



St. Thomas Province

Vincentian Congregation

Circular 4/2018



Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers,

"The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

(Jn. 1:5)

1. The Dawn of a New Light: Christmas

Let me begin by wishing you a Christmas time of many blessings and a new year filled with grace and joy. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined" (Is 9:2). "An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around them" (Lk. 2:9). The Syro-Malabar liturgy of Christmas presents to us the birth of Jesus as the light that pierces and dispels darkness. Darkness is removed for ever as the Light cannot be hidden any more.

The fact of God's fidelity, stronger than any darkness, is revealed in and through the history of the people of God. He presents Himself as 'Light that shatters Darkness.' The presence of God in the midst of his people takes away the sorrow of defeat and the misery of slavery, and ushers in joy and happiness.

Those who are fortunate to behold the light are of a special category, as we understand from the nativity scene at Bethlehem. Those who saw the light were the unassuming and the lowly who were open to receiving God's gift. The arrogant, the proud and the self-proclaimed leaders could not see the light. God has looked on us with favour and we are enlightened and are enabled to bear this light to all peoples. This is the message of Christmas. We are the lighted signs for the world to behold. We have to be aware that our light is the reflected light of the radiance of God who is the source of all light.

May the celebration of Christmas once again, inspire us to remain in the light of the Lord, taking care that the light in us 'may not turn into darkness.' May the Child Jesus bless us to be effective missionaries of His love and mercy. This year the celebration of Christmas occurs in the background of the reconstruction and rehabilitation works that are going on in the flood affected areas especially in Kerala. We shall see that the celebrations are moderate and some contribution to the rehabilitation fund is made. There are so many people who are still struggling to recover from the ravages of the floods. Extending a helping hand to them will make the celebration of Christmas more meaningful and more Vincentian. We shall join hands to dispel the darkness of poverty and suffering of the people around us.

2. Invitation: Family Gathering and Celebration of Sacerdotal Golden & Silver Jubilee

The Family Gathering and Celebration of Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Fr. Emprayil Thomas (Sr.), Fr. Kottaram Paul and their batch mates Fr. Chacko Arayathinal, Fr. Antony Thottithara, and the Silver Jubilee of Fr. Augustine Parathanam and batch-mates, Fr. Johnus Cherunilath, Fr. Chittinappilly Anto, Fr. Kalamparambil Martin, Fr. Thazhathuveetil Jose and Fr. Thuruthichira Varghese, shall take place on February 19 and 20, 2019 in St. Thomas Provincial House, Ujwa, Delhi; February 18th will be the day of arrival. It is a matter of great joy to invite you all to the gathering and the celebration.

The participants of the Quinquennial Course to be held from February 21 to 23 at Tabor Retreat Ashram, Kalyan, will be able to depart in time, after the family gathering. Please plan ahead so that you can participate in these important events.

3. Congratulations and Best Wishes

Hearty Congratulations and best wishes to the 15 Vincentian New Priests of 2018-19. We keep them in our prayers especially Dn. Sebastian Paimpillil who was a member of Vincentian Study House, Kothi during the last four years of his formation. Bros. Arackalchocky Devassy, Kureekattil Cyril and Mattappilly Abraham are to receive M'Samsanusa on December 22, and on December 20, Bros. Jacob Meleth and Kurian Elayidathumadathil will be receiving order of Heupadiakonusa and Bro. Chacko Vadakethakadiyel, Karoyusa. Hearty Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to all the Brothers and to all the formators. Hearty congratulations and Best wishes to Fr. Martin Valiyaparambil our latest Doctor.

4. Flood Relief Works

Our efforts to alleviate the suffering of the people affected by the floods of Kerala are going on strongly. We have a fund of about Rs. Twenty Lakhs, mainly due to the contributions from our Fathers working abroad and our Schools along with that of the Province. We are constructing 9 houses either fully or partially and making financial contributions to three other households as a part of our flood relief measures.

5. Annual Retreat

We are all aware of the obligation to make a five day retreat every year. Hope all of you have fulfilled this important duty and have renewed your lives. Please inform the Provincial office the date and place of your retreat in 2018. Those who have attended any of the retreats organised from the Generalate need not inform, as we have the list of the participants. This information is needed for proper record keeping.

6. Canonical Visits

Canonical Visits of 2019 are planned for January, February in most of the

Houses. The dates shall be finalised in consultation with the Houses concerned. Please see that the recommendations, both common and personal, of the previous visits are taken in the proper spirit and implemented.

7. Recent Events

a) A meeting of those who are working in the Education Ministry was held in the Provincial House on October 18 & 19, 2018. There were very constructive discussions and sharing besides solid input from two resource persons concerning Challenges and Solutions of Education Today and Auditing and Accounting. A committee consisting of Fr. Joshy Kottackal, Fr. Vempilly George Jose, Fr. Charles Kurrisseril, Fr. Raymond Pulakudichirakandathil and Fr. Joseph Puthenpura was formed to revise and update the Employee's Service Rules and Code of Conduct of San Thome Vincentian Society.

b) After a gap of a few years Christu Vidya Niketan, Madhavgarh celebrated Seminary Day with due solemnity on November 19. A beautifully put together Handwritten Magazine was published on the occasion. It was also the occasion of the Celebration of the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Fr. Augustine Parathanam, the Rector.

c) Golden Jubilee Celebration of Vincentian Novitiate at Meenangady was held on November 1st 2018. It was the Novitiate for the undivided Vincentian Congregation and also trained our Novices in the recent past.

d) First Death Anniversary of Fr. Paul Edasseril VC, was observed on 3rd November, 2018 at Vincentian Ashram Munnoorpilly. Mar Vaniakizhakkal Mathew was the main celebrant on the occasion.

e) Mission Gathering on November 10 -12, in Tabor Retreat Ashram, Kalyan was preceded by Annual Retreat preached by His Excellency Simon Kaipuram CM, the Bishop of the Diocese of Balasore. 17 priests from St. Thomas Province participated. It was also the occasion of the inauguration of the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Fathers mentioned earlier.

f) The golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Diocese of Satna took place on November 13 & 14 at Satna. Many members of the Province participated in the celebrations. The contribution of the Vincentian Congregation and St. Thomas Province in the formation and growth of the Diocese was very well highlighted by the Bishop of Satna Mar Joseph Kodakallil and His Beatitude Mar George Card. Alencherry, the Major Archbishop and others. There was a very strong Vincentian presence and participation in the celebrations.

g) Blessing of Vincentian Residence at Bilsa took place on November 29, 2018. The existing building was modified a little bit to make it more convenient; a good number of Fathers and Sisters and people were present. Congratulations to Fr. Benny Elemplackattu and members and Mission Superior of Christu Jyothi Mission.

8. Forthcoming Events

a) We shall come together for thanking the Lord and for congratulating and felicitating the New Priests of 2018-19 batch, at Vincentian Ashram, Munnoorpilly, on January 8, 2019.

b) We shall try to participate in the Reception to the new Priests and Jubilee Celebrations to be held at Vincentian Generalate, Edappally on January 12, 2019.

May this Christmas enlighten and enable us to share the light of the Lord with all the people.

Yours in our Lord

December 7, 2018
Ujwa, Delhi



Fr. Varghese Puthussery V C
Provincial Superior

*Wish You All A Merry Christmas
&
A Joyous New Year 2019*

