

CMI
ST PAUL'S PROVINCE
MYSURU

# St Paul's Messenger

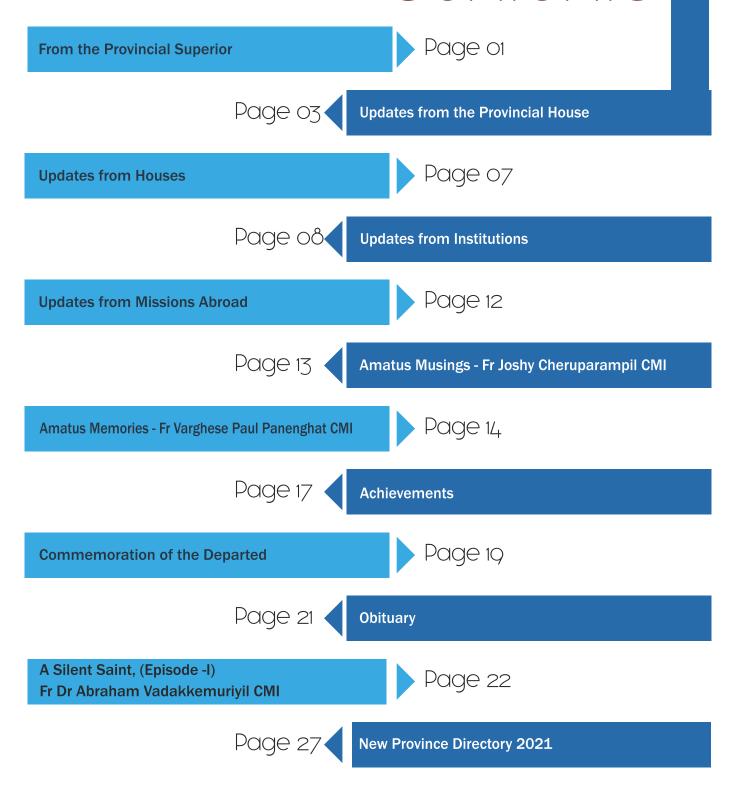
SEPTEMBER 2021

ISSUE 3

VOL. 8



## Contents



#### **NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE**

## FROM THE PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR

#### Priya Koodappirappukale,



I wish you a blessed month of October. Prayerful greetings to you on the feasts of St Therese of Lisieux, Guardian Angels, St Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of Rosary, St Theresa of Avila, St Luke etc., which we celebrate in the month of October. The month of October is also blessed with the 10 days solemn Rosary devotion and celebration of Mission Sunday. Indeed, the month of October is a month blessed with many spiritual celebrations. This is a month for us to

enrich our spirituality. Through our CMI renewal programs, we did the spade work for the enrichment of our attachment to God (Spirituality). Through the deliberations and discussions of the renewal program, we have made resolutions for the five thrusts envisaged by GS XXXVIII. The spiritual celebrations in the month of October will help us to build an enriched spirituality and will give us strength to live according to the resolutions we have adopted for the renewed and empowered communitarian life, option for the poor, accompaniment with families, children and youth, care for mother earth; our common home and digital media for *Missio Dei*.

The happenings around us also remind us to refocus on our role in this world as religious priests. This is the second year of COVID 19. We are adapting to a new normal life. The pandemic throws multiple lessons and we are gradually absorbing few. Provoking news around us, the tone on social media, debates on news channels demand introspection form us to become credible religious.

In this month of October, let us rededicate our religious call to be the men of prayer for the sanctification of the sinful world and the stoppage of pandemic. We shall dedicate the 10 days' Rosary for the alleviation of Corona Virus from the Mother Earth: Our Common Home. The Prayer of Rosary is a powerful weapon to fight against all evil.

Our Pope Francis invites all of us to rediscover the beauty of the rosary prayer this month. Pope said, "I invite everyone to rediscover, especially during

this month of October, the beauty of the prayer of the rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries. I invite you to pray the rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the stages of the life of Jesus the Saviour with his Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations," he added in his message to Arabic-speaking pilgrims.

The Pope said that the Blessed Virgin Mary has urged the recitation of the Rosary in her apparitions, "especially in the face of the threats looming over the world."

"Even today, in this time of pandemic, it is necessary to hold the rosary in our hands, praying for us, for our loved ones and for all people," he added.

Prayer, the Pope said, is "letting ourselves be carried by God," especially in moments of suffering or temptation.

Let us listen to the teachings of our Pontiff and pray more during this Month of Rosary and the era of COVID pandemic. Let us also get renewed and empowered in our Prayer life and religious life after the model of St Therese of Lisieux, St Francis of Assisi, St Theresa of Avila and other saints.

May our Mother Mary help us to change ourselves to the path of her Son Jesus Christ. May the prayer of Rosary and the feasts of great saints of the Church inspire us to be more true to our Christian and religious call. May the Guardian angels protect us in all our missionary endeavours.

May the Almighty God bless all of us.



Fr Dr Varghese Kelamparampil CMI Provincial Superior



#### UPDATES FROM THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE

#### **Dukhrana of St Thomas the Apostle (3 July)**

We celebrated our heritage and identity as St Thomas Christians on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021. In honor of our spiritual strength, late Fr Amatus Kallarackal CMI and all departed pioneers of the province, we offered Solemn Rasa Qurbana at St Paul's Carmel House, Thandavapura at 6.00pm. Rev. Fr Renny Malana Superior of the house was the main celebrant. Rev Fr Varghese Kelamparampil CMI Provincial Superior shared the message of the day with the faithful gathered for the celebration.

CMI St Paul's Province Mysuru is engaged mainly in the apostolate of Education for Evangelization under the flagship of St Thomas Education Society. All our institutions also celebrated St Thomas day.

#### Feast Day of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16 July)

We had a fitting celebration at Carmel Bhavan, CMI Provincial House Mysuru for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 16 July 5.30pm with solemn sung Holy Mass and fellowship dinner. Rev. Fr Jinto Enchikkalayil CMI was the main celebrant of the holy mass. The parish priests of Syro Malabar parishes in Mysuru and Rev. Sisters from our neighboring religious communities joined us for the ceremony as our invited guests.

#### WEBINAR on 'CMI Policy for protection of children and vulnerable adults':

A webinar was organised on 'CMI Policy for protection of children and vulnerable adults', by the department of Education and Media for the members of the province. Resource person for the webinar, Rev. Fr Martin Mallathu CMI General Councillor, department of Education and Media, addressed the members of the Province on 17 July 2021 from 5:45 pm to 7:45 pm.

#### Canonical Novitiate Entrance:

We are blessed as Br Ajoe Kallupurackakom of CMI St Paul's Province Mysuru was admitted to the Canonical Novitiate on 8 Sept 2021 at St Thomas Novitiate house Marikkunnu, Calicut. We wish him a productive prayer experience during the novitiate formation.



#### Blessing of the New Museum:

We have prepared a new museum in honour of late Fr Amatus Kallarackal CMI (A Holy Man), at Thandavapura. The living room of late Fr Amatus at the then novitiate house St Paul's Carmel Thandavapura where he spent his last days, is converted as a museum and that displays all the articles preserved in memory of Fr Amatus.



On 12 September 2021 during the 13<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Fr Amatus, the newly prepared museum was blessed and inaugurated by the Provincial Superior Fr Varghese Kelamparampil CMI, in the presence of many of our fathers, sisters and the faithful. Preparation of the museum is the outcome of collective efforts of the fathers at St Paul's Carmel Thandavapura community under the leadership of the Superior, Rev. Fr Renny Malana CMI.







#### Meeting of Superiors, Prefects and Directors:

A meeting of Superiors, Prefects and Directors of CMI St Paul's Province Mysuru was convened on Wednesday, 18 August 2021 at Carmel Bhavan, Provincial House, Mysuru. Provincial Superior Rev. Fr Varghese Kelamparampil CMI presided over the meeting. Members shared the updates about the activities of respective houses and institutions, and updates about the members in each house. It was a fruitful meeting as the members in the meeting contributed constructive opinions for the growth of the province.



#### CMI Renewal Program 2021:



CMI St Paul's Province Mysuru organised the renewal program for the members of the province in two batches. The first batch attended the renewal from 18 to 20 August 2021 and the second batch from

23 to 25 September 2021at Carmel Bhavan, Provincial

house Mysuru.

The session on 'Renewed and empowered CMI communitarian mission' was presented by Fr Dr Joy Kakkanattu CMI for the first batch and the same topic was presented to the second batch by Rev. Fr Josey Thamarassery CMI, Vicar General. Session on 'Compassionate love for



the poor' was presented to the first batch by Rev. Fr Dr Joy Kakkanattu CMI and the same topic



was presented to the second batch by Rev Fr Biju Vadakkel CMI, General Councillor for Social Apostolate. The session on 'Accompaniment of children, youth and families' was presented to both the batches by Rev. Fr Dr Thomas Parayil CMI. The session on 'Caring for mother earth our common home' was presented to both the batches by Rev. Fr Pratheesh Kolliyil CMI. The session on 'Digital Media for *Missio Dei*' was presented to both the batches by Rev. Fr Saneesh Pathickel CMI and the final session on 'CMI policy for the protection of children and vulnerable



adults and CMI policy for the prevention of sexual harassment at workplace' was presented to both the batches by Rev. Fr Jose Panampuzha CMI.

Rev. Fr Bejoy Valliyil and Rev. Fr Abin Changemcheril CMI were the secretaries for the first batch and for the second batch, Rev. Fr Jinosh Velikkakathu CMI and Rev. Fr Titto Puthuva CMI were secretaries. Rev. Fr Pratheesh Kolliyil CMI (Councillor for Social Apostolate) was the moderator for renewal program for both the batches. The renewal program was coordinated by the Vicar Provincial, Rev. Fr George Kalambukattu CMI.

#### Canonical Visitation of the Prior General

The Prior General of CMI congregation, Very Rev. Fr Dr Thomas Chathamparampil CMI visited CMI St Paul's Province Mysuru along with the General Councillors and General Auditor for the Canonical Visitation on 21 September 2021. During the occasion, Prior General made an examination of all the activities of the province. He visited the houses and institutions in the Mysuru Zone. There was a meeting between the General Council and the Provincial Council on 22 September in the Provincial house.





Most of the members in the province attended the province gathering organised in the presence of the Prior General and General councillors on 23 September. Fr Prior General addressed the members of the province and encouraged everyone to actively get involved in the fruitful ministries of the province and he mentioned about the scope of the province in the future to explore new initiatives and avenues. General auditor Rev. Fr Babu Mattathil CMI reached the



Provincial house ahead of the arrival of the Prior General and he scrutinized the documents and reports prepared as per the check list sent by him to the province in advance. The canonical visitation concluded on 24 September 2021.

#### Scheduled Jubilee Celebrations on 19 October 2021

We have scheduled the grand jubilee celebration of our fathers on Tuesday 19 October 2021 at Carmel Bhavan, Provincial House Mysuru.



# Jubilee Greetings dear Jubilarians

#### St Pa

#### UPDATES FROM HOUSES



**Jnanamandira, Bogadi:** Bro. Mejo Pampilly CMI

'Follow Me' - Lk 5:27 Jnanamandira, our minor seminary welcomed 10 new aspiring saplings who wish

to grow in the Carmelite Garden. Rev. Fr Joseph Edakkery CMI the Rector and Rev. Fr Romulus Payyappilly CMI the Spiritual Father are now nurturing the saplings with necessary spiritual resources; along with Bro. Mejo Pampilly CMI. These brothers are now engaged in their English and Kannada classes. Fr Bibin Changemcheril CMI from Christ Home has wholeheartedly put in his time and efforts to give them Volleyball and Basketball training. Onam festival celebration was a time when the community shared its light moments with our neighbouring communities.

The Feast of the Assumption of our Lady coupled with Indian Independence Day celebration had its fulfilment in the Canonical Visitation by Rev. Fr Provincial, who encouraged us to grow, receiving inspiration from the six qualities of St Joseph. The visit of Very Rev. Fr Prior General and his General councillors encouraged our brothers to increase in the true CMI religious spirit.

St Paul's Province is greatly indebted to Rev. Fr Jinto Plakkoottathil CMI, Rev. Fr John Kandamkery CMI and the whole vocation promotion team of the province for their priceless efforts to seek and find these new buds amidst all challenges put forth by Covid-19 pandemic.

## News from Dharmaram College

Fr Dr Benny Tharakunnel CMI It was a matter of great pride for the CMI Mysore Community in Dharmaram College



Bangalore, that Bro. Vibin Mathoor CMI (C Section) was elected LCA General Secretary for the academic year 2021-2022 in the elections held on 19 July 2021. Congratulations





Bro Laiju Mukkomtharayil CMI marched a major step ahead in his journey to the altar of the Lord by

receiving minor orders from His Excellency



Mar Joseph Arumachadath, Bishop of Bhadravathy on 25 July 2021. Congratulations Br Laiju!

On 14 August 2021, the first death anniversary of Rev. Fr Thomas

Vithayathil CMI was commemorated. Late Fr Thomas member of CMI St Paul's Province served Dharmaram College for almost half a century and has the distinction of being the longest served staff member at Dharmaram College. The whole Dharmaram Community came around the altar of the Lord and celebrated Solemn Concelebrated Requiem Mass with Rev. Fr Dr Paul Achandy CMI, Rector of Dharmaram College as the main celebrant and offered Office for the Dead for the repose of his soul. Prayerfully reflecting on the inspiring and exemplary life of Fr Thomas who served as lecturer and head of the department of Psychology at the then Christ College (1972-1980), Bengaluru, and the



present Christ deemed to be University, professor of Philosophy and Psychology at Dharmaram Vidya Kshethram, section Master of Scholastics in Theology, bursar, spiritual director, and confessor for many years. Fr Dr Benny Tharakunnel CMI preached the homily. Fr Dr John Marius Manickanamparampil CMI, the senior most member of Dharmaram Community, Rev. Fr Dr Thomas Kollamparampil CMI, the confessor of Fr Vithayathil for many years, Fr Dr Biju Kunnumpuram CMI and Bro. Akhil Kuzhimattathil CMI, have shared their cherished memories about Fr Thomas during the ceremony.

Province gathering and Holy Mass was held at 6.00am on 27 August 2021 in the Darsana Chapel with Rev. Fr Kuriakose Kallattil CMI who has come for German studies this year as the main celebrant. Rev. Fr Prince Ponpuzha CMI who has also come for German studies preached the homily. After the province Mass all the newcomers to Dharmaram were given a most cordial welcome. In the place of Bro Laiju Mukkomtharayil CMI, Bro. Nibin Mundunadackal CMI (B Section) took over as the new dean of Mysore Province on that day.

Rev. Fr Dr Augustine Paimpallil CMI who successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in March this year was given a warm felicitation during the province gathering held on 04 September 2021. All the fathers and brothers who spoke on the occasion portrayed Fr Augustine as an epitome of passion, commitment, hard work and efficiency.

Rev. Fr. Provincial was at Dharmaram College from 16-20 September for Major Superiors' Meet and CMI Formation Council. He met all the members of the province individually and collectively during his five-day stay. All the members of the province staying in Bengaluru were present at the province gathering held on Sunday, 19 September in the presence of Fr Provincial.



#### **UPDATES FROM INSTITUTIONS**

#### Christ School (CBSE) Vidyanagar, Hassan

Periodic Tests were conducted from 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> July to assess and evaluate the students' performance in academics.

Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor on 15<sup>th</sup> August in the school ground. At 7:30 am national flag was hoisted, and national anthem was sung. The program created a wonderful atmosphere of joy, great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor.



Discovery School Super League Quiz competition was conducted for the class 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> online mode. This aptitude-based quiz contest was conducted for the students to



encourage them in critical thinking and to provide a unique platform for students.

Teachers' Day was celebrated on 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 2021 in the school. Students expressed their gratitude and appreciation for their teachers on the day, paying tribute to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the great academic philosopher and one of the well-known diplomat, scholar, former president of India and above all a great teacher.





#### Christ Public School (CBSE), Bogadi, Mysuru

Independence Day 2021: National flag hoisting in front of the school on the 75<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of our country was convened with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour on 15<sup>th</sup> August in the presence of management and staff of the school following the COVID-19 protocol.



**NEET Examination September 2021:** 

Christ Public School Bogadi hosted NEET competitive examination 2021 in the campus on Sunday 12 September. All the arrangements were done in the exam venue to prevent the possible spread of COVID-19. 450 candidates appeared for the examination adhering to covid protocols.

Samavarthan 2021: The graduation day - Samavarthan 2021, for the outgoing batch of students of the CBSE 10 grade was organised on 29 August 2021 in the campus following covid protocols. All the students who scored distinction were feted in the ceremony.



Christa Jyothi School, (CBSE & STATE) Arkalgudu

Christa Jyothi Arkalgudu campus dawns to a brighter season as it welcomes our dear students to a new academic year. The mode of classes turning from online to offline made the campus to bloom to its past glory. We have started the offline classes for the upper primary and high school sections from 20<sup>th</sup> of September following the covid protocol and instructions from the concerned authorities.

In this new academic year another important instance is the change in the management team and the Seva Sadan Community with transfer of Fr Thomas Marottimoottil CMI. Fr Thomas was replaced by Fr Titto Puthuva CMI as the new financial administrator to the school. Seva Sadan community and the



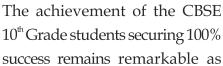
extended Christa Jyothi family welcome Fr Titto and bid farewell to Fr Thomas with best wishes for his new appointment as the Principal of Bharath Matha Composite PU College, Koppa.

The start of the offline classes opens more occasions of celebrations. Teacher's Day being the first occasion of the academic year, we celebrated this special day by rightfully paying homage to Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. The invaluable place of a teacher and the duties entrusted with the noble profession was reminded by Fr Dr Thomas Ayankudy CMI the manager and Fr. Sibichen Paul CMI, the principal with their distinctively powerful voices in the teachers' gathering and fellowship.

The success stories created by our proud students keep the younger ones motivated to continue the legacy.

Our promising student Abhilash of SSLC

Batch 2020- 21 brings laurels to the institution by being the Taluk Level topper in the board exam with 621 marks.







they battled the odds of their hard times. **Pujashree T P** is the school topper.

**Dishitha Shashidhar** of grade VII has participated in 28<sup>th</sup> Children's Science Congress 2020 under urban junior

category and she has been selected to the national level competition in this

project on the topic "plastic is everywhere handle with care".



#### Christ College, Mysuru

Six Days' National Level Virtual FDP on 'Skills for Research'



The Department of Library Sciences and IQAC, Christ College, Mysuru, organized the six days' National Level Faculty Development Programme on "Skills for Research". The initial one was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2021 on a virtual platform. At the same time the session was LIVE streamed on the YouTube to make it convenient for the participants from across the nation. Six well known research guides from different Universities will be addressing the participants on these six days.

#### FDP on Preparing for the next Academic year

An offline Faculty Development Program was conducted in the college for all the faculty members of Christ College by the Academic Coordinator, Fr Jinto Jose CMI on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The main objective of the FDP was to prepare the faculty members for the forthcoming academic year. Fr Jinto enriched



the participants with the importance of application-oriented teaching and on creating interest in students with conceptual clarity. He also insisted on dealing the students with much care and sensibility. The FDP highlighted the academic activities should be conducted by the departments.

## Teachers' Day Celebration – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The student council of Christ College Mysuru celebrated the day virtually over Google Meet on 5 September 2021. A good teacher is the one who can inspire hope, ignite imagination, and instil love for learning. The Christites acknowledged the contribution of their teachers on this day. Chief guest for the event was Dr K. P. Veena (Associate Professor, and Programme Coordinator, Dept. of Management Studies, VTU, Mysore). Our beloved principal Rev. Fr Biju P.D, our Administrator Rev. Fr Jinto Jose and all the faculty cherished the event with their presence and blessings.

#### **Navigating Future:**

Christ College Mysuru, an educational rostrum organized Navigating Future - series of nine sessions for the Pre-University College passed out students to hone their skills beyond syllabus. Sessions were held on Saturdays from 24 July 2021 till 18 September 2021. The series of lecture started with the first session by Mr Gowtham George, Senior Associate, PWC Canada. Mr Gowtham focused on a broad career option and academic opportunities. Second session was a preparatory session for students to embrace the new normal college life in the post covid scenario. Session was handled by Dr Girish S, Assistant Professor, Christ University Bangalore.

Third session was on the topic 'The Dialectic

Master, Beyond Education' and the resource person was, Ms Divya R, Assistant Professor Christ College Mysuru.

Fourth session presented by Mrs Irish Mercy Assistant Professor Christ College Mysuru, made students aware about the competitive world around them and encouraged them to be the marker of excellence.

Mr Tipston Rubus, Assistant Professor of English, Loyola College Chennai was the resource person for the fifth session. He addressed students and defined the idea of a hero. The session was interactive in which students were introduced to the new horizons of self-realization.

The sixth session was Euphoria. Ms Angela Teresa Kaloli, Research Scholar (English) cum Teaching Assistant at VIT Vellore handled the seventh session on English Communication Skills.

Seventh session of Navigating Future was delivered by Fr Abin Baby CMI, Research Scholar of Commerce at Christ Deemed to be University Bangalore and the Vice Principal and Administrator, Bharath Matha First Grade College, Koppa. He trained students on the effective use Google Classroom and Google Meet to set their journey in this virtual learning era.

The final session of Navigating Future was on the topic Professional Business Etiquette, by





Mrs Brejeta Thomas MBA, Business Immigration Analyst, Fraggomen Immigration Services India Pytltd. Kochin.



#### **UPDATES FROM MISSIONS ABROAD**

#### Germany and UK Missions

 $Fr\,Shanu\,Kunnumpurathu\,CMI$ 



Change is a great reality whether we are aware or not. Change is a principle of Nature. The Pandemic Covid-19 changed the world. Now after one and a half years also we are not able to stop this pandemic completely.

The Mysoreans in Europe are also in the move of changing political, ecclesiastical, climate and health conditions. The Wintertime is nearby. Though the fight against repeated COVID infections physically weakened Rev. Fr Jose Thekkekara CMI, he is slowly



improving his health conditions. Let us keep him in our prayers for his complete health recovery.

We have the good news that Rev. Fr Mathew Mattathil CMI has successfully completed his Licentiate in Spirituality from Rome. Hearty congratulations dear Fr Mathew. He returned to Germany and got a new appointment in the Diocese of Augsburg, and he serves in the parish Kempten. Rev. Fr Roy Pooppillil CMI is returning to Mysore after successfully

completing his Contract for pastoral ministry in Germany. We thank you dear Fr Roy for your service as the province Co- Ordinator, a vibrant personality and a man of welcoming nature. We really miss your joyful presence. Dear Fr Roy, we wish you all the best for your future ministries in Mysore.

#### **Argentina Mission:**

Fr Shoji Thekken CMI

Loving greetings from our Argentina Mission! Rev. Fr Joy Kamugumpally CMI Mission coordinator, Rev Fr Jose Pallattu CMI and Rev Fr Shojy Thekken CMI are doing good amidst the pandemic. The pastoral care



of the faithful during the COVID-19 was challenging for us. The church ceremonies resumed to the normal mode and the faithful started attending the ceremonies in good number keeping social distancing.

#### Rev Fr Jose Pallattu CMI, new Pastor:

Rev Fr Jose Pallattu CMI has been raised to the position of Pastor of the Parish (*Parroquia Inmaculado Corazon de Maria, Monte Grande, Buinos Aires*) by Estimado Monseñor George Lugones S J, El Obispo Titular, Diócesis de Lomas de Zamora, Buenos Aires, through an official appointment letter. Fr Jose was serving the same parish as its administrator for the past eight years. Congratulations and best wishes dear Fr Jose on your new appointment.

#### New centre of CMI St Paul's Province Mysuru in Argentina:

We have the good news, as the bishop of Diócesis de Lomas de Zamora, Buenos Aires, has kindly consented to our request and decided to entrust a parish named Capela Itati, its rectory, and the campus at El Jaguel,



Buenos Aires to the fathers of CMI St Paul's Province Mysuru. Fr Shoji is the in-charge of this centre now. We can make the rectory as the new centre of CMI St Paul's Province Mysuru in Argentina. This is the fruit collective efforts of our fathers in Argentina under the leadership of Rev. Fr Joy Kamugumpally CMI, Mission Coordinator.



#### Retreat for Priests and Bishops:

Renewal Program for the priests in the diocese of Lomas De Zamora has been organized from the Bishop's House from 27 September for six days. We are attending the renewal retreat along with 23 priests and our bishops. The retreat is a time of renewal, relaxation, and spiritual growth for us. This is a wonderful experience of living together.



#### AMATUS MUSINGS

Fr Joshy Cheruparambil CMI

Before your beam of smile I see the flame of love Behind your shining eyes I see the rays of grace



Oh great saintly soul
Oh great saintly soul
Dear Fr Amatus
We love you, we love you
We are with you, pray for us

As small as a grain You lived with us As a gentle breeze You walked along As a humble lamb You gave your life And was born again

As you stand above
To pray for us
As we seek your help
To be faithful
A little better
We shall become
And will follow you

Oh Great saintly soul
Oh great saintly soul
Dear Fr Amatus
We love you, we love you
We are with you, pray for us



Releasing Soon



#### **AMATUS MEMORIES**

#### Fr Varghese Paul Panenghat CMI



Commemoration day message on the 13th death anniversary of late Rev. Fr Amatus Kallarackal CMI (A Holy Man), during the solemn sung Requiem Mass at St Paul's Carmel Thandavapura, Mysuru on 12 September 2021.



#### ബഹു. അമാത്തൂസച്ചൻ - ധന്യമായ ഒരു ഓർമ്മ

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട അമാത്തൂസച്ചന്റെ (13 വർഷം) ചരമവാർഷികത്തിന്റെ ദിവ്യബലിയർപ്പണത്തിനിടക്ക് നടത്തിയ അനുസ്മരണ പ്രസംഗം .... പ്രിയമുള്ളവരെ, ഇന്ന് നമുക്ക് സന്തോഷത്തിന്റെയും ആനന്ദത്തിന്റെയും. ദിവസമാണ്. അഭിമാനത്തിന്റെയും ആവേശത്തിന്റെയും ദിവസമാണ്. കഴിഞ്ഞ കുറെ ദിവസങ്ങളായി നമ്മുടെ സമൂഹം മുഴുവനും ഒരു യുദ്ധത്തിന്റെ പ്രതീതിയിൽ സ്നേഹ കൂട്ടായ്മയോടെ, ആവേശത്തോടെ കുതിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു.. അതിന് ഒരു കാരണമുണ്ട്. ഒരു കബറിടത്തോടുള്ള സ്നേഹവും ഒരു വിശുദ്ധനായ വെദികനെക്കുറിച്ചുള്ള ഓർമ്മകൾ ഹൃദയത്തിൽ സൂക്ഷിക്കുവാനുള്ള വലിയ ഇഷ്ടവും. ഇത് ഒരു പുണ്യ ഭൂമിയാണ്. ശാന്തമായി, എളിമയോടെ, ധന്യതയോടെ അനുസരണത്തോടെ, പ്രാർത്ഥനയോടെ ജീവിച്ച ഒരു വലിയ ജീവിതം അന്ത്യവിശ്രമം കൊള്ളുന്ന ഒരു പുണ്യ ഭൂമിയാണിത് ...। ആ സ്നേഹത്തിന്റെ സുഗന്ധവും ആത്മാവിന്റെ ആനന്ദവും സ്വർഗ്ഗീയമായ അനുഭവവും ഹൃദയത്തിൽ സ്വീകരിച്ചു കൊണ്ടാണ് നാം ഇവിടെ ആയിരിക്കുന്നതു്.

വലിയ ഒപ്പിസിന്റെ പുസ്തകത്തിൽ ഒരു പാട്ടുണ്ട് ... "പരിശുദ്ധൻമാർ കുടികൊള്ളും കബറിടമെത്ര മനോഹരമാം, അവരുടെ മരണം ധന്യവുമാം, തുലനം ചെയ്കിൽ മന്ന വർതൻ പൊങ്ങി വിളങ്ങും കൊട്ടാരം തിമിരം തിങ്ങും പാഴ്ക്കു ടിലാം..." ഈ കബറിടം ധന്യമാണ്, മനോഹരമാണ് കാരണം നൻമകൾ മാത്രം നെഞ്ചിലേറ്റിയ അമാത്തു സച്ചൻ, നിഷ്ക്കളങ്കനായ ഒരു ഇസ്രായേൽക്കാരൻ, കാപട്യമില്ലാത്ത ഒരു സന്യാസി ഇവിടെ അന്ത്യവിശ്രമം കൊള്ളുന്നു .

CMI സഭക്ക് അഭിമാനമായി, 82 വർഷത്തോളം കർമ്മധീരനായി, വ്രത ബദ്ധനായി ജീവിച്ച കർമ്മഭൂമിയാണിത് . കർണ്ണാടകമണ്ണ് വിശുദ്ധീകരിക്കപ്പെട്ടത് ഈ വിശുദ്ധ കബറിടം കൊണ്ടാണെന്ന് ഞാൻ വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. വിശുദ്ധ ചാവറ പിതാവിന്റെ വലിയ കാഴ്ചപ്പാടിന്റെ പിൻഗാമിയായി, വരപ്രസാദത്തിന്റെ സൂക്ഷിപ്പുകാരനായി, സ്വർഗ്ഗം സ്വന്തമാക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടി എളിമയുടെ ജീവിതം വഴി വിശുദ്ധിയുടെ പടവുകൾ ചവിട്ടി കയറി, ഒന്നും സ്വന്തമാക്കാതെ, എല്ലാവർക്കും എല്ലാമായി ജീവിച്ച ഒരു ധന്യ



വൈദീകന്റെ, വിശുദ്ധനായ സന്യാസ ഗുരുവിന്റെ ഓർമ്മകൾക്കു മുമ്പിൽ നമുക്ക് പ്രണാമം. അർപ്പിക്കാം . കേരള മണ്ണിൽ വിവിധ രൂപതകളിലെ ഇടവകകളിലെ അജപാലന ശുശ്രൂഷകളും വിവിധ സെമിനാരികളിലെ . സേവനങ്ങളും അമാത്തൂസച്ചൻ നൽകിയ ആശീർവാദങ്ങളും മാതൃകയും വലിയ അനുഗ്രഹമായി, അഭിമാനമായി കാണുകയാണ്.

ബ. അമാത്തുസച്ചനേക്കുറിച്ചു പറയുവാൻ ആയിരം നാവുള്ളവരാണു നമ്മൾ. ഞാൻ ദൈവത്തെ കണ്ടിട്ടില്ല. എന്നാൽ അമാത്തു സച്ചനില്മുടെ ദൈവാനുഭവം രുചിച്ചറിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്. 1926 സെപ്തംബർ 21 ന് ജനിച്ച നമ്മുടെ അമാത്തൂസച്ചൻ ഒരു കുട്ടപ്പനായിരുന്നു, മിടുക്കനായിരുന്നു. എന്നാൽ ചെറുപ്പത്തിൽ ഈ കുട്ടപ്പന്റെ ആരോഗ്യസ്ഥിതി വളരെ മോശമായിരുന്നുവെങ്കിലും ആന്തരിക സ്ഥിതി വളരെ ശക്തമായിരുന്നു. ആന്തരീക മനുഷ്യന്റെ ശക്തിയനുസരിച്ചാണ് സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തെ സ്വപ്നം കാണേണ്ടതു്, സ്വർഗ്ഗത്തിൽ മനുഷ്യന്റെ ആന്തരീക വിശുദ്ധിക്കനുസരിച്ചാണ് സ്വർഗ്ഗസ്മ്മാനം ലഭിക്കുന്നത്. നമുക്കു മുമ്പെ സ്വർഗ്ഗം അവകാശപ്പെടുത്തിയ ബഹു. അമാത്തൂസച്ചനെ ഓർക്കുമ്പോൾ തന്നെ നമുക്ക് കൃപ ലഭിക്കും. ഈ വിശുദ്ധന്റെ കബറിടത്തിലേക്കുള്ള തീർത്ഥാടനമാണ് ഇനിയുള്ള കാലങ്ങളിൽ നാം കാണാനിരിക്കുന്നത്. അതിന്റെ കാരണം ബഹു. അമാതൂസച്ചന്റെ വിശുദ്ധിയുടെ രത്നതിളക്കമാണ്. പാലാ രൂപതയിലെ തുടങ്ങനാട് ഇടവകയിൽ തുടങ്ങിയ ആ കൊച്ചു ജീവിതം കല്ലറയ്ക്കൽ കുടുംബത്തിലെ ചാണ്ടി ,മറിയം മാതാപിതാക്കളുടെ അനുഗ്രഹവും ആശീർവ്വാദവും ഏറ്റുവാങ്ങിക്കാണ്ട്, അവരുടെ മടിയിലിരുന്ന് കുരിശുവര പഠിച്ച്,1942 ൽ സി.എം.ഐ.സഭയിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ച് പ്രാർത്ഥനകൾ പഠിച്ച്, മന്നാനം കുന്നിന്റെ സൗന്ദര്യവും ചൈതന്യവും ആസ്വദിച്ച് സെമിനാരിയുടെ ചുമരുകളുടെയും ദിവ്യ സകാരിയുടെ വിശുദ്ധിയുമൊക്കെ രുചിച്ചറിഞ്ഞ് 1948 ൽ ആദ്യവ്രതം ചെയ്ത്, യേശുവിനെയും വിശുദ്ധ ചാവറ്പ്പിതാവിനെയും അടുത്തറിഞ്ഞ് അനുകരിക്കുവാൻ തയ്യാറായി. അതിനോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് വിശുദ്ധ കുരിശിനോട് ഒരു കടുത്ത സ്നേഹം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

കേരളത്തിലെ ആദ്ധ്യാത്മിക നേതൃത്വങ്ങൾക്കും കൂദാശാ പരികർമ്മങ്ങൾക്കും ശേഷം 1978 ൽ മൈസൂർ പ്രവിശ്യയിലെത്തി തന്റെ മിഷൻ പ്രവർത്തനം ത്യാഗപൂർവ്വം എളിമയോടെ നിർവ ഹിച്ച ബ. അമാതൂസച്ചൻ 2008 സെപ്തംബർ 8 ന് നമ്മിൽ നിന്ന് വേർപിരിഞ്ഞ് നിത്യ സമ്മാനത്തിന് യാത്ര യായി. ഒത്തിരി കാലം ഇവിടെ താണ്ഡവപുര സെന്റ് പോൾസ് കാർ മ്മെൽ ആശ്രമത്തിൽ ജീവിച്ചത് ശുശ്രൂഷകളെല്ലാം ആത്മാർത്ഥതയോടെ, വിശ്വസ്തതയോടെ നിർവ്വഹിച്ചു



കൊണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഈ അൾത്താരയ്ക്കു മുമ്പിൽ കൈ വിരിച്ചു പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ച്, ഈ അൾത്താരയിൽ ഒത്തിരിയേറെ ബലികളർപ്പിച്ച്, ഈ ആശ്രമത്തിന്റെ വഴികളിലൂടെ ആദ്ധ്യാത്മിക ഗ്രന്ഥങ്ങൾ വായിച്ചും ജമാല ചൊല്ലി പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ചും കൈ വീശിനടന്നും ഒരു അസ്ഥിപഞ്ജരം പോലെ ഒട്ടിയവയറും പഴയ കളസവും കീറി നരച്ച ളോഹയും ധരിച്ച് നടന്ന് വിശുദ്ധിയുടെ ലാവണ്യം പരത്തി, അവസാന കാലഘട്ടങ്ങളിൽ രോഗിയായി കിടന്ന് എല്ലാ വേദനകളും യേശുവിനെ പ്രതി സഹിച്ച് ,അനേകം ആത്മാക്കളെ നേടിക്കൊണ്ട് കടന്നു പോയ ഒരു ധന്യാത്മാവാണ് ഈ കബറിടത്തിൽ നിത്യ വിശ്രമം കൊള്ളുന്നത്.

ബഹു. അമാതൂസച്ചൻ ആഴമേറിയ പ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെ ഒരു മനുഷ്യനായിരുന്നു. അതു നാമൊക്കെ അനുഭവിച്ചറിഞ്ഞിട്ടു മുണ്ട്. ഒരിക്കൽ ഒരു ബ്രദർ അമാതൂസച്ചനോട് ചോദിച്ചു: അച്ചൻ എന്തിനാണ് എപ്പോഴും പള്ളിയിലേക്ക് പോകുന്നതു്? അവിടെ എന്താണ് പരിപാടി? അമാതൂസച്ചൻ മറുപടി പറഞ്ഞു: പള്ളിയിൽ പോയി മുട്ടുകുത്തി കൈവിരിച്ചുപിടിച്ചു നിൽക്കും. ഞാൻ കർത്താവിനെ ഒന്നു നോക്കും, കർത്താവ് എന്നെയും ഒന്നുനോക്കും.

മുട്ടുകുത്തി നിന്ന് എന്റെ സങ്കടങ്ങളും മറ്റുള്ളവരുടെ സങ്കടങ്ങളും പ്രാർത്ഥനയ്ക്കായി അപേക്ഷിച്ചവരുടെ പ്രശ്നങ്ങളും ആവശ്യങ്ങളും കർത്താവിനോടു പറയും. ദൈവത്തെ മഹത്വപ്പെട്ടുത്തും,നന്ദിയോടെ അവിടുത്തെ സന്നിധിയിലായി രിക്കും. അത്ര തന്നെ. ഇത് പ്രാർത്ഥനയുടെ എളിയ മാതൃകയാണ്. അതു പോലെ തന്നെ.. അകലെയുള്ള ഏതു വീട്ടുകാരുടെ പ്രശ്നങ്ങൾ കേട്ടാലും ഓടിച്ചെന്ന് പള്ളിയിൽ കയറി മുട്ടുകുത്തി അവയെല്ലാം തമ്പുരാനോട് നെടു വീർപ്പിട്ട് കരഞ്ഞു പറയും.

അമാതൂസച്ചൻ എന്നും എല്ലാവരെയും പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുമായിരുന്നു. കൂടെ ജീവിച്ച കാലത്ത് കൂടെ നടന്ന് പറയുമായിരുന്നു" കൂടുതൽ പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കണം, കൂടുതൽ വായിക്കണം, ധ്യാനിച്ച് ഒരുങ്ങണം, ധ്യാനമുള്ള മനസ്സുണ്ടാകണം ധ്യാനി പ്പിക്കുവാൻ ഒരുങ്ങണം ... കൃപയുള്ളവരാണ് പുതിയ തലമുറകൾ... അത് കൈമോശം വരുത്തരുത്." അതെല്ലാം പുറകെ നടന്നു പതുക്കെ പറഞ്ഞു തരുന്ന ഗുരുവായിരുന്നു അദ്ദേഹം. ആവശ്യമുള്ളതെല്ലാം ഓർമ്മിപ്പിക്കുകയായിരുന്നു ... അതൊരു സുവിശേഷമായിരുന്നു. ആ ജീവിതം മുഴുവനും...!

അതുകൊണ്ടു തന്നെ ഈ കബറിടത്തിൽ കുറേ വൈദികരും സന്യാസിനികളും ആത്മായരും സ്ഥിരം വരുന്നുണ്ട്, പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. ജീവിതകാലത്ത് അദ്ദേഹത്തെ തൊട്ടറിഞ്ഞവരും രുചിച്ചറിഞ്ഞവരും ആ വ്യക്തിത്വത്തെ മറക്കുകയില്ല. ബഹളങ്ങളുടെ യിടയിൽ, തിക്കും



തിരക്കും പിടിച്ച ആൾക്കൂട്ടങ്ങളിൽ അദ്ദേഹം എന്നും തെളിഞ്ഞു പ്രകാശിക്കുന്നത് ഹൃദയശാന്തത കൊണ്ടും എളിമ കൊണ്ടും പ്രാർത്ഥനാരൂപി കൊണ്ടുമാണ്. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ വ്രത ബദ്ധ ജീവിതത്തിലെ ദാരിദ്ര്യവും അനുസരണവും ബ്രഹ്മചര്യവും 100 ശതമാനം ഗ്യാരണ്ടിയുള്ളതായിരുന്നു. മാമ്മോദീസയിൽ കിട്ടിയ വരപ്രസാദം മരണം വരെയും കാത്തു ജീവിച്ച വി. ചാവറപ്പിതാവിനെ പോലെ, എന്നുംപ്രസാദ വരത്തോടെയാണ് അമാതൂസച്ചൻ ജീവിച്ചു ധന്യനായി തീർന്നത്. ദൈവപ്രമാണങ്ങളും ദൈവ വചനങ്ങളും സുവിശേഷോപദേശങ്ങളും ഹൃദയത്തിൽ കാത്തുസൂക്ഷിച്ച് ആത്മാർത്ഥതയോടെ, വിശ്വസ്തതയോടെ ഹൃദയവും ആത്മാവും നല്ല തമ്പുരാന്റെ പക്കൽ സ്നേഹപൂർവ്വം സമർപ്പിച്ച സന്യാസി....!

അദ്ദേഹം ഒരു ശില് പിയായിരുന്നു. ഒത്തിരിയേറെ ശെമ്മാശൻ മാരെ ചെത്തിമിനുക്കി.. രൂപീകരിച്ച്, ഫോർമേഷൻ കൊടുത്ത ശില്പി.... യേശുവിന്റെ ഫോമിലേക്ക് ആക്കിയെടുക്കുവാൻ പ്രചോദനം കോടുക്കുകയും ചെയ്ത വലിയ ഗുരു. അവരുടെ ബലഹീനതകളെ നികത്തി ബലമുള്ളവരാക്കാൻ കൂടെ നിന്ന് പ്രാർത്ഥിച്ച് അനുഗ്രഹിച്ച ശേഷ്ഠ മുനി....!

(തുടരും...)



#### ACHIEVEMENTS

## Congratulations)



Rev. Fr Jose Kelamparambil CMI (M.A, NET)

Asst Professor Department of Malayalam Christ College, Irinjalakuda

(New Aided Appointment - 15 July 2021)



CMI St Paul's Province, Mysuru Carmel Bhavan, N R Mohalla, Shivaji Main Road, Mysuru 570007 Karnataka | www.cnimysore.in

#### **GOLDEN GIRL**

CHRIST COLLEGE, MYSURU



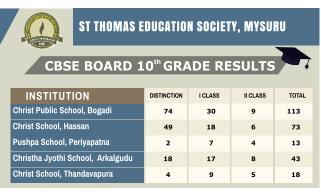
Ms. Shruthi Mol Devssia (Journalism, Psychology, English Lit.), of Christ College, Mysuru bagged 5 Gold Medals and 2 outstanding student awards in Journalism from the University of Mysore during the 101 Convocation for the Academic Year 2020-21. We are proud of your achievements.

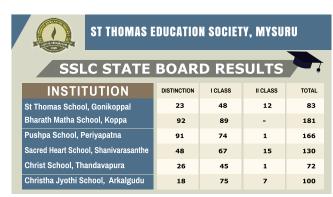
CONGRATULATIONS

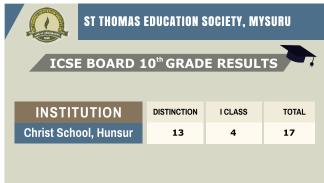


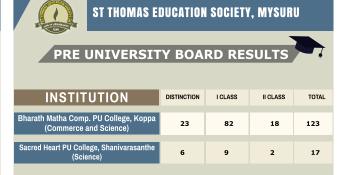
#### RESULTS OF SCHOOLS AND PU COLLEGES DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21.











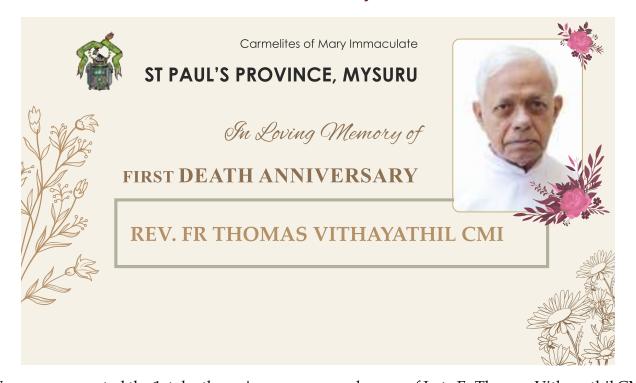




#### COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED



The 1<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary Remembrance of late Rev. Fr Thomas Vithayathil CMI



We commemorated the 1st death anniversary remembrance of Late Fr Thomas Vithayathil CMI on **Saturday 14 August 2021** at St Paul's Carmel House, Thandavapura. Rev. Fr Varghese Kelamparampil CMI, Provincial Superior, the main celebrant along with Fr George Kalambukattu CMI (Vicar Provincial) and Fr Silvin Manjaly CMI the co-celebrants, celebrated the Holy Mass. Fr Provincial recalled the memories of Fr Thomas Vithayathil while delivering the message during the Holy Mass. Many fathers, sisters, and brothers from neighbouring communities attended the holy mass and prayers for the departed soul.



#### 13th Death Anniversary of late Rev. Fr Amatus Kallarackal CMI

13<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of late Fr Amatus Kallarackal CMI was observed on Sunday 12 September 2021 with Solemn high Mass at St Paul's Carmel Thandavapura. Rev Fr Anil, Provincial, Congregation of Missions (CM) Mysuru Province was the main celebrant. Fr Varghese Paul Panenghat CMI gave the homily during the holy Mass. During this occasion, the newly prepared museum was inaugurated by the Provincial Superior Fr Varghese Kelamparampil CMI. The museum displays all the articles preserved in memory of Fr Amatus













#### **OBITUARY**





Beloved Father of Rev. Fr Alex Ottaplackal CMI, **Mr Michael Ottaplackal (90)** slept in the Lord on Saturday, 3 July 2021. Prayerful condolences dear Fr Alex.





Beloved Sister-in-Law of Kamugumpally Fr Joy CMI and Fr Siby CMI, **Mrs. Achamma (62)** slept in the Lord on Sunday 11 July 2021. Prayerful condolences dear Fr Joy and Fr Siby.





Beloved Paternal Aunt of Rev. Fr Shojy Thekkan CMI, **Mrs. Elcy Paulose Kannampuzha (67)** slept in the Lord on Monday 9 August 2021. Prayerful condolences dear Fr Shojy.





Beloved Brother-in-Law of Rev. Fr Emmanuel Ayankudy CMI, **Mr Johny (51)** slept in the Lord on Sunday 22 August 2021. Prayerful condolences dear Fr Emmanuel.





Beloved first cousin of Rev. Fr Bejoy Valliyil CMI **Mrs. Mercy Mathew (58)** slept in the Lord on Friday 24 September 2021. Prayerful condolences dear Fr Bejoy.





Beloved Brother-in-Law (first cousin's husband) of Panampuzha Fr Jose CMI and Fr Sebastin CMI, **Mr Lonappan Valookaran (70)** slept in the Lord on Friday 24 September 2021. Prayerful condolences dear Fr Jose and Fr Sebastin.





Beloved Father of Rev. Fr Jinto Plakkoottathil CMI, **Mr Joseph (61)** was called to eternal reward on 26 September 2021. Prayerful condolences dear Fr Jinto.

### ع الله

#### A SILENT SAINT (EPISODE I)

Fr Dr Abraham Vadakkemuriyil CMI

(A History of the Life and Sanctity of Rev. Fr Amatus Kallarackal CMI, 1924-2008)

#### Edited by Rev. Fr Dr. Abraham Vadakkemuriyil CMI



This work is intended to present the history and holiness of the life of Late. Fr Amatus. Together with the presentation of Fr Amatus' life history, we here undertake an analysis of the sanctity of Fr Amatus in the light of his life in our community in general. The available chronological documentary details are barely insufficient to complete a detailed biography of his life. Incorporating supporting documentary evidence and personal witnesses that were recorded till today, we are trying to present the first draft of his life in our community. In this we made a humble attempt to present a holistic view of the life of Fr Amatus.

#### 1. Birth and Early Life

Fr Amatus was born on August 19, 1924 at his mother's house, Ponnumpurayidam, Kozhuvanal in the present diocese of Palai as the second son of Kallarackal Chandy and Mariam. He lost his father at the age of five and he grew under the loving care of his mother. Under her care the young Kuttappan grew in extraordinary spiritual zeal. On the death bed his father, Mr Chandy, blessed them all saying "you will be protected from all trouble as the divine providence will be with you. " This paternal blessing came true all through his life. His mother took care of him heroically as the true child of God. His mother was a very pious woman who was so pleasant with all the divine presence and blessings. She never found fault with anybody and was a very helping woman for the neighbors. She had extraordinary devotion to Our Lady as she carried the rosary always with her. She observed all the fasting as prescribed by the church. She insisted that all the members of the family should regularly attend the family prayers. She attended the Holy Mass regularly as far as she was healthy to do so. She encouraged the children to read the Bible regularly. During the Lenten season at home, she led the way of the cross prater every day. She used to pray for the departed souls every day. This spiritual vigor of the mother laid the foundation for the later spiritual personality of Fr Amatus. Regarding this, Fr Amatus himself speaks in his public reply during the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of his Priestly ordination: "I have lost my mother at the age of five. From then onwards it was my mother who single handedly managed the family matters. Amid all difficulties and she used to accompany me to the church for the daily Eucharistic Liturgy. This created a genuine awareness in my life that The Holy Eucharist is above everything else".

Being a distant relative of St Alphonsa (through his great-grandmother's blood line), his



mother became the biggest source of inspiration for him to become a priest. This fondness towards priestly life was shown in his early behaviors as himself and his maternal uncle late Fr Blaise OFM., always imitated the priestly actions, that they witnessed in the church, at home. At the early age itself the child developed a taste of penance and fasting. He was least interested in having tasty food and even abandoned it for the sake of the poor and the hungry. At the school he often distributed his food to the poor children. Regarding this Mr *kuttiachan ponnumpurayidam*, the cousin brother of Fr Amatus has the following to say:

His mother's prayerful life and readiness for fasting and doing penance instilled in him a natural thirst for religious life from childhood onwards. Kuttappan used to show enthusiasm for reciting rosary and doing acts of penance'.

This family background created an ambience which helped Kuttappan to turn to religious life at an early stage. Mr Alexander Kallarackal (Joy), hid nephew, a professor of St Thomas College, Palai, writes that in his school days at leisure time 'Kuttappan' and Osephachan (late Fr Blais OFM) used to enact funeral service at home. "Either Ousepachan or somebody else will enact oneself as a dead person and will lie down in the coffin and Kuttappan will sing the songs that they used to hear at funerals and will incense the body and sprinkle it with holy water imitating the funeral rituals. He completed his schooling in three places namely, Mundankal, Piravithanam and Thudanganad in Palai. Kuttappan learned to be simple in heart and was practicing a life of virtues by being compassionate and helpful to others in exemplary ways. During his school days, as Mr Alexander Kallarackal, his elder brother's son Aronikal kutty, his classmate, testifies, that 'Kuttappan showed extraordinary interest in helping the poor students by sharing his meal with them and often himself fasting during the day. It is said that his mother used to send him with noon-meals in a packet every day in his school days. Very often without the knowledge of mother he used to give it to his poor colleagues who were hungry and Kuttappan will wash his hands and face along with others making others feel that he had full meals. He used to do it in anonymity. Kuttappan's mother or other family members did not notice it. Above all he learned the Christian virtues and religiosity at the lap of his mother'.

#### 2. The Call and the Struggle: Early Religious Training

He was attracted to religious life by his uncle Rev. Fr Chrysostom CMI and joined CMI congregation in 1942 at the age of eighteen. Seminary life in the first year as aspirant for religious life went on well with Fr Amatus under the guidance Rev. Fr Isaias CMI. But his life of mortification and penance made him physically weak. Though he did not exhibit any sign of physical illness his general weakness was noticed by everybody. When Fr Amatus was in the aspirant's house Rev. Fr Vincentios CMI was the superior general of the congregation. He always insisted the meticulous observation of the rules of the community especially regarding

the candidate's promotion to higher stages. As per the rule of the time, a medical certificate, ensuring the good health of the candidate was necessary for promotion to higher stages. In accordance with this rule Fr Amatus had to undergo strict medical check-up by the house physician. His first report was negative. A second opinion, though was positive which the doctor did without much check-up, was not accepted by the superior general. A third check-up was initiated, and the doctor did not give a positive report. Finally, Fr Amatus was asked to return home considering his bad health condition as per the medical report. But the paternal blessing that, "the divine providence will be with him for ever", once again came to be a genuine life experience for the young Amatus as his then Rector Rev. Fr Isaias CMI intervened and pleaded for him before the Superior General. The extraordinary desire for sanctity and the genuine spirit of austerity that Fr Amatus exhibited were mighty reasons for them to undermine his ill-health in promoting him to novitiate. Under Fr Isaias CMI's fatherly care and concern and based on his strong conviction about the candidate's extraordinary disposition towards a life of sanctity Fr Amatus was promoted to novitiate at Ambazhakadu in 1947. Even though he was allowed to undergo novitiate training, he was always under the fear and threat of being dropped in case if any serious issue of ill health. But the providential care of the Lord was always with him and there was the will of the almighty that he had to become religious priest in the Carmelite order.

Fr Amatus led an extraordinary life of spiritual vigour during his novitiate life. He had a strong conviction that he had no outstanding abilities-physical or intellectual-to convince the authorities that he was a fitting candidate to priesthood in the congregation. All the events related to his promotion to novitiate at least gave him such an attitude. It was only his spiritual zeal and the paternal blessings that pushed him forward all through his tribulations. Fr Amatus himself mentions in an interview that there was an inner doubt about his worthiness to become a priest that always disturbed him sometimes even blocking his inner peace.

The deep sense of unworthiness developed due to the inner crisis that Fr Amatus was going through, compelled him to make a formal request to his superiors about permitting him to be a lay brother instead of a priest in the congregation. This request resembles the reality of inner struggle that he was experiencing and the growing doubt that was building up within him during his novitiate formation about the possibility of his becoming a priest in the congregation. When he approached his rector with this request he was sent to the Prior of the Ashram for further discussion of the matter. The Prior of the novitiate house in turn told him that the merit of the candidate will be decided by the evaluation committee. And he was asked to accept whatever decision that comes from the committee. These words given a lot of consolation and anyway at the end of the novitiate term he was promoted for further priestly studies. He made his first religious profession on 15th October 1948.

When we look deeply into the initial experience of Fr Amatus as a candidate to religious life and his firm conviction about the abiding providence of God in his religious journey trusting

St Paul's Messenger

in the divine providence completely after his father's paternal blessing on him, we are reminded of the word of St John Paul II, in a papal exhortation he says:

In our reflection on creation, we begin today a series of catechesis whose theme lies both at the heart of the Christian faith, and in the heart of the person called to faith. It is the theme of divine Providence. It concerns God who, as a wise and omnipotent Father, is present and active in the world and in the history of every creature. He does this so that every creature, and specifically man, God's image, may be able to live life as a journey under the guidance of truth and love toward the goal of eternal life in God.

This extraordinary truth of God guides our history with serene countenance and sure hand. Paradoxically, it finds a twofold and conflicting sentiment in the heart of man. On the one hand, he is led to accept and to entrust himself to this Provident God, as the Psalmist says: "I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a child quieted at its mother's breast" (Ps 131:2). On the other hand, man fears and hesitates to abandon himself to God, as Lord and Saviour of his life. This is either because he is perplexed by things and forgets the Creator, or because of suffering he has doubts about God as Father. In both cases man calls divine Providence into question. Such is the human condition, that even in Sacred Scripture, Job does not hesitate to complain before God with frank confidence. In this way the word of God indicates that Providence is expressed even in the complaint of his children. Afflicted in body and heart, Job said: "Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat! I would lay my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments" (Job 23:3-4)'.

This divine providence always guided Fr Amatus and protected him in all his weakness and physical incapacities. Regarding his novitiate training Rev Dr. Varghese Koluthara CMI writes:

After the pre-novitiate training, he was sent to St Theresa's Novitiate in Ambazhakkad. His novice master was Fr Garvasius CMI. The beautiful part of his religious life, as Fr Amatus later described, was the time he had spent in the Novitiate. Here he started the taste for religious life, it is said that whatever virtues he learned in the novitiate he continued to practice till the death of his life on 8th September 2008, on the feast of the nativity of our Blessed Mother. He enjoyed the silence, the meditation methods that were taught to him, the thapasa methods of purifying oneself. He used to place small pieces of rocks under his sleeping bed and under his pillow. He used to wear 'mullaranjanam' to practice self-mortification. He continued these practices of selfmortification wherever he stayed. It is said that during the novitiate he used to compete with his own associate, Fr Manjus CMI, in practicing virtues and growing up in the path of sanctity. Thus, he understood the meaning of religious life and the motive behind St Chavara's dream of leading a thapasa life in the midst of very many activities for proclaiming the kingdom of God and different dimensions of Christ's life. At the end of the novitiate, he made his first profession on 15th October 1948 and Kuttappan Kallarackal became Br Amatus Kallarackal CMI.

Despite all obstacles and objections Fr Amatus was promoted for further priestly formation and was sent to koonammavu major seminary. He completed his philosophical studies



at *koonammavu* under the formator, Servant of God, Late Fr Kanisius CMI who later became the superior general of the congregation. His theological training was under Fr Paulinus, the late bishop of *Jagadalpur*. He was ordained a priest on December 6, 1955. Rev. Fathers Manjus CMI, J Kalarickal CMI, E. C John CMI and Thomas Kalarickal CMI were the other members of his batch.

(To be continued...)

# In Loving Memory of Rev. Fr Amatus Kallarackal CMI











October 2021

Month of Holy Rosary

"To pray the Rosary is to take a spiritual journey, along with Mary, in contemplation of the face of Christ. In doing so we become friends with Him and the best of friends share their deepest feelings"

-St John Paul II



# 4522/1 | Carmel Bhavan | N R Mohalla Shivaji Main Road | Mysuru 570 007

E-mail: info@cmimysore.org | web: cmimysore.in

Contribute your news and views for the next issue to edumedia@cmimysore.org

for private circulation only