

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Organized by Diocese of Faridabad-Delhi & Riya Holidays

22-31 MAY & 16 – 25 OCTOBER 2015

UNDER THE SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE OF PRIESTS

- Day 1 Delhi - Amman - Nazareth**
Mount Nebo, The City Of Mosaic, St George Church Yardenit Jordan River, Sheikh Hussain Bridge, Israel
- Day 2 Nazareth - Cana - Sea Of Galilee**
Capernaum Church Of Multiplication , Boat Ride On Sea Of Galilee, Church Of Primacy Of Peter , Cana Church
- Day 3 Bethany- Haifa - Mt. Carmel - (Tel Aviv)**
Bethlehem Town Of Mary, Martha And Lazarus , Lazarus Tomb, Joppa St Peter Church, Haifa, Bahai Shrine, Muhraqa Basilica Of Annunciation , Mary Well.
- Day 4 Old City Of Jerusalem – Golgotha – Wailing Wall**
Jericho - Dead Sea Beit Hasda , 14 Stations Of The Cross To Golgotha, Mt Of Temptation Via Cable Car , Dead Sea , Sycamore Tree.
- Day 5 Ein Karem, Mt Of Olives, Gethsemane – Bethlehem**
Church of Visitation . Visit Sanctuaries of Pater Noster Ascension, St Peter of Gallicantu , Church of All Nations , Grotto of St Jerome , Milk Grotto – Nativity Church .
- Day 6 Taba – Sinai**
St.catherine Monastery Sinai Mountain, Saint Catherine Monastery, Burning Bush
- Day 7 Sinai – Cairo**
On The Way To Cairo We Cross The Famous Suez Canal. Arrive Cairo Then Cairo Market Visit Free Time Shopping Proceed to Hotel Check In Hotel Hotel. Overnight At Hotel.
- Day 8 Cairo**
Pyramids , Sphinx, Egyptian Museum, Old Churches of Cairo, Nile River Cruising
- Day 9 Cairo – Alexandria, Middle East**
Cairo To Alexandria Airport, Assemble At Hbe (alexandria Airport)
Middle East Board Connecting Flight To Delhi
- Day 10 Arrival In Delhi**

✧ Tour Ends ✧

BOOKING AMOUNT: Net Cost 85,000/-

A non-refundable deposit of Rs.30,000/- per person has to pay at the time of booking. Balance amount should be paid 30 days prior to the departure. The passengers are fully responsible for any illness and injuries occurred during the travel. Taking a medical insurance policy before the tour is advised.

Inclusions: Return airfare ex-Delhi*airport taxes, govt taxes.*3*/4*hotel accommodation *breakfast, lunch & dinner,*sightseeing as mentioned in the itinerary,*all the relevant entrance fees included in Israel, Egypt & Amman, *all in luxury a/c vehicle with English speaking govt. Licensed guide,*Israel, Egypt & Jordan visa *Israel, Egypt & Jordan border taxes*service of an experienced tour manager.*tips, portage to guide & driver *travel insurance.

For Bookings, further details and assistance please contact us on

Coordinator: Fr. John Mylamvelil, (M) 9654142787

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Printed, published and owned by Diocese of Faridabad-Delhi, Bishop's House
1B/32 N.E.A, Old Rajender Nagar, New Delhi - 110060, E-mail: santhomemessenger@gmail.com
Website: www.faridabaddioocese.in (Private Circulation only)



SANTHOME Messenger

Vol. 6 Issue 2 Mar-Apr 2015

FARIDABAD DIOCESAN BULLETIN





Congratulations & Prayerful Wishes



Jacob Mar Barnabas
Bishop of newly erected Syro-Malankara
Catholic Diocese, Gurgaon



Thomas Mar Anthonios, OIC
Bishop of newly erected Syro-Malankara
Catholic Exarchate at Khadki, Pune

Festal Greetings to our Dear Fathers



**Fr. Renson
Thekkinezath**
24th April



**Fr. George
Thuppalanjiyil**
24th April



**Fr. George
Thoomkzhy**
24th April



**Fr. Shinto
Kolathupadavil**
24th April



**Fr. Sherin
Puthenpurackal**
24th April

Festal Greetings to all our Rev. Sisters and Laity, having Patron's Day in April and May, 2015





Patron
Archbishop
Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara

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Design & Layout
Thomas Mampilly
 Royalthotz, New Delhi

Published by
 Diocese of Faridabad-Delhi
 Bishop's House, 1B/32 N.E.A
 Old Rajender Nagar
 New Delhi - 110060
 E-mail: info@faridabaddiocese.in
 Website: www.faridabaddiocese.in

Printed at
 Gokul Offset, Okhla, New Delhi
 (Private Circulation Only)

SANTHOME Messenger

Faridabad Diocesan Bulletin

Volume - 6, Issue - 2, March - April 2015

E-mail: santhomemessenger@gmail.com

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Appointment of Priests

1. **Rev. Fr. Jomon Thekkekudiyil CMI**
Assistant Parish Priest of Christ King Cathedral, Faridabad w.e.f. 12 February 2015
2. **Rev. Fr. Binoy Vazhayil CMI**
Assistant Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fathima Forane Church, Okhla w.e.f. 12 February 2015
3. **Very Rev. Msgr. Sebastian Vadakkumpadan**
Parish Priest of St. Augustine's Forane Church, Karol Bagh (Additional) w. e. f. 17 February 2015
4. **Rev. Fr. Antony (Lijo) Thaliyath**
Resident Priest of St. Augustine's Forane Church, Karol Bagh w.e.f. 20 February 2015
5. **Rev. Fr. George Thoomkuzhy**
Parish Priest of St. Jude Parish, Sahibabad w.e.f. 28 February 2015
6. **Rev. Fr. AnoopNarimattathil CST**
Parish Priest of Infant Jesus Forane Church, Palam w.e.f. 07 March 2015
7. **Rev. Fr. Mathew Kochuveetil CFIC**
Parish Priest of St. Mary's Parish, Mayur Vihar Phase I w.e.f. 07 March 2015.

Thanks

After fruitful ministry in the Eparchy of Faridabad-Delhi Rev. Fr. Sajo Padayattil and Rev. Fr. Dominic Kachappilly returned to their mother diocese Ernakulam-Angamaly. We acknowledge with thanks their esteemed presence and ministry in the Eparchy of Faridabad-Delhi in its initial stage and wish them God's blessings and all the best in their new ministry.

VOCATION CAMP

The second vocation camp of the Diocese of Faridabad-Delhi was conducted on 20th to 22nd March 2015 at Sanjoepuram Children's Village. 32 students from 6 parishes attended the Camp. Thanks to the parish priests of Mayur Vihar Phase 3, Dilshad Garden, Aya Nagar, Palam, Okhla and Mahipapur for the efforts to promote vocation. The classes on vocation were conducted by Fr. Sebastian Thekkanath, Fr. Jiju Thuruthikara, Fr. Peter Kanjirakattukary and Fr. Sherin Puthenpurackal. The regency brother of the diocese conducted group Dynamics, action songs and group discussion and kept the camp lively unto the end. A big thanks to Fr. Sebastian Thekkanath and the Sanjoepuram Team who really toiled for the success of the Camp.



Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara
Bishop of Faridabad

ദൈവകൃപയാൽ ഫരിദാബാദ് രൂപതയുടെ മെത്രാൻ കുര്യാക്കോസ് ദരണികുളങ്ങര തന്റെ അധികാരത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട ഇടവകകളിലെ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട വികാരിമാർക്കും അന്തേന്തിമാർക്കും മറ്റുവൈദികർക്കും സന്യാസിനീസന്യാസിമാർക്കും വിശ്വാസികൾക്കും നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവിശോമിശിഹായിൽ ആശിസ്സും സമാധാനവും.

വന്ദ്യ സഹോദരരേ, വത്സലമക്കളേ,

2014 നവംബർ 23-നു വിശുദ്ധ ചാവറ കുര്യാക്കോസ് അച്ചനേയും വിശുദ്ധ എവുപ്രാസ്യാമ്മയെയും വിശുദ്ധരായി പ്രഖ്യാപിക്കുന്ന ചടങ്ങിൽ വിശ്വാസികളെ അഭിസംബോധന ചെയ്യവേ, പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ പറയുകയുണ്ടായി : “കേരളത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഈ രണ്ടു വിശുദ്ധരെ കത്തോലിക്ക സഭയ്ക്ക് ലഭിച്ചതിൽ ഞാൻ വളരെ സന്തോഷത്തോടുകൂടി നിങ്ങളോടൊപ്പം ദൈവത്തിനു നന്ദി പറയുന്നു. കേരള സഭയുടെ ഹൈന്ദവീക ശക്തിക്കും വിശ്വാസ സാക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾക്കും അതോടൊപ്പം ഇന്ത്യയിലെ കത്തോലിക്ക സഭയ്ക്കും ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഞാൻ നന്ദി രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുകയാണ്. വളരെയധികം നന്ദി! കേരളം ദൈവവിളിയാൽ സമൃദ്ധമായ ഒരു പ്രദേശമാണ്. ഈശോയുടെ സാക്ഷ്യങ്ങളുമായി നിങ്ങൾ മുന്നോട്ടു പോവുക. . . .” കേരളത്തിൽ നിന്നും ധാരാളം ദൈവവിളികൾ ഉണ്ടെന്നു പരിശുദ്ധ പിതാവ് ഫ്രാൻസിസ് മാർപാപ്പ അംഗീകരിച്ച ആ ധന്യ നിമിഷത്തിൽ ഫരിദാബാദ് രൂപതയെ പ്രതിനിധീകരിച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഞാനും വത്തിക്കാൻ ചതുരത്തിൽ സന്നിഹിതനായിരുന്നു.

വത്തിക്കാൻ നയതന്ത്ര കാര്യാലയത്തിന്റെ ലോകമെമ്പാടുമുള്ള സേവനത്തിനിടയിൽ ആശ്ചര്യകരമായി എന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ട ഒരു കാര്യം ലോകത്തിന്റെ ഏതു മൂക്കിലും മൂലയിലും കേരളത്തിൽ നിന്നുള്ള വൈദികരേയും സന്യാസിനികളേയും കാണാമെന്നുള്ളതാണ്. നമ്മുടെ സുവിശേഷപ്രവർത്തകർ ആഫ്രിക്കയിലും ഉത്തര-ദക്ഷിണ അമേരിക്കയിലും, ആസ്ട്രേലിയയിലും ഒക്കെയുണ്ട്. ഇത്രമാത്രം ദൈവവിളികൾ കേരളത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഉള്ളത് എന്തുകൊണ്ടാണെന്ന് മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നുള്ള മെത്രാന്മാർ എപ്പോഴും ആശ്ചര്യപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു കാര്യമാണ്. ലോകത്തിലെ മറ്റു രാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ സന്യാസ ദൈവവിളികൾ ഗുരുതരമായി കുറയുകയും സെമിനാരികളും നൊവിഷ്യേറ്റുകളും അടക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ ദൈവവിളി അഭിവൃദ്ധി പ്രാപിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുകയാണെന്ന് ആർക്കും മനസ്സിലാകും. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ സ്ഥിതി വിവരക്കണക്കനുസരിച്ചു സന്യാസിനികളുടെ ദൈവവിളിയിൽ ചെറിയ ഒരു കുറവ് വന്നിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും സെമിനാരികളെല്ലാം ഇപ്പോഴും വൈദികാർത്ഥികളാൽ സമ്പന്നമാണ്. നമ്മുടെ സഭയ്ക്ക് ദൈവം നല്കിയ ഈ വലിയ കൃപയ്ക്ക് ദൈവത്തിനു നന്ദിപറയാം.

ലോകത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ അതിർത്തികളിലും പോയി സുവിശേഷം പ്രസംഗിക്കുവാനും എല്ലാവരേയും ജ്ഞാനസ്നാനം ചെയ്യുവാനുമാണ് നമ്മുടെ കർത്താവായ യേശു തന്റെ ശിഷ്യരെ ചുമതലപ്പെടുത്തിയത്. ‘ആകയാൽ നിങ്ങൾ പോയി എല്ലാ ജനതകളെയും ശിഷ്യപ്പെടുത്തുവിൻ. പിതാവിന്റെയും പുത്രന്റെയും പരിശുദ്ധാത്മാവിന്റെയും നാമത്തിൽ അവർക്ക് ജ്ഞാനസ്നാനം നല്കുവിൻ. ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളോട് കല്പിച്ചവയെല്ലാം അനുസരിക്കുവിൻ അവരെ പഠിപ്പിക്കുവിൻ.’ (മത്തായി 28:19-20). ഈ ശിഷ്യത്വത്തിൽ കൂടെയാണ് നാം ക്രിസ്തുവിന്റെ അനുയായികളായി ശാശ്വതമായ ജീവിതത്തിനു അവകാശികളാകുന്നത്. അതിനുവേണ്ടി ഓരോരുത്തരും പാപത്തിൽ നിന്ന് സ്വയം വിമുക്തരായി ദൈവീകകൃപയാൽ നിറഞ്ഞു വിശുദ്ധീകരിക്കപ്പെടണം. പാപമോചനത്തിനും വിശുദ്ധീകരണത്തിനും വേണ്ടി പിതാവായ ദൈവം തന്റെ സ്വപുത്രനെ അവിടുന്ന് അയച്ചു. യേശുശിഷ്യന്മാരുടെ പിൻഗാമികളിലൂടെ സഭയിൽ ഈ ദൗത്യം ഇന്നും തുടരുന്നു. ഈ അവബോധത്തിൽ നിന്നുകൊണ്ടാണ്

തിരുസഭയെ പാപമോചനത്തിനുള്ള വഴിയായി നാം കാണുന്നത്. ഈ അർത്ഥത്തിലാണ് സഭയെ രക്ഷയുടെ കൂദാശ എന്ന് നാം പറയുന്നത്. ഈ ദൗത്യം നിറവേറ്റുവാനായി അനേകം വൈദികരേയും സന്യാസിനികളേയും തിരുസഭയ്ക്ക് ആവശ്യമുണ്ട്. ഇന്നത്തെ ലോകത്തിൽ പാപമോചനവും വിശുദ്ധീകരണവും അത്യാവശ്യമായ അനേകം പേരുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ വളരെ കുറച്ചു വൈദികരും സുവിശേഷ പ്രഘോഷകരും മാത്രമേ അവരെ നയിക്കുവാനുള്ളൂ. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് സുവിശേഷത്തിൽ നാം ഇങ്ങനെ വായിക്കുന്നത് - 'യേശു അവരുടെ സിനഗോഗുകളിൽ പഠിപ്പിച്ചും രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സുവിശേഷം പ്രസംഗിച്ചും എല്ലാ രോഗങ്ങളും വ്യാധികളും സുഖപ്പെടുത്തിയും എല്ലാ നഗരങ്ങളിലും ഗ്രാമങ്ങളിലും ചുറ്റി സഞ്ചരിച്ചു. ജനകൂട്ടങ്ങളെ കണ്ടപ്പോൾ, യേശുവിനു അവരുടെമേൽ അനുകമ്പ തോന്നി. അവർ ഇടയനില്ലാതെ ആടുകളെപ്പോലെ പരിഭ്രാന്തരും നിസ്സഹായരുമായിരുന്നു. അവൻ ശിഷ്യന്മാരോട് പറഞ്ഞു; വിളവധികം; വേലക്കാരോ ചുരുക്കം. അതിനാൽ, തന്റെ വിളഭൂമിയിലേക്ക് വേലക്കാരെ അയക്കുവാൻ വിളവിന്റെ നാമനോട് പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുവിൻ' (മത്തായി 9:35-38)

രണ്ടാം വത്തിക്കാൻ സുന്നഹദോസിന്റെ പ്രമാണരേഖയിൽ (*Optatam Totius*, no.2) ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹനം എല്ലാ കത്തോലിക്കരുടെയും ഉത്തരവാദിത്വമാണെന്നു എടുത്തു പറയുന്നു. സീറോ മലബാർ കുടുംബങ്ങൾ അനേകം ദൈവവിളികൾ ഉണ്ടാകുവാൻ വേണ്ടി പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്നവയാണെന്നു ഞാൻ ഉറച്ചുവിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു വൈദികനോ, കന്യാസ്ത്രീയോ ഓരോ കുടുംബങ്ങളിലും ഉണ്ടാകണമെന്ന് നമ്മുടെ പൂർവ്വികരും മാതാപിതാക്കളും ആത്മാർത്ഥമായി ആഗ്രഹിച്ചിരുന്നു. ഉള്ളിന്റെ ഉള്ളിലെ ആ ആഗ്രഹം കൊണ്ടാണ് അവർ പൊതുവായി വൈദികരെ ബഹുമാനിക്കുകയും അവരെ പറ്റി നല്ലതുമാത്രം സംസാരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നത്. സഭയിലും സമൂഹത്തിലും വൈദികരുടേയും സന്യാസിനികളുടേയും അനിവാര്യതയെക്കുറിച്ച് അവർ മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിരുന്നു. ദൈവവിളികളുടെ ബാലവാടിയെന്നു പറയുന്നത് നിരന്തരം പ്രാർത്ഥിക്കുന്ന ഭക്തിയുള്ള കുടുംബപശ്ചാത്തലമാണ്. മാതാപിതാക്കളിലും വീട്ടിലെ മുതിർന്നവരിലുമുള്ള പതിവായ കുടുംബപ്രാർത്ഥനയും ആത്മാർത്ഥമായ ഭക്തിയും കുട്ടികളിലും അതേ ശീലം വളർത്തിയെടുക്കാൻ സഹായിക്കും. അതുപോലെ തുല്യപ്രാധാന്യമുള്ളതാണ് മാതാപിതാക്കളും കുടുംബാംഗങ്ങളും ദൈവത്തിന്റെ അഭിഷിക്തരെ കുറിച്ച് നല്ല അഭിപ്രായ പ്രകടനങ്ങൾ കുടുംബങ്ങളിൽ നടത്തുന്നത്. കുടുംബങ്ങളിൽ ദൈവത്തിന്റെ അഭിഷിക്തരെക്കുറിച്ച് മോശമായ രീതിയിൽ സംസാരിക്കുന്നത് സ്വാഭാവികമായും കുട്ടികളിൽ അവരോടുള്ള അടുപ്പവും ഇഷ്ടവും വളർത്താൻ ഉതകില്ല. വൈദികരേയും സന്യാസിനികളേയും കുറിച്ച് നല്ലതാണ് കുട്ടികൾ കുടുംബങ്ങളിൽ കേൾക്കുന്നതെങ്കിൽ കുട്ടികൾ തീർച്ചയായും അവരെ ബഹുമാനിക്കുകയും ആദരിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും.

ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ കുടുംബങ്ങൾക്ക് ഒത്തിരികാര്യങ്ങൾ ചെയ്യാൻ കഴിയും. കുടുംബമാണ് ആദ്യത്തെ സെമിനാരി; അവിടെയാണ് ദൈവത്തിന്റെ വിളി എത്തിയതും വളർന്നതും. കുട്ടികളിൽ ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ മാതാപിതാക്കൾക്ക് കഴിയും. ആദ്യകാലങ്ങളിൽ കുട്ടികൾ വൈദികനാകുവാനുള്ള ആഗ്രഹം പ്രകടിപ്പിക്കുമ്പോൾ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ അവർ ഒരു പുതപ്പു (തുണി) കുർബാന കുപ്പായമായി ധരിച്ചു പുരോഹിതനായി അഭിനയിക്കുമ്പോൾ മാതാപിതാക്കൾ അവരെ വാത്സല്യത്തോടെ വീക്ഷിക്കുകയും വൈദികനാകുവാനുള്ള അവരുടെ താല്പര്യം തിരിച്ചറിയുകയും ചെയ്തിരുന്നു. തീർച്ചയായും ആദ്യകാലങ്ങളിൽ വികാരിയച്ചന്മാർ കുട്ടികളുടെ 'ആദർശമാതൃക'കളായിരുന്നു (Role Models). ഇന്നത്തെ കാലത്ത് ടി.വി-യിലൂടെയും പൊതുമാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെയും (Social Media) വളരെ ചെറുപ്പത്തിൽ തന്നെ അവർ വളരെയധികം ആദർശമാതൃകകളെ കണ്ടുമുട്ടുന്നു. തന്നെയുമല്ല വിദേശരാജ്യങ്ങളിൽ പോയി എളുപ്പത്തിൽ പണം സമ്പാദിക്കുവാൻ നേരിട്ടോ അല്ലാതെയോ മാതാപിതാക്കൾ കുട്ടികൾക്ക് പ്രേരണ നല്കുന്നു. പ്രവാസി ജീവിതത്തിനുശേഷം നാട്ടിൽ തിരിച്ചെത്തിയ അപൂർവ്വം ചിലരുടെ സുഖലോലുപമായ ജീവിതവും സാമ്പത്തികാവസ്ഥയും കുട്ടികളെ അതിലേക്കു ആകർഷിക്കുന്നു.

ദൈവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിൽ ഇടവക വികാരിമാരും സന്യാസിനികളും മറ്റു സഹായികളാണ്. പല വൈദികർക്കും സന്യാസിനികൾക്കും അവരിൽ ദൈവവിളി ലഭിക്കുവാൻ പ്രചോദനം നൽകിയ വിശുദ്ധരായ വൈദികരുടെ അനുഭവങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടാകും. ഇടവകകളിൽ അവർ നൽകുന്ന നേതൃത്വപാടവം, മാതൃകാപരമായ പ്രാർത്ഥനാ ജീവിതം, സാമൂഹിക പ്രതിബദ്ധത, പാവങ്ങളോടുള്ള കാര്യം ഇതെല്ലാം യുവജനങ്ങളെ ആകർഷിക്കുകയും അതിലൂടെ അവർ വൈദികരാകുവാൻ സ്വയം ചിന്തിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യും. ആകയാൽ, ഇടവകയിലെ നല്ല കുട്ടികളെ തിരിച്ചറിഞ്ഞു ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ എല്ലാ ഇടവക വികാരിമാരോടും അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുകയാണ്.

ഇടവകകളിലെ മതാദ്ധ്യാപകർക്ക് അവരവരുടെ ക്ലാസ്സുകളിലെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥിനീവിദ്യാർത്ഥികളിൽ ദൈവവിളി പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. ദേവാലയ ശുശ്രൂഷകളിൽ കുട്ടികളുമായുള്ള നിരന്തരമായ ഇടപെടലുകൾ വഴി അവരിലുള്ള നല്ല ഘടകങ്ങൾ കണ്ടെത്തുവാനാകും.

പ്രവാസികളായ നമുക്കുവേണ്ടി പ്രവാസി പശ്ചാത്തലത്തിൽ രൂപീകൃതമായ നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയിൽ സേവനം ചെയ്യുവാൻ അനേകം വൈദികരെ ആവശ്യമുണ്ട്. നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയിലെ വിദൂരമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലേപ്പോലും കഴിഞ്ഞ കാലങ്ങളിൽ സീറോ മലബാർ ആരാധനക്രമത്തിൽ ഓടിനടന്ന് മികച്ച സേവനം ചെയ്ത നമ്മുടെ വൈദികരെ ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നമുക്ക് കൃതജ്ഞതയോടെ അനുസ്മരിക്കാം.

സന്യാസജീവിതത്തിലേക്ക് നമ്മുടെ യുവജനങ്ങൾ കാണിക്കുന്ന താൽപര്യത്തിൽ ഞാൻ സന്തോഷവാനാണ്. കഴിഞ്ഞ വർഷവും ഈ വർഷവും സാൻജോവൂരത്തുവെച്ചു നടത്തിയ ദൈവവിളി ക്യാമ്പിൽ ഇടവകകളിൽ നിന്നും ഒത്തിരി യുവജനങ്ങൾ പങ്കെടുക്കുകയുണ്ടായി. ഫരീദാബാദ് രൂപതയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി വൈദികരാകുവാൻ താല്പര്യമുള്ള കുട്ടികളെ തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുവാൻ നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയുടെ വൊക്കേഷൻ പ്രൊമോട്ടർമാർ കേരളത്തിലെ രൂപതകളിൽ നടക്കുന്ന വിവിധ ദൈവവിളിക്യാമ്പുകളിൽ സംബന്ധിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. നിങ്ങളുടെ നാട്ടിലുള്ള കുടുംബങ്ങളിലും ബന്ധുമിത്രാദികളിലും ഇടവകകളിലും വൈദികരാകുവാൻ താല്പര്യമുള്ള കുട്ടികളെ കണ്ടെത്തി അവരെ നമ്മുടെ രൂപതയിലേക്ക് കൊണ്ടുവരുന്നത് നന്നായിരിക്കും.

സെമിനാരി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ സഹായിക്കുന്ന ഫണ്ടിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞാൻ മുൻപ് വിവരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടല്ലോ. മനസ്സ് തുറന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുകയാണ് ഒത്തിരിപേർ ഇതിനുവേണ്ടി മുന്നോട്ടുവന്നു സഹായിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിൽ പങ്കാളികളായ എല്ലാവർക്കും ഞാൻ നന്ദിപറയുന്നു. വൈദിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നതിനും അവരെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിനുവേണ്ടിയുള്ള ധനസഹായം സ്വരൂപിക്കുന്നതിനും നമ്മുടെ രൂപത വൊക്കേഷൻ പ്രൊമോട്ടർമാരായ റവ.ഫാ. പീറ്റർ കാഞ്ഞിരകാട്ടുകരിയും റവ.ഫാ. ഷെറിൻ പുത്തൻപുരയും ചെയ്യുന്ന സേവനങ്ങളെ ഞാൻ കൃതജ്ഞതയോടെ ഓർക്കുന്നു.

ഭാവിയിലേക്കുള്ള വൈദികരെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനുവേണ്ടി സ്വന്തമായി മൈനർ സെമിനാരി നിർമ്മിക്കുകയെന്ന നമ്മുടെ പുതിയ പദ്ധതി ഞാൻ ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ നിങ്ങളുമായി പങ്കുവെയ്ക്കുകയാണ്. നിങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാവുന്നതുപോലെ ഇപ്പോൾ നമ്മൾ വൈദിക വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ പരിശീലിപ്പിക്കുന്നത് കേരളത്തിലും ബിജ്നോറിലുമുള്ള വിവിധ സെമിനാരികളിലാണ്. സ്വന്തമായി മൈനർ സെമിനാരി എന്ന ഈ സ്വപ്നം സാക്ഷാത്കരിക്കുവാൻ മുൻകൂറായി തന്നെ ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളുടെ സഹായസഹകരണവും പിന്തുണയും അഭ്യർത്ഥിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ പദ്ധതിയുടെ പൂർണ്ണ രൂപരേഖ തയ്യാറായാൽ ഞാൻ നിങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കുന്നതാണ്.

ദൈവം നിങ്ങളെ എല്ലാവരെയും സമൃദ്ധമായി അനുഗ്രഹിക്കട്ടെ.
നിങ്ങളുടെ സ്വന്തം പിതാവ്,
മാർ കൂര്യാക്കോസ് ഭരണികുളങ്ങര
ഫരീദാബാദ് രൂപതയുടെ മെത്രാൻ

(കരോൾബാഗിലുള്ള രൂപതാകാര്യാലയത്തിൽ നിന്ന് 2015-ാം ആണ്ട് മാർച്ച് 23-ാം തീയതി തിങ്കളാഴ്ച നൽകപ്പെട്ടത്.
NB: ഈ ഇടയലേഖനം 2015 ഏപ്രിൽ മാസം 26-ാം തീയതി ഞായറാഴ്ച കുർബാന മദ്ധ്യേ എല്ലാ പള്ളികളിലും ഞായറാഴ്ച കുർബാനയുള്ള സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിലും പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്കായി വായിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.)



Pastoral Letter

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara

Bishop of Faridabad

My dear sisters and brothers and dear children in Christ,
To all blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This Pastoral Letter is about promoting vocation to priesthood and religious life in the families, parishes and in the diocese.

On the occasion of the canonization of Saint Chavara Kuriakose and Mother Euphrasia on 23 November 2014 in St. Peter's Squire, where I was also present, Pope Francis stated: "I am delighted to join you in thanking the Lord for these two saints from Kerala. I avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Church in India and to thank the Church in Kerala for your apostolic strength and for the witnessing of faith that you have. Thanks a lot! Kerala is a land so fertile for religious and priestly vocations. Please go ahead with your witnessing..." The Holy Father has recognized the innumerable vocations to priesthood and religious life in Kerala.

During my diplomatic services throughout the world, one thing that I have noted surprisingly is the presence of Kerala priests or nuns in every corner of the globe. We have missionaries in Africa, in South and North America, Australia etc. Bishops in other countries often ask why there are so many vocations in Kerala. While in other parts of the world, number of vocations to religious life has gone down drastically, and thereby seminaries and noviciates are being closed down, one can note a boom in the recruitment to the formation houses in India. Though statistically a break down could be noted, especially regarding the vocation to women congregations, seminaries are still houseful. Let us thank the Lord for this great blessing to our Church.

Jesus has entrusted the disciples the mission of going to confines to the world and preach the gospel and baptise everybody. "Go therefore and make

disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; (Matt.28,19-20). It is through discipleship that we become followers of Jesus and inherit the eternal life. For that, one should free himself from sins, filled with divine grace and get sanctified. God the Father has sent his only son for this process of sanctification and redemption. This mission is continued by the successors of the apostles and that in the Church. It is in that sense we say that Church is the sacrament of salvation. In order to do this mission, the Church needs priests and religious. The world today is direly in need of salvation and sanctification, but only few priests and leaders are there to guide them. That is why we read in the Gospel, "Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest."

The Second Vatican document on the vocation promotion, (*Optatam Totius*, no.2) underlines that promoting vocations is the responsibility of the whole Christian community. I am sure that the families of the SMC had prayed for vocations; our parents and forefathers earnestly desired to have priests and nuns in the family. Out of this inner disposition, they respected the priests and spoke good of them in public. They have understood the

necessity of priests and religious in the community, in the Church. A prayerful family background is the nursery of vocations. The habit of family prayer and the spirit of devotion that exists in the parents and elderly members of the family inculcate the same in the children. Equally important is the comments of the parents and members of the family about those who are consecrated. If our children grow up hearing the parents and family members talking bad about the religious and priests, naturally they will not develop an attachment and affinity to them. Whereas if they hear good about them at home, they will respect them.

Family can do a lot for promoting vocations. It is the first seminary where the Lord's call is planted and grown. Parents can help develop priestly and religious vocation of the children. In the past, if the children express their wish to become priests or they "act priest" using a piece of cloth or blanket as Mass vestment, etc., parents used to observe affectionately and recognize their interest and attraction for becoming priests. In fact, in the past priests were the only "role models" for the children. Now a days through media, especially TV and social media, which the children start at a very early age, they get many other role models. Besides, directly or indirectly, parents instigate in the children the advantages of making money easily going abroad. Becoming a nurse and flying to Ireland or Australia will be projected as great before the children. The phenomenon of migration and the money they bring in and luxurious life of some returnees also attract the children.

Parish priests and religious are other agents of promoting vocation. Some priests and religious will have the story of an inspiring holy priest as the cause of their vocation. Their leadership in parish, exemplary prayer life, social engagement and care for the poor attract youngsters and make them think about becoming priests themselves. The parish priests are therefore, exhorted to identify good candidates from the parish and promote good vocations from them. Catechism teachers can also promote vocation

to priesthood and religious life among the boys and girls of respective classes. Their constant contact and interaction with the students in the context of the church and liturgy would definitely help them to identify good elements.

Especially being a diocese situated in the migrant background and for the migrant communities we need more priests to serve the community. We recall with gratitude the wonderful service our few priests did in the past, running here and there serving remote places and celebrating Syro-Malabar liturgy.

I am happy that there is a good response from our youngsters towards religious life an vocation. Last year more than fifty boys attended the vocation camp organized by the diocese. This year also we are planning a vocation camp in Sanjoepuram for those who aspire to become priests in the diocese. More details will be given to you by the Parish Priests. At the same time, our vocation promoters are participating different vocation camps conducted in Kerala, in order to recruit probable candidates for the diocese of Faridabad.

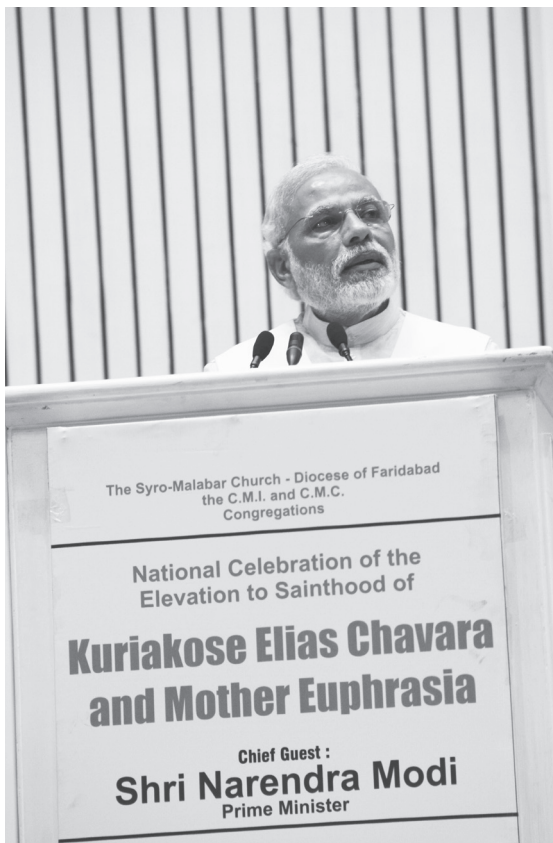
About the sponsorship program for the seminarians, I had explained earlier. I am content that many have come forward to support this and I thank all those who are involved in that.

I remember with gratitude the services of our vocation promoters Rev. Fr. Peter Kanjirakattukary and Rev. Fr. Sherrin Puthenpurakal who are taking care of the recruitment, formation and seminarians fund.

I take this opportunity to share with you our project of having our own Minor Seminary to form our future priests. As you know, now we are training them in different Seminaries in Kerala and in Bijnor. I solicit in advance your cooperation and support to realize that dream. As soon as the details of the project are finalized, I will be briefing you.

God bless you,

Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara,
Bishop of Faridabad Diocese



EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL RELIGIONS GUARANTEED

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Cardinal George Alencherry
 Archbishop Andrews Thazhath
 Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara
 Archbishop Anil Couto
 Shri Arun Jaitley
 Dr. Najma Heptulla,
 Shri P.J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha
 Monseigneur Sebastian Vadakumpadan

“ My government will ensure that there is complete freedom of faith and that everyone has the undeniable right to retain or adopt the religion of his or her choice without coercion or undue influence. My government will not allow any religious group, belonging to the majority or the minority, to incite hatred against others, overtly or covertly. Mine will be a government that gives equal respect to all religions.” ”

I am delighted to participate in this function to celebrate the elevation to sainthood of two great saints of Kerala – Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Saint Euphresia. The whole country is proud of their recognition. Their elevation was preceded by that of Saint Alphonsa, who also hailed from Kerala.

The life and deeds of Saint Chavara and Saint Euphresia are an inspiration not only to the Christian community, but to humanity as a whole. They are shining examples of dedication to God through selfless service for the betterment of mankind.

Saint Chavara was a man of prayer and also a social reformer. In an era when access to education was limited, he stressed that every church should have a school. He thus opened the doors of education to people from all sections of society.

Few outside Kerala know that he started a Sanskrit school, and also a printing press. His contribution towards women’s empowerment was also noteworthy.

Saint Euphrasia was a mystic who dedicated her life to prayer and devotion to God.



Both these saints dedicated their life to God through service of fellow beings. The ancient Indian saying: “आत्मानोमोक्षार्थंजगत्हितायाच” – welfare of the world is the way to moksha (salvation) – explains their life.

Friends,

Spiritualism is rooted in India’s heritage. Indian saints and Greek sages had intellectual and spiritual exchanges thousands of years back. India’s openness to new ideas is manifest in the Rig Veda: आनोमद्राःक्रतवोयन्तुविश्वतः Let noble thoughts come to us from all sides. This philosophy has guided our intellectual discourse since time immemorial. Mother India gave birth to many religious and spiritual streams. Some of them have even travelled beyond Indian borders.

The tradition of welcoming, respecting and honouring all faiths is as old as India itself. As Swami Vivekananda said: We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all

religions as true.

What Swami Vivekananda had said a century ago holds good and will, for ever, not only for this nation but also for this government or for that matter any government in India, run by any political party. This principle of equal respect and treatment for all faiths has been a part of India’s ethos for thousands of years. And that is how it became integral to the Constitution of India. Our Constitution did not evolve in a vacuum. It has roots in the ancient cultural traditions of India.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore had inspired us to dream of a land where the mind is without fear and the head is held high. It is that heaven of freedom we are duty bound to create and preserve. We believe that there is truth in every religion. एकमसतविप्रबहुधावदन्ति

Friends,

Let me now come to the issue which is central and critical for peace and harmony

(Continued on Page no. 29)



A NEW ANTI-CONVERSION BILL WILL DESTROY PEACE AND HARMONY *Cardinal Alencherry*

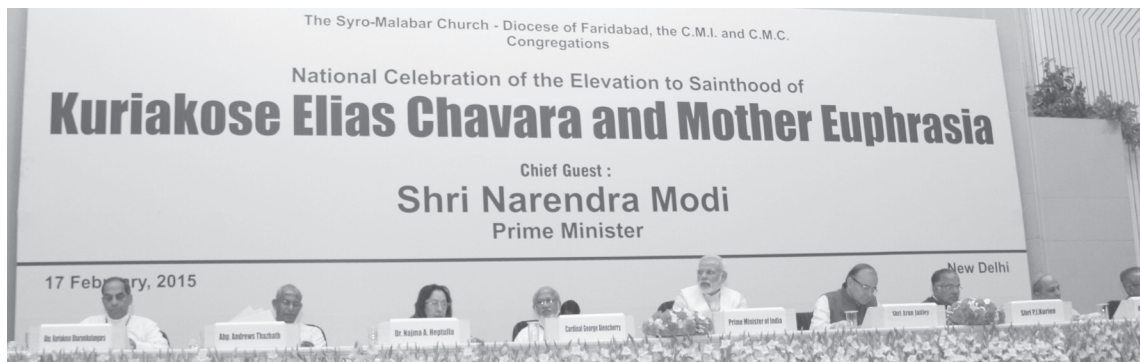
Honourable Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modiji, honourable Ministers and my dear brother Bishops and distinguished guests on and off the Dias.

As it was already mentioned here India is a country of sages and Saints. We call them by various names: Samijis, Sadhus, Gurus, Sanyasins, Acharyas etc. In India it is the popular recognition that makes a person holy or saintly. In the Catholic Church the life witness of a publicly venerated person will be examined in different ways and his/her holiness will be approved by the Church through an official declaration by the Pope. This process of declaring a person Saint is called canonisation.

The Catholic Church in India has five such canonised Saints. They are St. Gonsalo Garcia, St. Joseph D. Vaz, St Alphonsa, St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia. The latter three Saints belong to the Syro-Malabar Church of which I am the present head. St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and St. Euphrasia were canonised recently on November 23, 2014 and it is to celebrate their memory we have arranged this national meet of distinguished persons with your esteemed presence. We thank you very much for this generous gesture from your part.

The Syro-Malabar Church is the largest community of St Thomas Christians, also called Syrian Christians, who trace their origin from the evangelisation work of St Thomas, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ in the first century AD.

“Hon’ble PM Modiji, we do firmly hold that coversion is a matter of one’s personal decision and that conversion cannot be done through fraud or false means. If anyone uses forceful ways to propagate one’s religion he/she is to be taken to task by the laws of the country. Making new anti-conversion laws will pave the way for creating animosity among believers of different religions, thereby destroying the peace and harmony that exist today.”



The Christian Churches in general, practice their faith assimilating the cultural elements of the country where they live. Therefore the allegation that Christianity is a foreign religion in India is not true to facts. We are Indian citizens who love our country and who have contributed very much to the nation building through educational, health care and social service activities. The Christians in India are only 2.3% of the total population and during the decades of the two previous censuses the population of the Christians got reduced to .5%. It is against this numerically small minority community that some have leveled complaints of proselytism. The Catholic Church, as you know well, is the champion of religious freedom and the Catholics in India wholeheartedly adhere to this principle. All the educational institutions run by the Church, some of which were established several decades before the Independence of India, admitted in its rolls students belonging to all religions and castes. Three former Presidents of India were students of Christian educational institutions.

St. Kuriakose Chavara whose sainthood we are celebrating today was not only a person of inestimable spiritual values but also a great social reformer. At a time when universal primary education was not thought of in Kerala or in any part of India, he asked all the churches to establish schools and open their

doors to people of all religions and castes. When people who belonged to the upper castes were alone eligible for education, he changed the system by offering opportunities to people of all castes and religions to study in the schools of the Church. He also opened a school for the study of Sanskrit as mentioned by Sri P.J. Kurian. He left it open to all the students so that they could become proficient in the classical language of India.

St.Euphrasia whose canonization we are celebrating along with St.Chavara was a person endowed with great spiritual strength and values. Christianity whose essence consists in reaching out to the poor and the dispossessed and which values love of neighbor, irrespective of caste or creed, was fully alive in the life of St.Euphrasia.

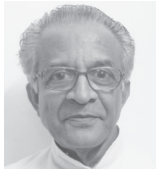
Honourable PM Modiji, we do firmly hold that conversion is a matter of one's personal decision and that conversion cannot be done through fraud or false means. If anyone uses forceful ways to propagate one's religion he/she is to be taken to task by the laws of the country. Making new anti-conversion laws will pave the way for creating animosity among believers of different religions, thereby destroying the peace and harmony that exist today.

Christians do not believe in revenge or retaliation. We do not support vendettas. But this shall not be taken by the evil doers as our

(Continued on Page no. 30)

Diocese of Faridabad-Delhi prepared a platform for the Prime Minister

[Msgr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan, General Convener of the February 17 event of Prime Minister explains the context of the PM's speech"]



You organized the meeting on 17 February in which the Prime Minister addressed the Catholics of Delhi. What did you seek to achieve by organising the meeting,

which was the first of its kind for Prime Minister Modi?

The diocese of Faridabad organized the meeting on behalf of the Syro-Malabar Church, CMI and CMC congregations. It was to celebrate the declaration of the sainthood of two saints of our country, St. Kuriakose Chavara Elias and St. Euphraisa at a national level in the capital. Of course, we thought it appropriate that the honourable Prime Minister of India be present on the occasion. We hoped that the Prime Minister would honour the two saints as part of the heritage of our country, especially because they belonged to a minority community.

We knew that the response of the Prime Minister was crucial as far as the minority communities are concerned. The general public and particularly the minority communities were concerned and apprehensive about the conspicuous silence of the Prime Minister in the wake of the attacks against churches and Christian institutions. Though some people took exemption to the constitutional provisions protecting the rights of the minorities, presuming acquiescence of the government to the vandalism against the Churches, we were of the opinion that the Prime Minister of the country could not remain silent on the subject any more, because it was, as some qualified it, “a Dangerous Silence.” We

also believed that the celebration of the elevation to Sainthood of these two Catholic saints will provide a platform and an opportunity for the honourable Prime Minister to declare publicly that at present he is the protector of the secular fabric of our country and of the rights of minority communities.

There were 6 attacks in the last 11 weeks on the Christian Churches and other institutions in Delhi; It appears the Church there is rather upset about the BJP government's attitude towards it. Are you apprehensive about the BJP being communal and anti-minority in its approach?

Personally I never thought that BJP as such was communal and anti-minority in its approach. But I had the impression that some groups attached to the BJP were communal and anti-minority in their approach, and that the BJP has to, at any cost, remain aloof from such groups and their anti-secular attitudes. The common man in India today knows which these groups are. More than the attacks on Churches, what worries me is the attitude of the government in this regard. If they are to remain secular, attacks will have to stop taking place at all. Particular incidents can be dealt with strongly if there is political good will.

Did you find the speech of the Prime Minister reassuring, or do you think that he agreed to meet the Catholics because of the political exigencies of the situation arising from the BJP's crushing defeat in Delhi?

We are happy about the speech of the Prime Minister. Who in India, except the miscreants who would feel snubbed, would not? I do not know how

the victory of AAP has affected the BJP. But this meeting was arranged earlier, and we had reasonable indications that Prime Minister would make use of the occasion to put an end to all speculations and apprehensions about his view of secular India. He did it excellently well and we are happy about it.

Are you hopeful that the BJP will abide by the Constitution, eschewing fascist historical antecedents of their ideologues like Gobwalker and Savarkar?

I am pretty sure that the Prime Minister and the BJP government will abide by the Constitution. In the political history of India, no autocrat or any fascist has ever survived, especially in the hearts of the common man. Examples are available for it at the centre and in Kerala. The common man, though lacking in high academic credentials, loves the secular fabric of our country, People of different religious and cultures

want to live side by side in peace and harmony. Our people are not prepared to sacrifice democracy for anything. The political history of our country is clear evidence that dictators, fascists, or terrorists, even when they can create unrest in the country, are not acceptable to our people.

How do you understand the rise of AAP as a new political culture in India? Do you see any hope of it becoming a national party?

AAP is a party with good will and they understand the needs of the people. However a lot of circumstances, which even they did not count on, have favoured their rise to power. If they live up to their promises and prove they can administer a State, they will be able to look forward to becoming a national party. It is a Herculean task, but not impossible. ■

Courtesy: Light of Truth March 1 - 15, 2015

NEW MISSION STATION IN BATHINDA



A new mission station was blessed and opened in Bathinda, Punjab in the diocese of Faridabad-Delhi, on 19th March 2015 by MST missionaries in the presence of many priests and hundreds of faithful and local people. Fr George Kurumullumpurayidom Counselor from MST Generalate Kerala Blessed the House and officiated the Holy Mass on the feast day of St. Joseph who is the patron of the new

mission centre. In his inaugural address he thanked Archbishop Kuriakose Bhranikulangara, Bishop of Faridabad, for his support and guidance and solicited the prayer and support of the local faithful and other communities. Fr Joseph Kulathukal MST is the in-charge of the Mission station. After the first house in Mohali this is the second house of MST missionaries in Punjab. ■



MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 49th WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

A Privileged Place of Encounter with the Gift of Love

The family is a subject of profound reflection by the Church and of a process involving two Synods: the recent extraordinary assembly and the ordinary assembly scheduled for next October. So I thought it appropriate that the theme for the next World Communications Day should have the family as its point of reference. After all, it is in the context of the family that we first learn how to communicate. Focusing on this context can help to make our communication more authentic and humane, while helping us to view the family in a new perspective.

We can draw inspiration from the Gospel passage which relates the visit of Mary to Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-56). “When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit cried out in a loud voice and said, ‘Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb’.” (vv. 41-42)

This episode first shows us how communication is a dialogue intertwined with the language of the body. The first response to Mary’s greeting is given by the child, who leaps for joy in the womb of Elizabeth. Joy at meeting others, which is something we learn even before being born, is, in one sense, the archetype

and symbol of every other form of communication. The womb which hosts us is the first “school” of communication, a place of listening and physical contact where we begin to familiarize ourselves with the outside world within a protected environment, with the reassuring sound of the mother’s heartbeat. This encounter between two persons, so intimately related while still distinct from each other, an encounter so full of promise, is our first experience of communication. It is an experience which we all share, since each of us was born of a mother.

Even after we have come into the world, in some sense we are still in a “womb”, which is the family. A womb made up of various interrelated persons: the family is “where we learn to live with others despite our differences” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 66). Notwithstanding the differences of gender and age between them, family members accept one another because there is a bond between them. The wider the range of these relationships and the greater the differences of age, the richer will be our living environment. It is this bond which is at the root of language, which in turn strengthens the bond. We do not create our language; we can use it because we have received it. It is in the family that we learn to speak our “mother tongue”, the language of those who have

(Continued on Page no. 31)

15th DELHI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT

Sustainable Development Goals and Dealing with Climate Change



VALEDICTORY SESSION: Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: Interaction with Faith Leaders for a Sustainable Future

Chair: Sadhviji Bhagwati Saraswati, President, Divine Shakti Foundation & Secretary-General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance

Video Message: Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi

Setting the Context: Mr Takashi Kiuchi, Chairman, E-Square Inc.

Panelists: Dr Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Archbishop of Faridabad; Diwan Zainul Abedin Ali Khan, Head of the Ajmer Sharif (Ajmer Dargah); Acharya Shri Roopchandra Muniji, President, Manav Mandir Mission; Ven'ble Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder and Head of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Ladakh and Mahakaruna Day; Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji, Co-Founder and Chairman of the Global Interfaith WASH Alliance & President of Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh; and Shri Giani Gurubachan Singh, Chief Jathedar of the Golden Temple (Akal Takht)



Chairing the panel, Sadviji Bhagwati Saraswati said that the true movement towards sustainable development requires not only a top-down approach but also a bottom-down approach. She stressed that a change in thought, behaviour, and demand was required across the world, and this change could be best achieved through faith. Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji compared the world to a market place and discoursed on the need to turn it into a family place. He said that with the concept of one world, one family, we can make the world sustainable, stable, and strong. Dr Kuriakose Bharanikulangara deliberated upon the essence of inter-generational justice on climate considerations. He highlighted the moral responsibility of passing on a cleaner, greener, and healthier nature to the next generation. Raising the need to purify our faith and soul, Shri Giani Gurubachan Singh said that as air, water, and land are essential for our existence, in order to make the environment pure, we must make our own hearts pure as well.

(Courtesy : Summit Bulletin, 4-7 Feb 2015)

Acharya Shri Roopchandra Muniji emphasized that the eternal religion, the eternal path, and the eternal truth are nothing but non-violence which he further defined as the "Reverence of Life". The gathering of religious leaders in the Summit discussed about the urgent need to make the religious followers across the world aware about climate change and the corresponding importance of sustainable

development. Ven'ble Bhikkhu Sanghasena emphasized on the need for everyone to come together to understand and stop the expansion that is damaging the ecological balance in the world. Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi joined the discussion through a video message and sent her blessings to Dr R K Pachauri for the successful organization of the DSDS 2015. ■



**DIWAN ZAINUL ABEDIN
ALI KHAN**

Head of the Ajmer Sharif
(Ajmer Dargah)



This is the time to start the revolution to provide a clean earth to our generation



**DR KURIAKOSE
BHARANIKULANGARA**

Archbishop of Faridabad



Don't forget the poor, and don't make philanthropy a business, make it a charity





Rev. Dr. Jacob Nangelimalil inaugurating traditional instruments *Chendamelam* coaching at Our Lady of Fatima Forane Church, Jasola.

Shri Narendra Prime Minister



Prime Minister is awarded with a memento of the celebration of Sainthood at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on 17.02.2015



National Seminar on Mission Ad Gents in Ujjain, represented by Mrs. Rosamma George of our diocese.



Blessing of the Holy Oil during Chrism Mass at Kristuraja Cathedral, Faridabad on 01.04.2015



Justice Kurian Joseph releasing "Philosophia 2014-15" a photo album prepared by the teachers and students of Infant Jesus School at Sanjoepuram



Palm Sunday celebration at
Mary Matha Parish, Mayur Vihar II & IP Extn.



Palm Sunday celebration at
Assumption Forane Church Mayur Vihar - III



Palm Sunday celebration at
St. Peter's Parish, R.K. Puram



Washing of the feet on Maundy Thursday
by Mar Kuriakose Bharanikulangara
at Kristuraja Cathedral, Faridabad



Easter Night Vigil Procession
at Kristuraja Cathedral, Faridabad



In his remarks following the Angelus on Sunday, 8 March 2015, Pope Francis had a special greeting for “all the women throughout the world who are seeking, every day, to build a more human and welcoming society.” Pope Francis continued with a “a fraternal ‘thank you’ for all those women who, in a thousand ways, bear witness to the Gospel and work in the Church.”

March 8th, celebrated around the world as International Women’s Day, is an occasion, he said, “to repeat the importance of women, and the

necessity of their presence in life.” Pope Francis said, “A world where women are marginalized is a sterile world, because women don’t just bear life but transmit to us the ability to see otherwise, they see things differently. They transmit to us the ability to understand the world with different eyes, to understand things with hearts that are more creative, more patient, more tender.” The Pope then offered “a prayer, and a special blessing, for all the women present here in the Square, and for all women.” ■

Pope Francis Names 15 New Cardinals from Across Globe

Pope Francis has named 15 new cardinals from 14 nations, including Tonga, New Zealand, Cape Verde and Myanmar, reflecting the diversity of the church and its growth in Asia and Africa.

Other cardinals hail from Ethiopia, Thailand, Sicily and Vietnam.

Francis told faithful in St. Peter’s Square that the churchmen come from every continent and “show the indelible tie with the church of Rome to

churches in the world”.

In addition to the 15 new cardinals – who are under 80 and thus eligible to vote for the next pope – Francis bestowed the honour on five older churchmen. He said they distinguished themselves for their work in the Vatican bureaucracy, and in diplomatic service in giving witness to their love of Christ and God’s people. Those included men from Peru and Mozambique. ■



Photo taken during the UN General Assembly, New York

Holy See diplomacy at the service of peace : Cardinal Parolin, Secretary of State of His Holiness Pope Francis

The Cardinal Secretary of State of His Holiness Pope Francis, Cardinal Pietro Parolin gave a *Lectio Magistralis* at the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome, during the “*Dies Academicus*,” the annual study day dedicated to a theme that the different departments of the university analyze from the perspectives of various fields of study (theology, philosophy, history, culture, canon law, social sciences, missiology, psychology, spirituality, etc). This year's theme was “Peace: gift of God, human responsibility, Christian commitment.” The title of the Secretary of State's *Lectio Magistralis* was “The diplomatic activity of the Holy See in the service of peace.”

“The diplomatic activity of the Holy See is not content to observe events or evaluate their importance; nor can it remain merely a critical voice,” affirmed Cardinal Parolin. “It acts to facilitate the coexistence and cohabitation of various nations, to promote fraternity between peoples, where the term fraternity is a synonym for effective collaboration, true cooperation, harmonious and orderly, of a solidarity structured in favour of the common good and that of individuals. And the common good, as we know, has more than a link with peace. The Holy See works substantially on the international scene not to guarantee a generic security – made more difficult in this period of lasting instability – but to sustain an idea of peace as the fruit of just relations, of respect for international law, of the protection of fundamental

human rights beginning with those of the least among us, the most vulnerable.”

“The diplomacy of the Holy See has a clear ecclesial function,” he added. “If it is the tool of communion that unites the Roman Pontiff with the Bishops at the head of the local Churches, or that guarantees the life of the local Churches in relation to the civil authorities, I dare say that it is also the vehicle of the Successor of Peter for reaching the peripheries, both ecclesiastically and in terms of the human family... In the field of civil society, which forms of ethical guidance would be lacking were the Holy See not present in different intergovernmental contexts, in the areas of cooperation, disarmament, the struggle against poverty, the eradication of hunger, care for the sick, and promoting literacy?”

Cardinal Parolin went on to explain that “papal diplomacy is entrusted with the task of working in favour of peace following the methods and rules that are applicable to subjects of international law, therefore formulating practical answers in legal terms to prevent, resolve, or regulate conflicts and to avoid their possible degeneration into the irrationality of armed force.” But, he concluded, “it is above all an activity that demonstrates how the aim pursued is primarily religious, and as such is about being true ‘workers for peace,’ and not ‘workers for war or at least agents of misunderstanding’, as Pope Francis reminds us.” ■

Arise & Shine – Parish Visit at Burari, Bl. Mariam Thresia Church



DSYM Diocesan Executive Committee (DEXCO) visited Burari, Bl. Mariam Thresia DSYM unit and Noida, St. Alphonasa DSYM unit on 8th & 22nd March 2015 respectively as part of Arise & Shine – Parish Visit of DSYM Central committee. It was indeed a fruitful evening with the youth with enlightening study class, interactive games and general interaction.

Fr. Joseph Kannamthadam MST (Benny) (Vicar) introduced the central team to the youth



and led the introductory prayer. It was followed by the address of Fr. Jiju Thuruthikkara (Director-DSYM). Joseph K. Antony (President-DSYM) led the study class on the challenges faced by youth today emphasizing on the youth's role in the church and the society, faith formation, prayer and spirituality. It was followed by an interactive group-game focused on leadership qualities, led

by Julia Joseph (Ex-Officio-DSYM). The DEXCO was able to clear the queries of the youth and provided them with guidelines for future youth ministry in the parish.

Fr. Joseph Muthuplakkal MST (Vicar) introduced the central team to the youth. It was followed by the address of Fr. Jiju Thuruthikkara (Director-DSYM). Director along with Joseph K. Antony (President-DSYM) & Linu A. Koshy (General Secretary) addressed to the issues and queries of the youth. The unit youth members ensured active and enthusiastic participation with healthy conversation over various points for the strengthening of the unit level activities and the relationship of the center with the unit.

DSYM Resource Team at the Outreach Visit to Anandashram led by JY & DSYM, Gurgaon



DSYM Resource team took part in the Outreach Visit of Jesus Youth & DSYM-Gurgaon to Anandashram (Home for disabled & orphaned boys) on Sunday 22nd March 2015 at Gurgaon. Almost 100 youth members participated in the program. Mr. Arun Thomas & Mr. Abhilash Joseph led the talk sessions. Interactive sessions, music were led by DSYM Resource team led by Julia Joseph (Ex-Officio-DSYM) & Akhil George (Music Ministry). Fr. Paul Madassery (Vicar-Sacred Heart Church, Gurgaon) was present to support this noble initiative of the youth.

Catechism News

Important Dates to Remember.

Annual Examination	:	April 12, 2015
Scholarship Examination	:	April 26, 2015.
Scholarship Valuation	:	May 2, 2015

For Scholarship examination the eligibility criteria is as follows;

For Class I – V	:	Total marks 90% and above
For Class VI – XII	:	Total Marks 80% and above

Please inform the number of eligible students in each class for scholarship examination by April 20, so that we can make necessary arrangements.

Cash Prizes and Endowments

Department of Catechesis invites Sponsors for cash Prizes for Rank holders in Scholarship Examinations from next academic year. Parishes, Sunday school units, Individuals, organisations can donate for each class as endowments or as sponsorship. Kindly cooperate to encourage our children. Please Contact the Director

To be held: Diocesan Leadership Training Camp & General Body Meeting

DSYM Diocesan Leadership Training Camp & General Body Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday 26th April 2015 from 10 am till 5 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Forane Church, Jasola-Okhla. It is a certificate course that would be animated by an experienced resource-person in the field of Youth Ministry. DSYM Unit President, General Secretary and Youth Councilors are mandatorily required to attend the event. The Parish Priest/Unit Director can nominate up to two additional members to participate in the event. The registration fee for the Training camp is Rs.500 for each parish.

General News & Guidelines

All units where election is still due are required to elect new committee and provide the DEXCO with details of the executive committee. Kindly refer to the DSYM By-laws for all the rules, regulations & guidelines. All resources are download-ready at www.dsym.org.

Also, all are requested to keep updating the DSYM Directorate with the youth programs organized by your parish (Both intra-parish & inter-parish). Stay tuned with our social media outreach at www.facebook.com/dsympage for all news and updates.

For any further queries/information contact:

Fr. Jiju Thuruthikkara (Director) 9810807214

Joseph K. Antony (President) 9971343207

Linu A. Koshy (General Secretary) 9990101479

DSYM eMagazine – Youth Beats – Upcoming issue

As decided by the DEXCO, under the patronage of Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Youth Beats, (e-Magazine of DSYM) published quarterly is being prepared. All the youth are requested to send in entries in the form of short articles, poems, drawings/paintings, unit news reports etc. to dsymyouthbeats@gmail.com. The theme for the upcoming issue is SPIRITUALITY. Last date to send entries is Monday 27th April 2015. ■



Baseline Survey in the Himalayas

To stretch out the service of the society to the north end, SJSS Team visited Reckong Peo, District head quarter of Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh. It is 2290m in heights and 585 kms away from Delhi, highly affected by earth quakes and landslides. Every family has a story to tell about the horrific situations they face due to avalanche, land slide etc. Special thanks to our Bishop for advising us to go and mitigate the sufferings of the people of that end. We are expecting to work out the project in a fruitful way with the experience we had in the valleys of Kinnaur to help the villagers by rejuvenating the ecosystems for agriculture, livelihood and other traditional income generation activities by practicing adaptive methods to overcome their financial burdens.

Safe & Save Drinking Water Drive

St Joseph's Service Society had a very good starting in the first months of this year. The project team was fully active in various activities and reached beyond the limits. SJSS organized safe drinking water drive in all the villages with the support of MSW Students from Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady. The team highlighted the importance of water preservation, water efficiency and Safe & Save Drinking water as the major awareness target on their sessions.

Career Guidance Program

A career guidance program was organized for the adolescent girls in three villages; Daleelgarh, Lahandla and Manchavali of Faridabad. Mr. Kiran Sebastian the resource person took a session on the opportunity for the girls in various fields like banking, nursing, defense, schools etc. He instructed the participants to have a dream about the career which help them to attain the same. Organization also organized a Life skill training program in these villages to orient them in this regard.

Gender Sensitization Program

A session on Gender Sensitization was organized in Shahjahanpur village, Faridabad for the mothers group on 29/01/2015. Mrs. Ram Rosani, was the resource person of the event and the session motivated the community on taking steps against the gender biased violence.

Public Toilet Facilities in Duliepur Village

With the support of the village Action Team, SJSS constructed common toilets for the villagers of Dulaipur. This was a great relief for the women community for accessing the facilities. This is the first toilet system in that village and highly appreciated by the villagers.

Education Promotional Activities

On 22nd Feb 2015 SJSS organized a half day training program in Dalelgarh & Lahandola villages for the adolescent girls on life skill development by Sr.Mancy and She took the session on the need of consciousness about the modern world and management of the life situation in a high cost communities. Adolescent clubs and other young mothers actively participated the session and group activities. These both villages, we are also running a special tuition program for the village children to help them to overcome their language barriers and efficiency to cope up with syllabus. ■

SANJOEPURAM HOSTED THE REGIONAL CRI

Sanjoepuram welcomed the CRI members of Faridabad region to HRDC on 14th February in this Year of the Consecrated. Fr. Sebastian Thekkanath proposed the word of welcome and appreciated the dedicated services that the religious do in the Church. Fr. Augustine OCD, provincial of Delhi province took class. Fr. Benjamin OCD, the president of CRI Faridabad and Sr. Veronica B.S., the secretary, coordinated the whole programme. From 11.30 am to 12.30 all members gathered before the blessed Sacrament for holy hour. The election of the new office bearers also was conducted and Fr. Benjamin OCD is re-elected as the president.

JUSTICE KURIAN JOSEPH VISITED SANJOEPURAM



Sunday, 15 February, was a day of blessing for Sanjoepuram by the presence of Honorable Justice of Supreme Court Shri. Kurian Joseph. Fr. Sebastian Thekkanath welcomed him and explained to him the activities of Sanjoepuram Children's Village and then Justice met all the staff sisters and addressed them. He also spoke to the children and told them to make use of the opportunities opened to them at Sanjoepuram and distributed sweets for all.

PHOTO ALBUM RELEASED

A photo album prepared by the teachers and students of Infant Jesus School at Sanjoepuram

"PHILOSOPHIA 2014-15" was released by Justice Kurian Joseph on 15th February during his visit to Sanjoepuram Children's Village. The album is a collection of photos of the various activities of the school. It tells the diversified activities of the students of Infant Jesus School through pictures. By releasing the Photo album Justice Kurian Joseph appreciated the students for their innovative idea and skills.

CLASS FOR SISTERS AT SANJOEPURAM



On 15th February there was a class on consecrated life for all the staff sisters of Sanjoepuram by Justice Kurian Joseph. He explained to them the new ways and means by which the sisters can find real meaning in giving oneself to others filled with love of God. He also appreciated the hard work they are doing for the marginalized girls in this part of our country.

HOME DAY Celebrated at Sanjoepuram on 19th March

The feast day of St. Joseph, March 19, was celebrated as Home Day with various programmes. Msgr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan was the main celebrant at the Holy Qurbana. Fr. Sebastian Thekkanath, Fr. Rijo CMI and Fr. Varghese Ponthempally concelebrated. In his homily Fr. Sebastian Vadakumpadan explained how St. Joseph had led Sanjoepuram all through these years by his strong intercession. The holy Mass was followed by cultural programme by the children at HRDC Hall and Agape Dinner. ■

Family Apostolate News

The vocation and Mission of the Family in the Church and contemporary World.

Family Apostolate took the lead in organizing a one day discussion on 15th March 2015, at St. Augustine's Forane Church Karol Bagh to discuss about the vocation and mission of the family in the church and contemporary world. The Lineamenta raised 46 major questions in three parts namely 'Listening, looking at Christ for solutions and confronting the situation' covering almost all major areas of family life today. Msgr. Dr. Sebastian Vadukumpadan gave an excellent presentation of the topic to facilitate the discussion, making it easier for the participants to understand the depth of the questions. His Grace Archbishop Kuriakose Bharanikulangara spent some time in the discussion

and reminded how important the topic is from the fact that an extra ordinary synod of bishops was called in October 2014 in Rome to study about the issues haunting the Christian families worldwide. He also mentioned that it was the wish of Holy Father Pope Francis that the universal church discuss about these issues and feedback given so that the same can be brought to consideration during the coming ordinary synod of bishops. Family Apostolate director Rev. Fr. Paul Madassery, Asst. Director Rev. Fr. Anoop, Rev. Fr. Jetto Rev. Fr. Rajan Punnackal, Rev. Fr. Lijo Thaliyath, Mr. Vincent Thomas, Mr. Joju, Mr. George Andrews and Dr. Mrs. Lisa Robins participated in the discussion. A report was formed in answer to the questions raised in the Lineamenta and sent to St. Thomas Mount.

Marriage Preparation Course dates for the year 2015:

(Course begins at 9 A.M. on Day 1(Friday) and ends at 5 P.M. on Day 3 (Sunday))

April 24, 25 & 26	July 3, 4 & 5
July 31, August 1 & 2	September 11, 12 & 13
October 16, 17 & 18	October 30, 31 & Nov. 1st
November 27, 28 & 29	December 11, 12 & 13

Venue: Navinta Retreat House, Opp. 251 Sukhdev Vihar Road, Next to Don Bosco Technical School, New Delhi-110 025, near Fortis Escorts Hospital & Dev Samaj School.

As number of seats to each course is restricted, advance booking is compulsory.

Booking closes when the seats are full, then only urgent cases would be considered. Therefore book your seats well in advance (2 months to 1 week)

Booking charges Rs.100/- is included in the course fee. Booking can be cancelled free of cost till one week prior to the date of course. If booking is not cancelled within the stipulated time or if the candidate doesn't turn up for the course after booking then Rs.100/- extra would be charged to the course fee next time.

How to book

1) By Email to mpcfaridabad@gmail.com 2) By sms to 7838567767

3) By online booking at our web site www.familyapostolatefaridabad.com

Information required for booking: 1) Course date you are planning to attend 2) Your name 3) Male or female 4) Mobile No. 5) Email ID & 6) Parish (place).

Please bring along the registration form(can be downloaded from family apostolate website –www.familyapostolatefaridabad.com) duly signed by the parish priest or a letter for the purpose, two passport size photos, Personal care things for 3 days' stay and the course fee, when you come for the course. ■

Assumption Forane Church, Mayur Vihar III

The Vincent de Paul society working under the parish has organized One Day Medical Camp for the parishners and other people as well on 8th March, 2015. The medical team arrived from the Jaypee Hospital. Many of the parishners and others turned up to make the best use of the freely provided facility. With a purpose of taking care of the spiritual thirst of the people, the parish has introduced within its structural space, weekly prayer gathering and the night vigil.



The parishners themselves, under the guidance of Fr. Renson Thekkinezath, lead the prayer session. Many parishners do participate in it very actively and devotionally. It was on 8th March, 2015 that the parish was visited by the catechism promoters of the Diocese of Faridabad. The students did really make an impression on the promoters with their active participation in the Eucharist and in the catechism. After the catechism, the promoters had a meeting with the catechism teachers in which they appreciated their diligence in forming the children to be better Catholics and also guided them to make further improvements from their part. The catechism students, under the guidance of Fr. Justin Muthanikkatt, from the class 1st to 5th were taken for a one day picnic around the Delhi city on 15th March, 2015. It was the great interest and the generosity of the catechism teachers that could make this picnic more successful one. All enjoyed to the maximum. ■

Mary Matha Parish Mayur Vihar II & IP Extn.

ക്രൈസ്തവ പാരമ്പര്യത്തിന്റെ ഓർമ്മകളുമായി പുത്തൻപാറ വായന

വലിയ ആഴ്ചയുടെ ആത്മീയ ചൈതന്യത്തിന്റെ നിറവിൽ മധുർ വിഹാർ ഫേസ് 2 & ഐ.പി. എക്സ്റ്റൻഷൻ മേരി മാതാ പള്ളിയിൽ പാരമ്പര്യത്തിന്റെ ഓർമ്മ പുതുക്കി പുത്തൻ പാറ വായന നടന്നു. പ്രിസൺ മിനിസ്ട്രി ഇന്ത്യ ഉത്തരമേഖലാ കോ ഓർഡിനേറ്റർ ഫാ. ജോൺ പുതുവയും കൈക്കാരന്മാരായ ജോർജ്ജ് കെ.ജെ, തോമസ്. വി.എം എന്നിവരും നേതൃത്വം നൽകി. ഇടവക മുഴുവനും ഈ പുത്തൻപാറ വായന ശുശ്രൂഷയിൽ പങ്കുകൊണ്ടു. പുതിയ തലമുറയ്ക്ക് ഇതൊരു നവ്യാനുഭവമാണെന്ന് ഫാ. പുതുവ പറഞ്ഞു. അർണ്ണോസ് പാതിരി എന്ന ജർമ്മൻ മിഷനറി വൈദികൻ 1699-ൽ കേരളത്തിലെത്തി മലയാളവും സംസ്കൃതവും പഠിച്ച് തയ്യാറാക്കിയതാണ് ആദ്യത്തെ ക്രിസ്തീയ കവിതാ സമാഹാരമായ പുത്തൻ പാറ. 14 പാദങ്ങളുള്ള പുത്തൻപാറയിൽ ക്രിസ്തുവിന്റെ ജനനം മുതൽ ഉത്ഥാനം വരെയുള്ള കാര്യങ്ങൾ രചിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. നോമ്പുകാലത്ത് കുടുംബമൊന്നാകെ സായാഹ്നങ്ങളിൽ പുത്തൻപാറ വായിക്കുന്നു. 12-ാം പാദം അമ്മ കന്യാ . . . എന്നു തുടങ്ങുന്ന മാതാവിന്റെ വിലാപം പെസഹാ വ്യാഴാഴ്ചയും ദുഃഖവെള്ളിയിലുമാണ് വായിക്കുക. . . നഷ്ടപ്പെട്ടുപോയ ഈ പാരമ്പര്യത്തെ പുനർജനിപ്പിക്കുകയാണ് ലക്ഷ്യമെന്ന് ഫാ. പുതുവ പറഞ്ഞു. ■

Our Lady of Fatima Forane Church, Jasola Ephphatha (Youth Mega Meet-2015-Feb- 22)



Our parish is blessed with a good number of energetic and dynamic youth. Ephphatha is a spiritual initiative undertaken by them for personal, social, spiritual renewal and transformation. It was proved by our youth on 22th Feb that they are not separated souls scattered here and there in Delhi are united in harmony, cooperation, prayer, thought and action. It was our 8th attempt in this regard. It brought together around 1000 bachelors and young people to spend one whole day in prayer and communion contributing their ideas, promising their valuable time and talents to work for the growth of the Church. This day was specially enriched with lot of blessings from Christ and inspiration especially through Rev. Fr. Shaji Thumpechirayil, a great musician, spiritual and charismatic leader.

Evening vigil

Prayer, praise and thanks giving raised up from the heart in adoration to the Lord is the most wonderful offering one can make to the Almighty in return for everything he is for us. Night vigil that we have here in our parish on fourth Saturday of every month creates a heavenly atmosphere for the people to open out their heart to the powerful presence of Christ the healer. This prayerful evening vigil starts from 5 o'clock in the evening till 9:30 pm includes Rosary, Holy Mass, Confession, Praise and Worship, Counselling, Novena, Individual prayer for the people who are physically and spiritually sick and

talks based on Bible, touching many needed aspect of daily life. Many people after having attending the vigil have experienced many visible changes like healing, miraculous transformation in personal and family life, and fulfillment of intentions they have specially asked for. Sharing experiences openly as witness inspires many to pray and deepen their faith and to draw more and more blessings to their life.

Chendamelam

Taking into consideration the need of an integral growth of a person, we planned to initiate opportunities to know the importance of art and music in our life with traditional instruments. As a result, we began training sessions for chendamelam including children, youth, and elders under the guidance of Sri Kunjuraman Marar who conducts coaching all over India and abroad. The first batch consists of 56 members.

Ootu thirunal (St. Joseph's Feast)



This year also we solemnized the feast of St. Joseph with Novena and High solemn Holy Qurbana. Rev. Fr. Phinil Ezarath CMI, Assistant Parish Priest of St. Mary's Assumption parish, Ghaziabad, celebrated Holy Mass and delivered wonderful thoughts on the great and holy soul St. Joseph. Many faithful in and around Jasola parish attended the feast and sought special intercession of St. Joseph and took part in the ootunercha. ■

St. Alphonsa Parish, Noida

Annual Retreat

St Alphonsa Church, Noida was blessed with a great occasion of reflection and renewal of the parishioners by the annual retreat held from 27th Feb, 2015 to 2nd March 2015, led by Fr Augustine Mundackatt V C and Team. It was really enriching with the showers of the Holy Spirit, and the entire community and the participants were really experienced God's love through the blessings and healings received during the retreat. It was also an occasion for the parishioners to have Lenten season confession. A large community presence was remarkably appreciated and the whole parish is in a renewal spree. There was a separate session for the youth and teenagers on 2nd March, to help them to overcome the new trends and its ills. Giving thanks to Almighty God for this wonderful blessings

St. Jude Parish, Sahibabad

On 26th of January we celebrated the 2nd anniversary of our faith formation unit (catechism) since its formation in 2012. Due to the scarcity of finance and space, we did it in a small scale. Our children put forth a variety of cultural items. Rev.Fr. Kuruvilla Marottikkal our Forane vicar was the Chief Guest.

On 15th Feb, we gave a warm and heartfelt farewell to our Vicar Rev. Fr. Dominic Kachappilly after his two and half years of glorious service in our parish. It was his tireless and enormous hard work helped us to dream the possibility of having a place



Pothuyogam

On 8th March 2015, there was a Pothuyogam to take urgent decisions on the process of acquiring the land and submitting the application to NOIDA Authority for the church land. Rev. Vicar Fr Joseph Muthuplackal shared his view regarding the Plot Acquisition and there was a fruitful discussion on generating funds and various committees were formed. This meeting helped the parishioners to work with renewed vigour and enthusiasm towards unity and achieve the goal. ■

of our own for the worship of God. Otherwise we couldn't have the rare possibility that too within a short span of time.

On 7th March our new vicar Fr. George Thoomkuzhy from Infant Jesus Palam church arrived our parish. On 8th of March, Sunday we gave him a warm and loving welcome amidst us.

On 19th March, St. Joseph's Feast was celebrated; St. Joseph's unit in our parish did everything possible to make this a great celebration. Let us hold our together to practice, propagate and promote the faith we have received during this time of spiritual troubles. ■

St. Francis of Assisi Forane Church, Dilshad Garden

Importance of women in the family and society was once again reiterated on the occasion of women's day celebration in the parish International Women's day celebrated in the parish with the leadership of Mathrujyothis. Arrangements and Leadership for Holy Mass, Special Readings from Scripture, offertory, special karoza prayers

etc., were conducted by women leaders from parish. Special choir was led by women singers. Tea and snacks were distributed to all by Mathru Jyothis. Atrocities and violence against women was condemned in the message by the Parish priest. Womanhood is a gift from God and is to be respected and protected by all. ■

ഇടവക വാർത്തകൾ

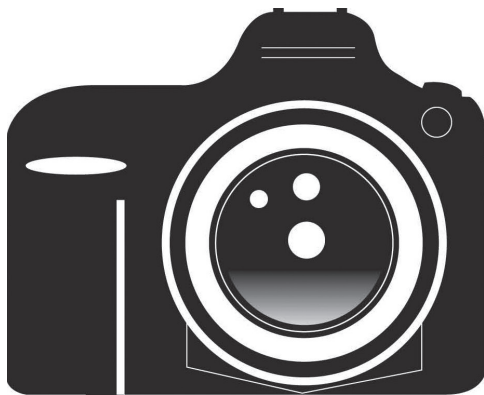
St. Padre Pio Parish, Rohini



വിജയവാഡയിൽ വെച്ച് നടന്ന ജൂനിയർ അതെലറ്റിക് മീറ്റിൽ 800 മീറ്റർ ഓട്ടത്തിലും ഗുജറാത്തിൽ നടന്ന സി.ബി.എസ്.സി. നാഷണൽ അതെലറ്റിക് മീറ്റിൽ 800 മീറ്റർ ഓട്ടത്തിലും ഒന്നാം സ്ഥാനവും റാഞ്ചിയിൽ നടന്ന നാഷണൽ സ്കൂൾ അതെലറ്റിക് മീറ്റിൽ 4 X 400 മീറ്റർ റിലേയിലും, 800 മീറ്റർ ഓട്ടത്തിലും മൂന്നാം സ്ഥാനവും നേടിയ ഇടവകാംഗം അമോജ് ജേക്കബിനെ ഇടവകയുടെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ അഭിനന്ദിച്ചു. വികാരി ഫാ. അലക്സ് മുട്ടത്ത് ഇടവകയുടെ ഉപഹാരം സമ്മാനിച്ചു. ■

St. Joseph Parish, Kalkaji

കാൽക്കാജി സെന്റ്. ജോസഫ് ഇടവകയിൽ മാതൃജ്യോതിസ്സിന്റെ നേതൃത്വത്തിൽ 2015 ജനുവരി 26-ാം തീയതി ഇടവകയിലെ എല്ലാ അമ്മമാർക്കുമായി 1 മണി മുതൽ 5.30 വരെ ഒരു സെമിനാർ സംഘടിപ്പിച്ചു. ഡിവൈൻ ധ്യാന കേന്ദ്രത്തിലെ ടീം അംഗമായ ബഹു. സി. മരിയ ജീസും (എസ്.ടി), ജീസസ് യൂത്ത് കോർഡിനേറ്റർ മിസ്. അനുവും ക്ലാസ്സിനു നേതൃത്വം നൽകി. ഇടവകയിലെ എല്ലാ അമ്മമാരും തന്നെ ഇതിൽ പങ്കുചേർന്നു. അമ്മമാർക്കെല്ലാം വളരെ പ്രചോദനകരവും, അനുഭവസാക്ഷ്യവുമായ ക്ലാസ്സായിരുന്നു. 5.30-നോടു കൂടി ബഹു. വികാരിയച്ചൻ ജോർജ്ജ് തുപ്പലഞ്ഞിയുടെ കാർമ്മികത്വത്തിൽ പരിശുദ്ധ കുർബാനയുടെ ആരാധനയും വിശുദ്ധ ബലിയും ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ■



Santhome Messenger organizes

PHOTOGRAPHY Competition Theme : Family prayer

Participants : Any family that prays any kind of family prayer can make photos and send to **The Chief Editor, Santhome Messenger, Diocese of Faridabad-Delhi, Bishop's House, 1B/32 N.E.A, Old Rajender Nagar, New Delhi - 110 060** or **send your entries by e-mail : santhomemessenger@gmail.com before 15 May 2015.**

(Prayer before meals excluded because there will be a competition only for that).

Selected items will be awarded prize and published in the SM.

All are welcome.

Next theme : My vacation 2015

Church related activities there (Kerala or elsewhere) – last date 30 June 2015.

(Continue from Page no. 9)

in the contemporary world. The world is increasingly witnessing division and hostility on religious lines. This has become a matter of global concern. In this context the ancient Indian plea of mutual respect for all faiths is now beginning to manifest in global discourse.

This long felt need and urge for mutually respectful relations led to the interfaith conference on 'Faith in Human Rights' at the Hague on tenth December, 2008. This was coincidentally also the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations.

Religious leaders representing every major world religion – Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Baha'i Faith, Buddhism, Islam, Taoism and indigenous religions met, discussed and pledged to uphold the Universal Declaration and of freedom of religion or belief.

In their historic declaration, this is how they defined what constitutes freedom of faith and how it is to be safeguarded.

We consider the freedom to have, to retain, and to adopt, a religion or belief, is a personal choice of a citizen.

The world is at cross roads which, if not crossed properly, can throw us back to the dark days of bigotry, fanaticism and bloodshed. This harmonious convergence among religions could not be achieved even when the world entered the third millennium. And now it has been. This shows that the rest of the world too is evolving along the lines of ancient India.

Speaking for India, and for my government, I declare that my government stands by every word of the above declaration. My government will ensure that there is complete freedom of faith and that everyone has the undeniable right to retain or adopt the religion

of his or her choice without coercion or undue influence. My government will not allow any religious group, belonging to the majority or the minority, to incite hatred against others, overtly or covertly. Mine will be a government that gives equal respect to all religions.

India is the land of Buddha and Gandhi. Equal respect for all religions must be in the DNA of every Indian. We cannot accept violence against any religion on any pretext and I strongly condemn such violence. My government will act strongly in this regard.

With this commitment, I appeal to all religious groups to act with restraint, mutual respect, and tolerance in the true spirit of this ancient nation which is manifest in our Constitution and is in line with the Hague Declaration.

Friends,

I have a vision of a Modern India. I have embarked on a huge mission to convert that vision into reality. My mantra is Development सबका साथ, सबका विकास In simple terms it means food on every table, every child in school, a job for everybody and a house with toilet and electricity for every family. This will make India proud. We can achieve this through unity. Unity strengthens us. Division weakens us. I sincerely request all Indians, and all of you present here to support me in this huge task.

Let the elevation to sainthood of Saint Chavara and Saint Euphrasia, and their noble deeds inspire us:

- to maximize our inner strength
- to use that strength for transforming society through selfless service
- to fulfill our collective vision of a developed and modern India.

THANK YOU. ■

Text of Prime Minister's speech at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, organized by Syro-Malabar Church on 17.02.2015

(Continue from Page no. 11)

weakness under which cover they can trample us down. During the past few weeks five places of worship and a school have been ransacked by people who are led by antichristian ideologies. This happened in this capital city. I thank you for having intervened promptly after the attack on the school and ordered an enquiry on the matter. I request your Honor to take the steps needed to provide protection to our Churches and institutions of service. As Archbishop Anil Couto has appealed I also request the recognition of the right of reservation for the Dalit Christians along with their counterparts in other religions.

Sab ka sath, sab ka vikas is your motto. We Christians are also working for the development of our nation. Jesus Christ came and lived for the uplift of the whole humanity. In the modern style of development through the corporate system we look also for equal provisions for the liberation of the poor sections of the society. We are with you for the overall development of our country.

Dear Modiji, as you know, there are certain forces that dream of a theocratic nation, making one religion as the state religion. For centuries India has been a country of religions and we are a model for other countries in the matter of religious harmony and human fellowship. Moreover, the lessons from the theocratic governments of the past in the western countries and those of the present times should impel us to keep away from theocracy and to maintain respect for all religions and protection of the minorities. In olden times it was the rulers who used religion for their exercise of power. In the present times it is the religions that try to hold the reins over the governments. In both ways theocracy wins and fundamentalism overpowers the society with violence and terror.

माननीय मोदीजी सबका साथ और सबका विकास आपका आदर्श वाक्य है। हम ईसाई लोग भी भारत की उन्नति के लिए प्रयास कर रहे हैं। प्रभु ईसा मसीहा तो सारे मानव जाती की उन्नति के लिए जिया और अपना जीवन क्रूस पर बलि चढ़ाया। विकास के आधुनिक युग में गरीबों को अपनी गरीबी से बचाने के लिए हम तन मन लगाकर काम कर रहे हैं। हमारे देश को आगे बढ़ाने के लक्ष्य में हम भी आप के साथ हैं।

प्रिय मोदीजी जैसे कि आप जानते हैं, आज भारत में ऐसे कोई शक्ति का उदय हुआ है, जो धर्मनिरपेक्ष भारत को तोड़ने का कोशिश कर रहा है। भारत तो सदियों से ऐसा एक धर्मनिरपेक्ष देश है जो दुनिया के सामने एकता का एक उत्तम नमूना है। आज के युग में और भूत काल में पश्चिम देशों में हम देख चुके हैं कि धर्मतंत्र का निश्चय ही हार होता है। ये सभी बात हमें सिखाता है कि धर्मतंत्र से हमें दूर रहना चाहिए, सभी धर्म का आदर करना चाहिए और अल्प संख्यकों का संरक्षण करना चाहिए। पहले तो शासकों ने शासन के लिए धर्म का इस्तेमाल किया। लेकिन आज के जमाने में धर्म शासकों का भी शासन करने लग चुका है। इन दोनों स्थिति में धर्मतंत्र का उदय होता है, धर्मनिरपेक्षता टूट जाता है, हिंसा का शासन होता है और आतंक फैल जाता है।

Let our country flourish with the plans and projects of your government and let there be peace and harmony among the people of diverse religions, languages and cultures holding on to the principle of unity in diversity. Once again thanking you for your encouraging presence I conclude.

Jai Iswar! Jai Hind! ■

Text of Major Archbishop's speech at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi, organized by Syro-Malabar Church on 17.02.2015

(Continue from Page no. 14)

gone before us. (cf. 2 Macc 7:25,27). In the family we realize that others have preceded us, they made it possible for us to exist and in our turn to generate life and to do something good and beautiful. We can give because we have received. This virtuous circle is at the heart of the family's ability to communicate among its members and with others. More generally, it is the model for all communication.

The experience of this relationship which "precedes" us enables the family to become the setting in which the most basic form of communication, which is prayer, is handed down. When parents put their newborn children to sleep, they frequently entrust them to God, asking that he watch over them. When the children are a little older, parents help them to recite some simple prayers, thinking with affection of other people, such as grandparents, relatives, the sick and suffering, and all those in need of God's help. It was in our families that the majority of us learned the religious dimension of communication, which in the case of Christianity is permeated with love, the love that God bestows upon us and which we then offer to others.

When we lessen distances by growing closer and accepting one another, we experience gratitude and joy. Mary's greeting and the stirring of her child are a blessing for Elizabeth; they are followed by the beautiful canticle of the Magnificat, in which Mary praises God's loving plan for her and for her people. A "yes" spoken with faith can have effects that go well beyond ourselves and our place in the world. To "visit" is to open doors, not remaining closed in our little world, but rather going out to others. So too the family comes alive as it reaches beyond itself; families who do so communicate their message of life and communion, giving comfort and hope to more fragile families, and thus build up the Church herself, which is the family of families.

More than anywhere else, the family is where we daily experience our own limits and those of others, the problems great and small entailed in

living peacefully with others. A perfect family does not exist. We should not be fearful of imperfections, weakness or even conflict, but rather learn how to deal with them constructively. The family, where we keep loving one another despite our limits and sins, thus becomes a school of forgiveness. Forgiveness is itself a process of communication. When contrition is expressed and accepted, it becomes possible to restore and rebuild the communication which broke down. A child who has learned in the family to listen to others, to speak respectfully and to express his or her view without negating that of others, will be a force for dialogue and reconciliation in society.

In a world where people often curse, use foul language, speak badly of others, sow discord and poison our human environment by gossip, the family can teach us to understand communication as a blessing. In situations apparently dominated by hatred and violence, where families are separated by stone walls or the no less impenetrable walls of prejudice and resentment, where there seem to be good reasons for saying "enough is enough", it is only by blessing rather than cursing, by visiting rather than repelling, and by accepting rather than fighting, that we can break the spiral of evil, show that goodness is always possible, and educate our children to fellowship.

Today the modern media, which are an essential part of life for young people in particular, can be both a help and a hindrance to communication in and between families. The media can be a hindrance if they become a way to avoid listening to others, to evade physical contact, to fill up every moment of silence and rest, so that we forget that "silence is an integral element of communication; in its absence, words rich in content cannot exist." (BENEDICT XVI, Message for the 2012 World Communications Day). The media can help communication when they enable people to share their stories, to stay in contact with distant friends, to thank others or to seek their forgiveness, and to open the door to new encounters. By growing

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daily in our awareness of the vital importance of encountering others, these “new possibilities”, we will employ technology wisely, rather than letting ourselves be dominated by it. Here too, parents are the primary educators, but they cannot be left to their own devices. The Christian community is called to help them in teaching children how to live in a media environment in a way consonant with the dignity of the human person and service of the common good.

The great challenge facing us today is to learn once again how to talk to one another, not simply how to generate and consume information. The latter is a tendency which our important and influential modern communications media can encourage. Information is important, but it is not enough. All too often things get simplified, different positions and viewpoints are pitted against one another, and people are invited to take sides, rather than to see things as a whole.

The family, in conclusion, is not a subject of debate or a terrain for ideological skirmishes. Rather, it is an environment in which we learn to communicate in an experience of closeness, a setting where communication takes place, a “communicating

community”. The family is a community which provides help, which celebrates life and is fruitful. Once we realize this, we will once more be able to see how the family continues to be a rich human resource, as opposed to a problem or an institution in crisis. At times the media can tend to present the family as a kind of abstract model which has to be accepted or rejected, defended or attacked, rather than as a living reality. Or else a grounds for ideological clashes rather than as a setting where we can all learn what it means to communicate in a love received and returned. Relating our experiences means realizing that our lives are bound together as a single reality, that our voices are many, and that each is unique.

Families should be seen as a resource rather than as a problem for society. Families at their best actively communicate by their witness the beauty and the richness of the relationship between man and woman, and between parents and children. We are not fighting to defend the past. Rather, with patience and trust, we are working to build a better future for the world in which we live. ■

(From the Vatican, Vigil of the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales)