the Lord and His Holy Spirit.

Wish you all a reflective Holy week and Happy Easter!! May the Risen Lord bless all of us.

Yours lovingly in Jesus Christ ■

Fr. Varghese Kelampampil, CMI
Provincial



Together we Grow..!

Province Day was celebrated on the 12 & 13 of January 2018 with traditional gaiety and splendour. The presence and participation of all the members of the province around the 3 'D' s - Divine Table, Dining Table and the Dialogue Table- loudly conveyed one message - Together We Grow.

'Walk the talk'...!

More than ever now is the time to lead by example. So, superiors of all our houses came together to be more inspired and encouraged to lead in the front. All the best and thanks to all our superiors....!

Spiritual Quotient

It was Socrates who said, 'unexamined life is not worth living'. Annual retreat for the fathers was held from March 4-8 at CM Fathers Retreat Centre at Belawadi. Retreat preacher was Fr. Mathew Madayanakal of St. Joseph's Province, Kottayam. In a well preached retreat 20 priests participated.

'Diakonia'

The word deacon comes from the Greek word 'diakonia' means service. How wonderful for the Mysore family to have 3 deacons - Dn. Jobins Athickal, Dn. Shibilin Vandanamthadathil and Dn. Shan Kunnumpuram. The diaconate of Dn. Jobins Athickal and Dn. Shibilin Vandanamthadathil was



solemnized on 27th of January at Samanvaya Theologate, Bhopal and Dn. Shan Kunnumpuram on 23 of March at Dharmaram College Bengaluru. Hearty congratulations and fruitful ministry to all our dear deacons.....!





Go Goa...!

Extend mission to extended territory is a clause in our province statues not any more. A new house is blessed in Goa for the Province on 19th of March 2018. What a day to begin Joseph Vas Nivas. It was blessed by his Excellency Bishop Philip Neri. Fr. Provincial, councilors, many fathers from the province and nearby places were present. There was also the presence of many people. May His Good News extend beyond territories...!

New building - Kandali

Fr. Provincial laid foundation stone for a new building for Christ Academy at Kandali. Let us wish that the institution to come up may become a beautiful edifice of wisdom and knowledge.

Lead Kindly Light...!

Our Mundaje School was blessed and dedicated to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus by His Excellency Bp. Lawrence Mukkuzhy on 24th of January. We wish and pray that the school may turn in to an abode of wisdom and knowledge to the people of far and near.



‘Sharpen the Saw’ - Colligo 2018

STES Staff Get Together at Hassan CBES School on Jan 6th was that of a difference with quality, organising and effect. It was an opportunity for the staff to sharpen the ‘weapon’ of knowledge and it’s imparting suiting to the signs of the times. A big salute to the Hassan School team....!



‘Good and faithful Servants...’

The Bursars and Accountants Orientation Programme was held on February 3rd at Carmel Bhavan, Mysore. It was an opportunity to know the latest changes in the department of accounting and auditing and make necessary changes in the system in place.



Amendment

STES organised a special meeting of the General Body to amend the bylaw and to introduce “Operational Rules and Regulations for the Schools and Colleges under the Society” and “Employment Regulations”. It was a much needed move for a better future.



Health Desk

1. Fr. Angadiyath had few days of hospital acquaintance and now he has recovered with renewed energy. Go on Fr. Angadiath....!
2. Fr. Varghese Koluthara is under medical treatment for his multiple hip surgery. Heartfelt wishes for speedy recovery dear father.

Social Work Department

1. Visit to an Old Age home

About 50 members including staff and students of humanity club of Bharath Matha School visited Shakthi Old Age Home at Koodige in Kushalnagar. It accommodates forty elders and sick people. Students performed a dance programme. Interaction session helped the students to know more about their needs and problems. Generous thoughts were expressed by presenting them shawls, woolen caps and dresses. Lunch was arranged by the management. We received positive feedback from the students and inmates of old age home.

2. Shalegondur Mane

We are extremely glad to launch the maiden project “SHALEGONDUR MANE”, constructing a house for the needy. 2 bedroom house with all modern amenities was constructed at Guddenahalli, Koppa for our supporting staff Mr. Radhakrishnan and Mrs. Ambika Radhakrishnan. It was inaugurated on January 20th, 2018. The key was handed over to the family by Rev. Fr. Joseph P. J., Principal, and our school representatives along with honorable fathers cut the ribbon. A prayer sermon was given by our Principal in the presence of Vice Principal Rev. Fr. Pratheesh and Manager Rev. Fr. Renny. Family was blessed with a prayer song by the school choir.



3. Partial assistance for Constructing a House

One of the drivers of Christ Public School, Bogadi was in a dire need of a house. Therefore, we have decided to provide partial assistance for the same. The materials worth two lakhs were given to him.



4. Service to the Society

Inculcating a sense of Service among students, this supports their personal growth as well as service mindedness towards their neighborhood and society. In the month of November Christ School students, Hassan visited an old age home under the guidance of Principal Fr. Freison K. Thomas. The students and teachers spent a couple of hours with them,





listening to their sorrows and pains. The presence of vibrant, young minds was a source of comfort to them. The Christ family served them lunch which was voluntarily prepared by students and donated some financial support to them.

In the month of December a Deaf and dumb school was visited by the social club members, students and Rev. Fr. Shoby, the Administrator. Fr. Shoby addressed the gathering by encouraging the deaf children. His speech was translated by one of the teachers in sign language. Christmas Carols were sung by students, the children also performed a

number of dances for them. Finally, sweets and fruits were distributed to the children.

Christ School, Hassan extends a hand of support to economically backward students in our school and many of them are given fee concession. They also extend a helping hand to physically challenged people and the cancer patients those who come to us for financial assistance. One of the staff members had met with an accident in the month of September and was hospitalized, the school had met 40% of his hospital expenses.

Bharath Matha, Koppa

Republic Day Celebration

Republic day was celebrated in a grand manner. Mr. Shashidar, Zilla Panchayath member and the social worker accepted the salute of the March-past which was a vibrant show of colours and patriotism. A patriotic dance was performed on stage. The highlight of the programme was the synchronization of Karate and Bharatanatyam wherein a record number of 250 Karatekas and 350 Bharatanatyam dancers displayed excellent moves. The Breaking of tiles by our young Karatekas using different parts of their body was a breathtaking spectacle. The traditional dressed dancers with their well-choreographed moves reminded us of our culture and heritage.



Samavarthana

Samavarthana programme was organized for the IInd PU and SSLC students. Parents accompanied their wards and the students received the blessings of both parents and teachers. The prayer session invoked deep feelings in everyone and was much appreciated for its divine and cultural value. Students and Parents shared their experiences favoring the service of the institution. Partaking of lunch by parents, students and management provided a conducive atmosphere for free discussion.



Christ Academy, Kandali

Annual Day

Annual Day was celebrated on 22/12/2018. Principal Rev. Fr. Freison was the Chief Guest. He spoke about the quality and importance of education. He also emphasized on the responsibility of both parents and teachers. Rev. Fr. Thomas, Rev. Fr. George, Rev. Fr. Romulus and Sr. Jessy MSMI made the event grand success. Following this, colourful cultural programme was presented by Pre-KG, LKG and UKG students.

Republic Day

Republic Day was celebrated on 26/01/2018. The flag was hoisted by Rev. Fr. Thomas. He gave a message of patriotism.

Ethnic Day

Ethnic Day was celebrated on 09/02/2018 in a colourful and beautiful way. It was a feast to the eyes of the onlookers.

Christ School, Bogadi

Compassionate Christmas..!

The month of Christmas was ushered in with the theme of 'Compassionate Christites' to help the needy and the poor. All the Christites generously contributed for the cause of Compassionate Christites. We have collected Rs. 1,14,688/- and other materials worth one Lakh rupees. The amount and the materials collected were given to various institutes like : Home for the aged, Home for deaf & dumb, orphanage and Home for specially abled children.

Glory to God....

Christmas celebration was held on 22nd December 2017.



Annual Sports Day

Annual sports day was held on 11th January 2018. Rev. Fr. Dr. Varghese K J, President, St. Thomas Education society was the chief guest.



Republic Day

Republic Day was celebrated and Cultural fest 2018 for V to VIII was organized on the same day.



Kids Annual Day

Xpressions 2018 - Calibre of Christites. Annual day celebrations for KG to Grade 4 were held from 27th to 31st January 2018.



Samavarthanam

A Farewell program for grade X was held on 3rd February 2018.



Christ CMI Public School, Hassan

The events and celebrations in the school are the reasons to illustrate the pride of School and student's skill.

1. Founder's Day - A celebration to commemorate the vision of our founder **St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara** was celebrated on 3/01/2018. As part of a new phase the school organized the staffs get together **COLLIGO - 2018** on 06/01/2018. Many schools witnessed the programme of the day. Cultural and sports events were conducted. The different schools experienced the beauty of togetherness.

2. Republic Day was celebrated with traditional gaiety and real patriotism. Dr. Yathishwar was the Chief Guest. The festival was brimmed with patriotic fervour. The talents day was conducted on 20/01/2018 for the classes V to X. It served to showcase myriad talents of our students. The talents day was designed to allow all the students to exhibit their special interest in dancing, painting, acting, singing or some other area.



3. Sports Day: The most intriguing aspect, embellishing event, Sports Day was held on 02/02/2018. The students of different house wings splattered on the field. This was followed by the track events.

4. Science Exhibition: The science club carried out **SCI - MAT EXPO** to cultivate scientific research and bring out hidden talents of the students. The club gave opportunities where idea would bloom for the development of the World. The students from V to IX exhibited models, working models and projects.



5. Graduation Day: “Graduation is not the end, it’s the beginning”. The day was given to organize **Graduation Day** to encourage the UKG students with optimistic hope for the future. The Graduation day was organized on 16/02/2018. Dr. Dinesh, Pediatrician, Mani Speciality Hospital was the Chief Guest. The parents of Kindergarten were invited for the Programme. All UKG tiny tots wore vibrant blue graduation dress along with the Principal and the chief guest. The Programme had cultural events by baby sitting and LKG students. The school programmes ended with the significant positive impact on the students.



Christ School, Hunsur

1. Annual Day: 4th Annual Day celebration of Christ School, Hunsur was held on 22nd December 2017. Mr. Srinivas Gowda, Ward Councillor was the chief guest and Fr. Varghese Kelampampil delivered the presidential address. Fr. Joseph Philip N and other esteemed guests were present for this celebration. All students from LKG to 7th standard had performed their talents on the stage including dance, songs, karate skills and music.

2. DCL IQ Test: 11th November 2017, 149 students had participated in the DCL IQ Test. Amrutha D. of 3rd Std. secured 5th Rank and other two students were awarded cash prize.



Christa Jyothi School, Arkalgud

Annual Day

Christa Jyothi School Arkalgud has celebrated its 22nd Annual Day on 23rd January 2018. The celebration was grand and it reflected quality CMI education.

S S L C 2018.

This year 77 students are appearing for the Board examination from our school. All the best for them...!



4. **Champions:** Pushpa team won the first place in throw ball competition, conducted by St Thomas Education society.



5. **Sevadala:** Pushpa Sevadala students participated in state level camp and bagged certificates.



Pushpa School, Periyapatna

1. **Principals Birthday:** Pushpa School celebrated Birthday of our Dear Principal in a befitting way.



2. **State Level karate winners:** The School won state level Karate championship.



Christ College, Mysuru

BONITAS 2K17

Department of commerce and management, Christ College, Mysuru organized a commerce fest, 'BONITAS 2K17' on 20th December 2017 for PUC students around Mysore city. Mr. Johnson Managing Director of Lunars Industries inaugurated the event. The fest was organized with a vision to motivate the PU level students with career guidance. Mr. Uthsav Agarval Managing Director Boruka Fabcons Private Ltd and President Young Indians CII addressed the participants during the valedictory function.



PSYQUEST

Department of Psychology, Christ College, Mysuru organized, 'PSYQUSET' a state Level workshop on "Mental Health in the Workplace" on 23rd February 2018. Rev. Fr. Varghese K J CMI, President of St. Thomas education Society and Provincial of St. Paul's Province, Mysuru inaugurated the event. Dr. Elizabeth Daniel, Professor in Clinical Psychology, resource person for the workshop, spoke about mental stress among students and its solutions.



SPARK BUZZ

On 28 Feb 2018, The Department of Journalism, Christ College, Mysuru conducted "SPARKBUZZ", journalism fest, colored with different programs. 75 students from various colleges in and around Mysuru participated in it. Leading journalists of Mysuru addressed the participants.



Congratulations.....

Our scholastics Bibin, Nibin and Swaroop have secured distinction in the third semester University Examination. Hearty Congratulations and best wishes.

Best wishes to Rev. Fr. Biju Pallurathil, the new Principal of Christ College Mysuru.

Christ School, Thandavapura

Jubilee Tree

On account of silver Jubilee celebration our Christ School Principal Fr. Sebastian P. J. introduced "Jubilee Tree". Manager Rev. Fr. James, Fr. Thomas Ayankudy, Fr. Mathew and Fr. Francis were present on the occasion. Fr. James Mekkara inaugurated the function by planting a sapling. Saplings were planted in the village by representatives of teachers, students, Fr. Sebastian, Fr. Francis and Panchayath members.



Karate competition

Silver Jubilee Memorial Inter School Karate competition 2017 was organised thoughtfully and successfully in our Christ School. Rev. Fr. Thomas Ayankudy CMI, former president of St. Thomas Education Society, Manager Rev. Fr. James, Principal Rev. Fr. Sebastian, Administrator Fr. Mathew and Karate Master Mr. Rajesh together inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp. 20 students from different schools participated in the competition. Runner Up championship trophy was won by Christ school Thandavapura.



Free Medical camp

In relation to the 'silver Jubilee celebration' "Free Medical Camp" was held very successfully in our School. Dr. Vajiha Begum (Gynecologist), Dr. Mohamed Eizul Hag Chand (Ortho sergeant),

Dr. Kushal Ravi Kumar (Pediatrician) Dr. Syed Irfan (Pharmacist), Dr. Mona Fathima (BAMB), marketing team and nursing team from BIBI Ayesha Mili Hospital, Mysore came to our school for free medical checkup. Mrs. Usha-dance teacher, Rotary inner wheel President Mrs. Shilpa, Fr. Francis, Fr. Mathew, Fr James, Principal Fr. Sebastian along with the doctors inaugurated the lamp. Chief guest Rev. Fr. James CMI gave speech about health, more than 300 people came for the check-up. Free medicines were provided for them.



Silver jubilee celebration

Our Christ family celebrated 25th silver jubilee of the school in a grand and successful manner. Rev Fr. Varghese K. J. CMI presided over the function. Rt. Rev. Dr. K William, Bishop of Mysore diocese inaugurated the function and gave a message. Mrs. Manjula DDPI, Mysuru, Mr. Dayanand, Tashildhar Nanjangud, Mr. Narayana K.E.S, BEO Nanjangud and Mrs. Bhagyamma T.S Panchyat president, Thandavapura were present.



St. Paul's Province, Mysuru, St. Thomas Education Society and the entire CMI fraternity appreciate and acknowledge the yeomen service Christ School, Thandavapura has rendered to the society and the humanity at large. While wholeheartedly congratulating the present management team lead by Principal Fr. Sebastian P.J, STES wish golden days to the school and a bright future. Million congratulations and appreciations to you the Christ Team for the committed, well planned, creative and jovial and wonderful celebrations of the Silver Jubilee....!

"Nadedu banda Daari"

History of St. Paul's Province, Mysore (Part 4)

St. Paul's Carmel, Thandavapura

"Dodda Bungli"

Introduction

Sometimes people ask 'What is there in a name?'. It is true that name and form are pertinent to time and space. But the name 'Thandavapura', is more than a name for the members of St. Paul's Province, Mysuru. It is heavy enough to evoke memories, emotions, nostalgia and may be eschatological 'fear'. It has been the womb for many and definitely the tomb for all CMI mysurians. It is the cradle where the lullabies of initial formation was tuned in to ears of most of the members. It is the sacred space where the great souls of the province rest in peace. History of the house at Thandavapura is built on the emotions and feelings of the whole family of the province of Mysuru.

Early History- Nostalgic Roots

Our founder St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara's name plays a stunning role in the purchase of the Thandavapura

land. In the year 1965, during summer vacation, some of the priests and brothers from Dharmaram College, Bangalore went to Ooty to translate the works of St. Chavara from Malayalam to Latin. It was in relation with the canonization of St. Chavara. During their stay in Ooty Fr. Roger had the pleasant opportunity to meet the owner of 'Eventide'¹, Mrs. O. M. Vernede and their son Mr. N.R. Vernede. The Vernedes were about to leave India selling all their properties - tea estate in Ooty and 'Eventide' at Thandavapura, Mysore. The Vernedes were Protestants and they wanted to sell their property to a missionary group. It was the time when Sacred Heart province, Kalamassery was in search of properties in and around Mysore. Fr. Roger knowing the need of the S.H. Province immediately on the same day intimated the matter 'Eventide' to Fr. Francis Sales, Provincial S. H. Province and to Fr. Johannes Thaliath, professor,

¹ The name 'Eventide' was given so because the climate was always even.



Dharmaram, Bangalore. Since Fr. Sales was attending the General Synaxis at Ernakulam, he was not able to come to Thandavapura to have a first-hand assessment of the property. So, he encouraged Fr. Roger to continue the good work and contact alive with Vernede family.² Now, what feelings are evoked in us when we know our history is somehow specially related to our founder? Awe, wonder, nostalgia, love, zeal, commitment...? I think it will make us definitely convinced that our origin was not on human planning but rather providential and God's willing.

Once General Synaxis was over Fr. Provincial (Francis Sales), Fr. Jonas Thaliath, Fr. Dorethvus (Provincial Consultor), Fr. Melesius (Prior, Thevara) came to Thandavapura. Mrs. Vernede was gracious enough to give the property to the fathers comparatively in low price of Rs. 80,000. The fathers were more than happy about the property and the price. It was agreed to pay half of the amount during the registration at Nanjangud through cheque and the rest in England. Rs. 40,000 were given during registration as cheque and the balance in England. They fixed the deal and returned Kerala to get the needed finance.

Many people approached them offering good price but for some reason the deal did not take place. For example immediately after we fixed the deal an American and a German priests belonging to Pallotine order came to Thandavapura with the secretary of the bishop of Mysore. They were looking for some suitable place for their Novitiate. By then deal was already taken place so they went back.³

In the book written by Fr. Mathew Koodalil there is a heart touching mentioning about the pain Fr. Sales undergone to buy the Thandavapura property. Fr. Koodalil writes, "To purchase the property at Mysore (Thandavapura), Fr. Provincial borrowed Rs.15,000 from the Rector of Aluva Seminary and from the Prior of Thevara Rs. 4,000. To purchase the property at Thandavapura Fr. Provincial had to debt money from many people."

On 8th of June 1965 at 5 am, Fr. Francis Sales, Provincial, Fr. Berthold, Fr. Raymond, Fr. John Romoyos, Bro. Varghese Pathikulangara and Bro. Paul travelled from Kalamassery to Mysore via Kottagiri by car. On the way they stopped at Kottagiri (Tamilnadu) to meet the Vernedes. Mrs. Vernede had been to England so the fathers wanted to meet her son Mr. N. Vernede at the tea estate. Since he was not there in the tea estate they met him at Ooty bungalow and exchanged with him about the property deal date and occupation. He agreed to the needs of the fathers

and gave a written permission to occupy the land and live in the bungalow.⁴

Veterans Sangama

On the 8th of June 1965, Rev. Fr. Maurus (Prior General), Fr. Canisius (Rector, Dharmaram) and Bishop Johannas Thaliath reached Thandavapura from Bangalore. Fr. Prior General himself blessed the purchased building and the land and consecrated the house to the most Sacred heart of Jesus. The Prior General expressed his happiness about the house and opined that it is suitable for a religious monastery life. Fr. Provincial took them to Mysore city for dinner and they left to Bangalore on the same day. On the next day after the morning Mass Fr. Provincial, Fr. Berthold and Fr. John Romoyos walked around the property, had a better view about it and they left to Kerala by 9 am.

Old building of Thandavapura and the land had the foot touch of veterans and holy people of our congregation like Fr. Canisius. In the context that canonization process of Fr. Canisius is underway Thandavapura attracts greater importance.

Metropole Hotel and Registration

On 25th of February Fr. Provincial and Fr. Roger came to Thandavapura via Bangalore. They met Mrs. Vernede at Metropole Hotel Mysore and discussed matters regarding land registration and finalised it. Fr. Provincial handed over a cheque of Rs. 40,000 to Fr. Raymond for the registration. Mr. Anatharamayya was the broker who helped in the entire deal.⁵ On the 26th of June 1965 Mr. N.R. Vernede reached Thandavapura from Mysore and Mr. Anatharamaya from Bangalore. Along with Fr. Raymond they went to Nanjangud Sub Registrar office and registration of the land took place in an hour.⁶ Thus 17 acres of beautiful mango grove and magnificent building was purchased.

Eventide to St. Paul's Carmel House

Fr. Raymond Mancheril was the first superior of the house and he was assisted by Bro. Paul. It was Fr. Raymond who changed the name 'Eventide' to St. Paul's Carmel House at the direction and suggestion of Fr. Francis Sales, Provincial on June 13, 1965.⁷ On 23 of June 1965 His

⁴ After lunch from Ooty they reached eventide by 4.30 pm. Mr. Christy, helper of the Vernedes was living at the Thandavapura house. He was given permission to take some of the laundry items.

⁵ A black cow and calf of 4 and litre milk was bought from Mr. Naje Gowda for 575 rupees. This Naje Gowda served at the house more than 30 years. He was also called 'Nanjanna'. He was very good at cattle rearing and was great help to all the fathers.

⁶ Fr. Raymond took the registered paper and kept it in our house. A map was bought by Fr. Raymond to study about the place. A cook was coming from Karukutty so Fr. Raymond went to Bangalore to receive him. Bro. Paul was sick and he was looked after by Dr. Guru Raja Rao a local medical practitioner.

⁷ June 14, two priests from Pallotine congregation came here to purchase the land for their novitiate along with the secretary of Mysore bishop. It was

² Two jersey cows were bought from Mrs. Vernede for Dharmaram.

³ There was a complaint that we did not inform the then local hierarchy about the purchase before hand.

Excellency Bishop Sebastian Valloppilly gave permission to the members in the house to say Mass in Malayalam, hear confessions and install Blessed Sacrament in the chapel. He was also happy to give permission for an ashram at Mysore. Fr. Canisius, Rector of Dharmaram College donated a set of mass vestments to the house. Fr. Mathias Mundadan lived here for one month to publish his thesis.

Institution of the Bl. Sacrament

On November 7, Fr. Provincial made the canonical visitation. He gave guidelines for an English medium school and directions to be independent house. He brought a tabernacle made of iron for Rs.400 from Madras. It was a gift from his friend. Fr. Provincial and Fr. Raymond went to Mysore Bishop's House to clarify things regarding the dealings related to the purchase of the new land. They met chancellor of the Mysore diocese. Then the vicar general was Fr. Capelle. He was the parish priest of St. Joseph's parish. He was an old friend of Fr. Provincial. So, they visited him and he gave a monstrance for use. So, on the 9th November 1965 Bl. Sacrament was instituted at the house. Formerly it was in the eastern room of the house later moved to the western side⁸.

Hub of Social Activities

In 1966 Fr. Cyprian became the superior of the house and Fr. Raymond went back to the province. In 1971 a dispensary was started at Thandavapura with the help of an experienced nurse. In 1976 we invited Holy family sisters and the 'Samaritan hospital' began. We built the hospital building and entrusted its running to the sisters. Fr. Benedict supervised building of the hospital. Apart from that, sisters took initiative to visit families in the nearby villages. House for houseless with the help of government and CRS was another social oriented project. He introduced many people oriented programmes such as cooperative milk society & diary schemes. In the house itself there were Holstein Bull & cows. New breeds of cattle changed the economic status of the villagers around. He was respected as "Scooter Swami". He was always on wheels.

Now Fr. Barnabas was the regional superior. Community dairy project, MCH helped villagers and poor people. One overhead tank was built near railway station with the help of German contribution. It was later freely granted to the government in writing.

Aspirants House

In 1973 first year aspirancy started here with Fr. Edmund as the Rector and he was followed by Fr. Johny Arackaparambil, Fr. Romalus Payyappilly and Fr. Jacob Punchaputhussery. There were 10 new candidates to first year aspirancy. They learned English, Latin and Kannada languages. The same aspirants continued their Pre University studies at JSS College, Nanjangud and all of them passed in II PUC with 1 first and 4 second class. 6 of them decided to join novitiate and they started to Karukutty Novitiate on 21 July 1973 for novitiate.

Novitiate House

A novitiate house for the region of Mysuru was temporally erected at Kandali, Hassan on the 8th of September 1985 by name Bl. Kuriakose Elias Chavara. Since the Kandali house was lacking enough facilities it was decided to have a new Novitiate house. Accordingly on 9th august 1985 foundation stone for a no vitiante was laid at Thandavapura. Then Prior General Bishop Vijayanand Nedumpuram on 8th of September 1986, with a charter declared Thandavapura as the permanent Novitiate House of Mysore province titled, "Bl. Kuriakose Elias Chavara Novitiate House"⁹. Rev. Fr. Antony Moolamattam under the direction of Rev. Fr. Melesius Palatty of SH Province Kalamassery and with the support of Rev. Fr. Zeno Vithayathil,¹⁰ the then rector of the aspirants, and Fr. Silvius could complete the construction of the novitiate building. On Sept 8 1986 novitiate moved from Hassan to Thandavapura. Blessing of the novitiate took place on Nov.10, 1986. Then Fr. Gabinus Petta was the provincial. On 5th July 1987 novitiate was temporally closed and Bro. Abraham the only novice was sent to Marikunnu on 5th July 1987.

During these years first year aspirants were trained at Christa Sadana, Kandali. Considering the inconveniences of the house and the fact that the new novitiate building was free, first year Aspirants House was moved from Kandali to Thandavapura on 22nd July 1987.

The superiors who served the house in the early years of the house and their tenure; 1975 -78 Fr. Benedict, 1978-81 Fr. Amatus, 1981-86 Fr. Zeno, 1986 Sept.8 April 20, 1987 Fr. Anastasius.¹¹

Novitiate team who rendered valuable service at Thandavapura:

1987 - Fr. Thomas Vithayathil and Fr. Gabinus Petta - Novice Master; Fr. Amatus, Fr. Silvius and Fr. James Mekkara - members.

1995 - Fr. Faustin Kanjirakkombil (Muvattupuzha Province) - Novice Master; Fr. Amatus and Fr. Anastasius - members.

1997 - Fr. Thomas Kunianthodath - Novice Master; Fr. Amatus, Fr. Johny Koikara and Fr. Tomy Pittappilly - members.

1999 - Fr. Anastasius Ottakudassery - Novice master; Fr. Philip (Calicut Province) and Fr. Kuriachan Marangolil - members.

2004 - Fr. Thomas Kunianthodath - Novice Master; Fr. Thomas Panthaplackal (Calicut Province), Fr. Joseph

⁹ "By virtue of the power granted to me through our Constitution (No.94), I, with the consent of the Council, hereby transfer and confirm Blessed Kuriakose Elias Novitiate already established and erected temporarily at Hassan, Kandali, on 8, Sept 1985, its permanent location of Blessed Kuriakose Novitiate house, Thandavapura, Mysore on this day of Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, 8 Sept, 1986. Nothing contrary will affect this adversely. Given at Ernakulam on 8. 9. 1986. Fr. Vijay Anand Nedumpuram CMI, Prior General

¹⁰ Fr. Zeno got a special puppy from the street. He brought and reared it. While the aspirants were taught kannada the puppy entered the class room. It was the time the teacher was teaching a kannada syllable pronounced 'Kottare suruli', which the aspirants wrongly spelled as 'vattar suruli'. Now they put this apparently interesting sound to the puppy. Later the dog become to known as the famous 'vattar suruli'. It was a remarkable dog in many ways.

¹¹ Fr. Amatus writes to provincial permission to sell 1 table costing 200 rupees and calf costing 1500 to Sisters of Adoration Nanjangud. He also seeks to sell a spring cot to assistant commissioner Nanjangud after collecting repair cost.

Mysore bishops who send them here. Since we had already bought the land they went back. Mysore bishop phoned and said we need proper permission to say mass and some serious matters were shared with Fr. Raymond. He answered politely and properly. Mysore bishop was Mathias Fernades.

⁸ Jan 19 1966 Fr. Cyprian came to Thandavapura. Jan 13 Fr. Aaron came here with 9 boarding students, next day they went back to Kerala via ooty.

Vattaparambil and Fr. Josekutty Vadakkal - members

2006 - Fr. Joseph Edakkery - Novice Master; Fr. Chacko Parakkattukuzhy and Fr. Kuriachan Marangolil - members.

At present Fr. James Mekkara is the superior and he is leading the house into greater heights.

Scooter swamy, Pipe swamy...!

Most of the early fathers who worked did not know kannada and villagers could not understand Malayalam. But fathers had no problems in communicating with the people. Rather the people tried to understand the fathers. But they had one big problems that was to pronounce the names like Benedict, Anastasius, etc. They solved it quite easily calling them 'Scooter swami', 'pipe swami' and so on-names according to their interest. What an innovative idea!

Addition and Deletion

In the year 2010 when Fr. Kuriachan Marangolil was the superior 2 acres and 22 cents of land was purchased adjacent to the already existing land. With regard to widening the State road the house had to give away 30 guntas for a compensation of Rs. 3 lakh.

Christ School

A school for the people of Thandavapura was always there in the original vision of the fathers. Christ School was started by Rev. Fr. Thomas Benedict in the year 1992. His commitment to start the school in Thandavapura was to create an environment to provide a platform for each young mind, to bloom and develop holistic culture and intellectual thinking. As a result, primary sections were formed in 1992 and were supported by CMI Fathers and Holy Family Sisters with very least strength of 25 students and now it has reached highly to 1200 students.

Principals who served the school throughout the years were: Rev. Fr. Late Tomy Pittappillil from 1995 - 96 to 1997 - 98, Rev. Fr. Sibichan Paul from 1998 - 99 to 2001 - 02, Rev. Fr. Joseph Vattaparambil 2002 - 03 to 2004 - 05, Rev. Fr. Sibichan Paul again from 2005-06 to 2010-11, Rev. Fr. Joseph Vattaparambil again 2011-12, Rev. Fr. Dince Antony 2012-2014 well as now Rev. Fr. Sebastian Panampuzha from 2014.

The Head Mistresses of Holy Family and Adoration sisters have a great role in the development of Christ School. Sisters who served the school as Head Mistress were: Sr. Arpitha (CHF), Sr. Theresa (SABS), Sr. Lambert (CHF), Sr. Litty (CHF), Sr. Nancy (CHF), Sr. Philo (CHF),



Sr. Vineetha(CHF), Sr. Reenet(CHF), Sr. Rani Maria(CHF) and Sr. Litty (CHF).

The foundation stone for a new building was laid by Late Rev. Fr. Tomy Pittappillil in the year 1995-96. The new building was blessed by Rev. Fr. Thomas Kunianthodath CMI, then provincial and was inaugurated by Honourable Siddaramaiah, the present Chief Minister of Karnataka and was witnessed by the DDPI Smt. Sharadamba on 29.1.2000.

In 2015-16 the new building was furnished with administrative block, two furnished staff rooms, computer lab. Science lab, kids play room, media lab, and library. In fond memory of Late. Rev. Fr. Tomy an award for SSLC meritorious students as well as VKC sponsorship is in place in the school. Having celebrated the 25 silver years of the school it marches ahead as the only school in the Taluk to secure 100% results.

Simple Soul

Fr. Amatus Kallarackal CMI was a treasure of prayer, love and service. He lived a life of penance and sacrifices. His devotion and relation to God was so down to earth. 'Be humble, simple and mortified' was his motto. 'Little better every day' was his short cut to heaven. Prayer was a passion for him and obedience to superiors was his happiness. Simplicity was exuberant in all his ways. Being an ardent devotee of the Blessed Mother, she called him to eternal rest on 8th of September 2008. His mortal remains rests at Thandavapura cemetery.

'Holy Land'

The common cemetery of St. Paul's Province, Mysore is at Thandavapura. It was in the tenure of Fr. Thomas Ayankudy as the provincial the cemetery was built. Later during the time of Fr. Santhosh Srayil as the Provincial and Fr. Joseph Edakkery as the superior it was beautifully modified. It is not just a cemetery rather a 'holy land' as being the resting place of many holy souls.



Eucharistic Community

In tune with CMI charism and vision of the province we could form a beautiful Eucharistic Community at Thandavapura. We have a group of around 150 people for Sunday Mass and other services. They are happy and enthusiastic to come to us for their spiritual needs. All the feasts and other liturgical celebrations are solemnized to its spirit. With the people to the future....! ■

PHOTOS GALLERY



Christ Academy, Hallikerehundi



Christ Academy, Kandali



Christ Academy, Mundaje



Christ Shool, Hunsur



Christ Scholl, Thandavapura



Christa Jyothi School, Arkalgud



Pushpa School, Periyapatna

Easter is the time to repent for
all our sins and thank God
for all his blessings over us.
Let us prepare ourselves for
the returning of Christ.

Happy Easter.

