



No. 233 พาก๐ஸை 2016

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## Prior General's Message

Dear Rev. Fathers and Brothers, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." (Luke
 2:11) Let us go to Bethlehem to see this marvellous sight - the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. (Luke 2:12.15; Exodus 3:3) The star is there to show you the way as it did with Magi.....the angels have still song of joy and hope on their lips .....Be careful what you wish, for it may come true. Beware of being misled to the palace of Herod......the ways are attractive and tempting. Happy are those who choose the narrow way, an inward journey, to reach Him, the savior of the world.

## 1. Blessed are you when you are mistaken for Jesus!

"Excuse me, Are you Jesus?" is a song written by Gloria Gaither, William J. Gaither and Larry Gatlin based on a real life story. An apple stand was knocked over and apples were scattered while the passengers rushed to board the flight. While no one cared about it, one person helped the sales woman to put all the apples back and paid $\$ 40$ for the damage caused. The girl was blind and she asked him, "Excuse me, Are you Jesus?" Yes. It is indeed an awesome privilege to be mistaken for Jesus. How blessed is CMI family when our members are mistaken for Jesus.

The holy children were killed because they were mistaken for Jesus. When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. (Matthew 2:16)

## Even a maid servant could recognize Peter as the disciple of

Jesus. After a bit, those standing there came and they said to Peter, "Certainly, you also are one of them, for your speech reveals you." (Matthew 26:73). Do we smell Jesus? Do we have some traits to be seen as the disciple of Jesus? Today people sense it and speak it out. "Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?" (Acts 19:15)
Are we counted with Him? On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' Then I will tell them publicly, 'I’ve never known you (Matthew 7:22-23)

## 2. Blessed are you when you are the good news!

"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." (Luke 2:10). Let there be no day in your life in which you did not become good news to others. Gossips are here to stay, but woe to the person through whom they come! (Matthew 18:7) Your light of good deeds will outshine the darkness created by the terrorism of gossip. (Matthew 5:16)
CMI family is grateful to the members who bring us good news of joy and multiply our happiness: 58 promising new young Priests; growing number of missionaries in Africa and Latin America; CMI contemplatives praying for the renewal of the congregation; the suffering and the sick members who intercede for our family, retreat preachers, CMIs available at the confessional; institutions with social and spiritual commitment; Social initiatives in the Year of Mercy; inclusive institutions for the poor, tribal and the differently abled; transparent and accountable institutions; trustworthy approach and support to people during demonetization, writers on public domains; creative initiatives in the pastoral, educational, cultural and social arenas; national and international quality accreditations and Guinness records; breakthrough ministries in the First World and public recognition by the bishops, talented young seminarians; formation initiatives in Africa. Yes. The Lord of the surprises has surprised us with more good news than we deserve. Good news becomes God's news when it is good news to the poor.

## 3. Blessed are you when you become visible for your credibility.

Blessed is that servant whose master returns and finds him doing his job. (Matthew 24:46) At times we have been caught for wrong
reasons as in the story of the woman in the Bible (John 8:4).
Despite all the ordeals and troubles, demonetization in India is a God given opportunity for the CMI family to put our house in order. Do we find God's providential intervention in this decision of the Government or are we hardening our hearts like the Pharaoh (Exodus 8.32). A proactive clean money drive will save us for a powerful witnessing. We have umpteen reasons to criticize the government and politicians. "Whoever hasn't sinned should throw the first stone." (John 8:7) Can we turn this crisis into a point of grace? In our eagerness to run institution, has mission become a casualty? Institutions registered under CMI umbrella has to follow CMI way of life, however great it may be. No one has the right to run it as one's personal property, bringing gain for the individual and shame for the congregation? Apostles left everything and followed Jesus; we kept everything and followed him. Our question ever remains the same, "What will we get?" (Matthew 19:27)

If you are looking for profit, you cannot be prophetic. If you are looking for commission, you cannot run a mission. Are we sure, Will Jesus be admitted in our institutions, if Joseph and Mary knock at our. There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) Will we lose Jesus for a bargain or will we recognize Jesus among the least of our brethren and welcome him?

## 4. Blessed are you when you realize that you are needed, but not indispensable.

"And they said, The Lord has need of it." (Luke 19:34). What a privilege to carry Jesus! But the inn threw away the greatest gift it would have ever received. If the innkeeper were compassionate, the
world would have made inns on Christmas rather than crib. The Inn that was supposed to be kept open for all who are weak and tired was closed down. The one to whom the door of the inn was shut become the door (John 1:7) and invites, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) When one door is closed another will be opened. The loss of the inn became the gain for the manger in Bethlehem. 'The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing, and it is wonderful to see.' (Matthew 21:42) The very term, manager, became a sign of grace and blessing.

If Herod was willing to come down and welcome Jesus, he would have been known as the king who nurtured Jesus and his destiny would have been different like Zacchaeus to experience the touch of salvation (Luke 19:1-10). As the Messiah became the cause for the rise and fall of many, so was his birthplace. (Luke 2:34). The mite of the widow became precious than the might of the mighty. The shepherds of the pasture were counted more than the kings and emperors. The one who created heaven and earth will have His own ways even if we close our inns. The magi left for their own country by another way. (Matthew 2:12) The one who created the universe needs the little of the little boy to feed the multitudes. (John 6:9). Many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heavens. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast into the outer darkness (Matthew: 11-12). If the chosen ones keep quiet, the stones along the road would burst into cheers!" (Luke 19:40)

Victor Hugo says, "In every French village there is now a lighted torch, the schoolmaster; and a mouth trying to blow it out, the priest." "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile, and it is thrown out. (Luke 14:34-35) The monasteries and the religious are good, but if they lose their original mission, what reason they have to exist? "So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do
not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach." (Matthew 23:3)

The newly elected President of America Mr. Donald Trump in one of his speeches said, "If you glorify terrorism, then you will have only terrorists." If you glorify administration, then you will have only administrators. In CMI Besrauma, spiritual leaders, contemplatives, preachers, writers, teachers, and change agents in the society have become rare species. When we expected grapes, we see thistles, yielding raw roots (St. Kuriakose Elais Chavara). When winds of change blow, some run for shelter, some build windmills

## 5. Blessed are you when you begin THE New Year with a fire within

I will fight the good fight, I will finish the race, and I will remain faithful. The crown of righteousness will be laid upon me by the righteous judge, our Lord. (2 Timothy 4:7-8) I will run in such a way as to take the prize. Everyone who competes in the games trains with strict discipline. They do it for a crown that is perishable, but we do it for a crown that is imperishable. (1 Cor. 9:24-25)
Lord, help me begin the change within me in little things: an early rise from the bed, a little more time with the Lord, a little more love for reading and writing, a little more concern for the people, especially for poor, a little more passion to be a missionary in distant land, a firm decision to visit a family in suffering, courage to experiment something new and all the more, a little more effort to be an authentic CMI. The journey of a grace filled New Year begins today with God’s grace.

## Editorial

## The Divine Comedy

We do hear two sets of footsteps. That of a year, 2016, leaving us, the faint and feeble steps almost vanishing ahead of the birth to another year. Along with the jingle bells songs of Christmas, we await also the soft fall of the footsteps of a new year 2017! With every death there is a birth too! Wishes of the good tidings of Christmas and wishes for a new year full of blessings!
While reading the glad tidings of the birth of Christ, especially that of Evangelist Luke, we witness the annals of a divine comedy unfolding in front of us with the heaven above filled with angels and atmosphere filled with angel songs and the whole nature, man and beast, worshipping the Emmanuel. We get a kind of feeling that the divine drama is enacted with the precision of a renowned director. The old Adam is being replaced by the new Adam in Christ Jesus with the ease and smoothness of a page from the fairy tale and a number of Old Testament figures filling the dotted line.
However, we are awakened to the reality of the struggles of daily lives, no matter who we are or what we do. Just as the month of January named after Janus, the Roman god with two faces, one looking forward and the other looking backward, we are caught in the historical juncture of what we call the present. While looking ahead with hope, the hindsight keeps us tied to the reality of the past biting on our future. While the infinite becomes finite, the divine becomes mundane, and God embraces humanity, the result cannot but be the Babe of Bethlehem!
T.S. Eliot presented the Magi (Poem: Journey of the Magi) witnessing both the birth and death in the presence of Baby Jesus - death to sin, or is it the death on Calvary, and birth into a new life in Jesus! Of course, there is the painstaking journey of Joseph with a full blown wife carrying Jesus inside her while going to enumerate themselves to satisfy Augustus Caesar. It was not at all a pleasant welcome that this strange couple received in the overcrowded inns of Bethlehem.

To deliver a child in the company of animals from the stable instead of the comforting hands of a relative or a midwife was a far away dream for Mary. The implications of a 'fiat' were not mildly taken by Mary at all.
Look at the magic! With evangelist Luke, the most ordinary and bucolic situation transforms itself to a divine theatre where the cosmic actors step in to make the incarnation into the opening scene of a divinely scripted immemorial drama. The heaven and earth meeting on the hills of Bethlehem! Man and beast, angels and stars, shepherds and kings kneel down and dance in the presence of a newborn. The cosmic rhythm gives accompaniment to the lullaby of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" See what faith does and the magical transformation of the ambience! It is not just the figment of imagination or artists supplying colours and gilded backdrops. It is the reality of faith when the creator embraces the creatures through the sacrifice of His only and own Son! The universe and the cosmic bodies arraying themselves in gold before the creator!
Well, what is it for us, the CMIs, during this Christmas and in the approaching days of 2017? Fifty eight youngsters are born into the fraternity of priesthood these days - a matter of joy and pride. Political scene is quite ambivalent in the midst of impending elections, effects of demonetization, new policies in education and a communalized social and political ambience. New missionary inroads are made in Brazil and other parts of the globe. The challenge is to live through the realities of today and to make incarnation meaningful in our own contextualized life. Renewal, socio-pastoral outreach, education, mass media, evangelical responsibilities, the list goes on and on. A context Jesus chose to be born into, a yearning context we are called to make Jesus’ incarnation possible. May the Babe of Bethlehem strengthen our eyes of faith to transform the realities of routine life to be dazzling moments of glory in the divine comedy of His incarnation!

## Fr. Sebastian Thekkedathu CMI

Genreal Councillor for Education and Media

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Fr. James Madathikandam CMI

















































































































































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Fr. James Kurissery CMI


#### Abstract

Aksapur Mission founded in 1973 and cared for several years by Fr. Thomas Oswald was handed over to Fr. Jose Vadakkemury in 1987. After his tiresome consolidation process, this writer Fr. James Kurissery, who had just arrived after his German mission, was appointed by Bishop Januarius to take care of Aksapur parish community. I reached Aksapur on January 19, 1990. By that time Fr. Vadakkemurry had already left for his new pasture in Wirur. The vision and mission ahead was to observe and take stock for six months of what was going on in Parish campus and its annex like Boarding and other service centres along with the pastoral work in several village communities.


In the very third month I gave expression to the revival process of Parish Community. After giving intensive instruction to the parishioners for two consecutive Sundays and wide publicity through previously terminated catechists along with semi-voluntarily retiring nominal catechists, who were half a dozen, we fixed a date for electing "Parish Committee". Even many of those baptised under the influence of CRS program but not attending the Church services for years showed interest in participating the election, nay, even for declaring self candidacy. It was evident that some of them had the dream "the kingdom is at hand" and the elected body would take over the entire management, controlling over the resources, if any, of the Parish Priest and of the Church fields! In all 138 adults cast their valuable votes and elected five representatives. Two were nominated. The P.P. and the Superior of the Convent were Ex-officio members. In all we were nine. I convened the first meeting that Sunday itself. Probably it was the first such elected body in the Diocese of Chanda. Of course there might have been ' Feast celebration committees’ elsewhere. Proposals
came from the elected five to their long awaiting demands of housing, farming, job- finding, etc.
Of course it required some time to convince the Committee and the people that we were there mainly to consolidate their faith. We organised village preaching sessions, prayer evenings, camps for children and youth, individual family help for some in constructing houses, of course irrespective of caste and religion. The installation of 28 inches screen Panasonic colour TV with VCR and Video Camera was a great attraction for all. The eight ft. Dish Antena for TV had to be called from Nagpur.

After the retirement of Bp. Januarius cmi on May 15, 1990, Bp. Vijayanand cmi took over the rein of Chanda on following July 03. The latter asked me earnestly to oblige to take over the Department of Diocesan Social Work relieving Fr. Antony Moozhikuzhy cmi. I gave my consent on the condition that I should be allowed to continue the village mission parish in Aksapur, so that I feel the pulse of common man in the streets and villages, applying locally the community development skills I studied in my M.S.W. at Tirpude College of Social Work in Nagpur University. He felt it excellent, himself being a past student of Tata Institute of Social Work in late sixties. Mondays and Tuesdays I spared my time for attending the office work at head quarters in Balharshah and visiting the project sites from Kaota of Wardha District to Thamsi of Adilabad. This went on for six long years and then I handed over this good job to Fr. Jose Kattekara cmi. Rejuvenation of the campus:

It was already overdue the repair and replacement of all the residential hutments like children's dormitories, leaking slabs and cracking walls of Convent and Presbytery and collapsing cattle sheds. The only remnants of old country fencing on a large area of land of 27 acres were a few white ants eaten forest wooden poles. These poles were signals for the grazing cattle to run over the monsoon crops of paddy and vegetables. It was much the same on the land on the other side of the road, where Sisters and boarding girls were accommodated, a

Dispensary was at service, managed by Dr. Sr. Julita S.H.Sp (sister of Mar John Vadakkel)and her team and a Tailoring class was conducted by Sr. Esther. The boundary on the eastern side touching the church was a bone of contention. The Gram Panchayat had been insisting to vacate the encroachment on the land between the convent and Pompurna road. The Boarding children had been denied of government supply through ration shops. In summer, water for household purpose had to be fetched about 700 meters by bullock cart from convent well to the church campus, where the priest and boarding boys were residing.

There was not even a single fruit tree or flower plant found in this long seventeen years old mission campus. Approach road from main road to priest's house and to the Church was a wide and bullock cart rolling mud path. Six months experience on the spot taught me a few lessons of village life and Campus centered responses and reactions. Rather than giving in I resolved to build up and develop on whatever was available, feasible and productive. Purchase of a jeep made movements faster. The new Ferguson tractor from Warangal helped in farming, road construction, pulling the debris of dismantled structures for shaping approach roads etc. The new Check Dam, with four inches diameter regulating wheel valves, blocking the stream flowing through the field was a boost for cultivation of nearly 8 acres of rice field. We levelled the small patches of field, making cultivation area expanded. The tractor rolled over everywhere levelling and bunding the uneven land as per crop requirement. With the assistance of Forest Range Officer of Kothari Range we planted teak in an acre of dry land. The large pits in dry land were transformed into fish ponds after some deepening. Half an acre of land was used for fruit tree plantation and vegetables. Flower garden took shape with design carved natural black stones from Ganeshpipari-Chekpipari border behind Gondpipari. German Group of 13 youth in Aksapur:

As I entered the twelfth month of my pastoral service in Aksapur, a German youth group of 13 , six pairs of teenagers from my erstwhile
parish Heiligenhaus and Fr. Kaczmarek Bogdan (Polish by origin) the director of the Mettman ecclesial circle landed in Aksapur on December 19 Wednesday for 15 days' stay on youth collaboration program. This gave a new momentum to the youth at our reach. They worked together in building the small hall behind the present priest's residence, which had a sunken basement laid by late Fr. James Thottappally cmi while he was here assistant to Fr. Oswald Kappukkatt. The whole day they worked supplying mortar, bricks and concrete to three fast working Nagarkovil masons. Evenings they went for bath in Weinganga on Ashti side. We could cast the slab of this 30' x 20' area on December 30, 1990. Joint Christmas celebration 1990:
At my friendly invitation the Collector of Chandrapur Mr. Tanksale came to Aksapur to celebrate Christmas together with the German guests. He brought the District Supply Officer along with him. The Party had been arranged in the convent. The Collector came to the Church campus, met me there and saw the activities in Church premises. There were already many people in the campus, as Collector's visit had been announced. When I requested him to move to the convent, he insisted that I get first into his car. It conveyed a lot to the crowd ! Along with chanting of music by our visiting young friends, cutting of cake and gifts’ exchange went on enjoying tea and other several bakery items prepared by convent Superior Sr. Lilia s.h.sp and her dedicated team. The only Junior among them was Sr. Celin Thachil from Kuthiyathodu. After a two hours’ of pleasant exchange the Supply Officer came out first. I accompanied him and told him what was going on regarding the Government ration supply for Boarding children in last four years. As we came out, to my great surprise we saw a large crowd of people, Tahsildar, his Deputy (Naib) Mr. Navlekar, B.D.O., Revenue Officials, Grampanchayat officials, Pattwari and so on among them. Tahsil head quarters lie nine km from Aksapur. Probably the Supply Officer Mr. Husain had a magnetic eye! In a loud voice he called "Meshram"-the great Tahsildar. He was there to wait on the dignitaries. He came forward. The D.S.O.
asked him: "What am I hearing from Fr. James ? Why don't you sanction food material to the Boarding children ? Father is feeding so many school going poor children of far away villages. How can you expect that they drop their names from their parents' card. See that by 27 th you have to reach Father the necessary permits." Mr. Meshram replied in a low voice: "yes Sir." He came to me on the 26 th morning, asked for the list of children which was ready with me. He didn't want any verification. He told me that permit card would reach me on the following day. The card reached me on 27 th itself a blessed Thursday in Nav Jyoti Boarding. The children celebrated it grand in German visitors' company.

Our Christmas midnight Mass celebration this time was unique with chanting of Marathi and German hymns one after the other. Definitely I enjoyed delivering homily in Marathi with additional German spices. The Mass was followed by refreshments. The stage program afterwards went on continuously till the dawn, both Marathi and German youth competing each other ! Certainly for our youth it was a chance to express what all they had learned in previous years from their former Vicars, Sisters and Catechists. It was indeed an unintentional non-provocative invitation for the lost sheep to come back to the fold. The foreign youth group bade farewell on January 2, 1991 hugging, not me, the Sisters who supplied them food of their like, and embracing their counterpart youth of Aksapur parish, especially Pellur group of Durge, Pudke, Jhade etc. It was an emotional and affectionate goodbye. Fr.Callistus Chavarananickal cmi, my good friend, the then Superior of Tarsa obliged to guide them on their tour to Chennai, Bengaluru and Kerala. I saw them off at Balharshah Rly Station.

The second Group of German Youth visited in December 1991. However I directed them to Wirur with the consent and at the wish of Fr. Vadakkemury, so that his Parish may get the accruing benefits. Of course the group helped construction of some houses. Later at their expense these youth arranged a German tour for Fr. Jose. The
seldom visit of Germans once a while helped me a lot to be in contact with District Collectors, S.P.s , D.F.O. like Mr. Narsimhalu, and local M.P. Mr.Puglia, which in turn was a blessing to get many works easily approved and fast executed by their lower sectional officers. This way we got Telephone line from 10 km distant Gondpipari exchange; three phase power connection replacing single phase and that way providing 24 hours power supply.

Campus management: Suresh Kannake, the driver and Shravan Ekonkar in his late teens were the two strong poles in all my daring \& tiresome activities of building up the campus. Truck loads of concrete poles were unloaded, tens of quintals of barbed wire reached the spot. The next supply was sand, metal and cement. Poles fixing work was entrusted to Mr. Marothi Durge, the first convert from Pellur and the then Upa-Sarpanch. In fifteen days' time Suresh, Shravan, another daily wager and myself completed fixing of seven layers of barbed wire. While fencing the land behind the Church, where the present convent and Dispensary are situated, objection came from Gram Panchayat on the long standing complaint of neighbours. I went personally to attend the Gram Pachayat meeting. They presented their demand for a road on our boundary. I told them bluntly: "Your proposed road needs minimum 20 ft . width; well the Chruch Society will part with ten feet; what about the other required 10 ft .; will the families on the other side agree to let their land for this purpose?" After a short silence, members one by one started saying: "I don't think any one will leave their land for the road; Fatherji, you please go ahead with your fencing program." The convent campus had tougher fighting on boundary issue for several years. Already in 1989 the Residential Collector of Chandrapur had passed an order asking the S.D.O. to study the case, find out the requirements of Navjyoti Church Society and propose the needful. Nothing happened. I extended my fencing activity to this land too. Reports reached Tehsildar Mr. Meshram at Gondpipari. My work on Ponpurna roadside was going on. Then comes lightening visit of Tehsildar. He called me to his jeep and asked me what was going on. I told him: "Sir, don't you see what is going
on? It is fencing". He ordered: "Stop it immediately". I answered him: "Sir, The cultivation season is ahead, being a responsible citizen of this country I have to take necessary steps to protect my crop". He shouted: "The villagers are complaining; you have to stop fencing". I gave him prompt reply: "Sir, If you have any order, give me in writing". He asked his driver to take his jeep forward. I said to the boss: "Haste will not help". He didn't mind; he went his way. I closed down my work for two days waiting for his reaction. No further reaction came out from Mr. Meshram. Probably he remembered how close the District Collector was to me on the previous Christmas eve! We completed our fencing.

Roads were rolled and pressed. Gates from the main road, one leading to the Church, Boarding and the Presbytery and the other to the field, so that no bullock cart or cattle move in the precincts of the Church. Water diviners like Fr. Joseph Kozhikothickal’s brother from Raipalliwada and Fr. John Chakkanatt cmi from Darsana (Wardha) were invited, who were good enough to point out certain sources. I brought officers of Geological Survey Department from Chandrapur, who categorically said that the water sources in this particular area was scanty. We deepened the existing well two meters on their suggestion, but not of much benefit. We tried for two bore wells and installed pumps. The supply was meagre. Next trial was an open well, it ended with negative feed back. As the boarding girls were getting scared of slab sweating in the entire dormitory, we shifted them to the Church campus on Jan. 22, 1994. In the meantime two double story buildings came up for the girls and boys with a small parish hall between the two. The present Bell tower and the Church Bell are the additions of those days.

After a solemn Eucharistic celebration, during which the sad message of the demise of Bishop Januarius reached me from Balharshah, Bishop Vijayanand blessed the new buildings on March 28, 1995. The cultural programs were dropped. All had the meals. The Bishop, the priests and the Sisters all hurried back to Balharshah.

Arrival of CSC community in Gondpipari:
The Sisters of Charity who were serving two centres in Adilabad District, viz. Indervelly and Utnoor wanted to reach out their mission to the neighbourhood of Gondpipari. I helped them to register a four acre plot on Jan. 31, 1996. The Sisters guided by Regional Superior Sr. Lawrence at Gaziabad were very prompt to move into their proposed field of activity. Srs. Annie John, Ambika and Merin took the risk to stay in a half finished rented room of Shri Surkar, a decent local shop keeper, and started Kindergarten with a few children on the veranda and Sisters' room on St. James Day the July 25, 1996 with the sign board "Sanjo School." Meanwhile the S.H.Sp community planned to move to self steering, liberal and broad pastures like Ghot. After certain sessions of interface their authorities in Pune wrote to Bp. Vijayanand with a copy addressing me that they would be bidding farewell to Aksapur on October 15, 1996. Eventhough a little surprising, the diocesan authorities had to give in, as it seemed to be totally one sided decision. Immediately at my request Sr. Lawrence c.s.c. agreed to help me by sending Sisters Pancratia and Filbi to take over the Dispensary.

Since I had to attend as diocesan Social Work Director a national conference arranged by Holland based "Lilian Foundation" at Cochin those days, I requested the Priest in charge of Warur Fr. George Olickal to render whatever help the departing S.H.Sp Aksapur community might be asking for. On the fixed day they moved with all their belongings to either directions of Ghot and Dilasagram. On Oct. 18 Bp. Vijayanand reached Aksapur. He gave me and the new Sisters’ group the guidelines regarding future arrangements. I promised them that exactly in one year time the new Convent and the Dispensary would be ready in Church premises.
Amidst all these uprisings our choir master Mr. Devender Fuljhale prepared a Christmas program of 30 mts . in Marathi at the request of A.I.R. Chandrapur. The A.I.R. recorded it at its studio along with my Christmas message. This was broadcast on the eve of Christmas 1996.

My search for water sources was continued. The water diviner Sr. Jonet f.c.c showed Sisters in Gondpipari two similar points for bore well on their land. I got the bore well unit from Nagpur - a very powerful machine. We preferred to try our luck at the last corner of the four acre land. After 15 ft . drilling the machine started pushing out black rock. In 20 ft . was a small stream. The boring went on up to 400 ft . There was only the same stream on the top. No change in layer; only black rock. We decided to try the second point, which was at the very entrance. The very similar strata, similar spring but a little better. Another 400 ft . Until this day this second bore is the water supplier there. While this boring was going on the Spirit moved me to go for a trial in Aksapur. After the morning prayer hour and divine liturgy, I went out to the field with three boys, keeping in mind the hearsay from Bp. Januarius regarding the signs and pointers of water streams underneath. I got it and told the children that we were stuck with luck. I contacted the boring team to come down to Aksapur after their work at Gondpipari. They came. They wanted work. They encouraged me to go ahead. They started eight inches boring. In the other two borings in Aksapur we came across all through only lime coloured mortar- like dry soil. Here comes at a depth of 50 ft . water mixed mud. At seventy ft . a layer of sand with some water. Another 25 ft . was of sand only, but water source gradually increasing. We bore 120 ft . Water in full force. The boring unit manger suggested me not to go for PVC casing because of sand strata. I had to decide for Tube well, coasting extra seventy thousand rupees. With necessary communication to Headquarters I nodded to the party to go ahead. It was a wonderful source, supplying plenty of clean water. Pipe lines were laid to the Boardings, Presbytery, Convent and gardens. Aksapur Navjyoti Church Campus which I renamed 'Sant Chavara Nagar’ in 1990 has now after seventeen years of its existence plenty of water in fields, gardens and residences. So also continuous electricity supply after the 3 phase connection was installed. May be a sweet reward in disguise from 'Chavarayachan.'
The happy events of the blessing of new convent and Dispensary with an open stage and laying of corner stone for Sanjo School at

Gondpipari took place on Oct. 15, 1997 the feast day of St. Teresa of Avila. More Sisters were provided. A new 'Spring" in the Church life at Aksapur - a united parish !

We had the first solemn program on the new stage on Sunday Dec. 28, 1997. It was a One Act Play on the life of 'Father of the Nation’ Mahatma Gandhi, staged by 35 Artists from Wardha/ Sewagram. Three hours' drama, attended in pin drop silence by around 3000 strong audience, many from Balharshah. It was an historic event for such a small village like Aksapur. I am still grateful to Sr. Veena sjb for arranging this drama group for such a splendid evening with an impressive theme.

Sant Chavara Nagar became a refreshing resort for many. Rearing rabbits, peacocks etc. was an enchanting experiment in this area. The C.E.O. of Chandrapur Zilla Parishad organized study camps twice in our campus for all the Gram Panchayat heads and village leaders of the entire Gondpipari Tehsil. In this year 1977 itself we hosted here the Inter-diocesan youth convention presided over by late Bishop Joseph Rosario msfs of Amravati. The Boarding children deepened their vision by visiting historic places and cities like Ajanta and Ellora, Hyderabad, Nagpur, Wardha, Hemalkhasa etc. Of course, all these endeavours had the financial backing from the two German Parishes in the Archdiocese of Cologne, where I rendered six years' pastoral service. At my departure they had resolved to support my service in India with their annual Carol Singing Campaign and special prayers. Adieu my beloved Aksapur:
At the insistence of Provincial Fr. Mathew Kaniamparampil cmi I bid farewell to Sant Chavara Nagar, Aksapur to work out a "Frontier Ministry" of opening a Language Institute and Cultural Centre in Bamni/ Balharshah, which was a long cherished dream and a resolute resolve of CMI Mar Thoma Province’ Synaxes, of course, without resources. The Vicar General of Chanda Fr. Thomas Kappukkatt arrived Aksapur to be the witness in handing over the documents and accounts of the Mission Station to my successor Fr. Sebastian Thattil
cmi, on May 31, 1998. I wished that my successor makes a good start. In the presence of the honourable witness, with his signature as well as of both of the outgoing and incoming gentle men I handed over to the new incumbent all official and unofficial documents of the Station with a large sum - which has nowhere happened in Chanda history - of free money of Rs. Three lakhs, seven thousand, six hundred and thirty four in Draft, Bank Deposits, Postal Savings and hard currency. Here ends my direct involvement in the development process of Mission Aksapur, where I made a name for Sant Chavara !!

No single pie was spent on Architects, Engineers, Builders, Agronomists, Consultants, Lawyers, Government Officers or "Zero Budgetters" in implementing whatever had been effectively given concrete expression in Sant Chavara Nagar. Let us remember in our prayers Sr. Julitta Vadakel s.h.sp, who has lost her memory and is taken care of in her convent at Chunangamvely. She was the one who led my first entry into Aksapur presbytery on Jan.19, 1990 advising me to take care of myself. Herself, her predecessor like Sr. Alfonsa and the successors like Sr. Libia, Sr. Carmela and Sr. Mary Vithayathil in the clinical service in the nineties are still very fresh in the minds of Aksapurians. The youth of those years shall never forget Sr. Joyce who was of high inspiration for them.

Fr. James Kurissery
CMI, Bamni/Chanda jamesku@rediffmail.com

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Fr. Jose Frank CMI














































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## Fr. Jose Frank CMI <br> 9446827874

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## News and Views

## Dharmaram News

## September-November 2016

## 1.Olympic Quiz

Olympic Quiz Competition was organized under the auspices of Literary and Cultural Academy of Dharmaram on 06 September 2106. Six teams participated in the programme representing each section. Fr. Thomas Thekkel, the Director of LCA was the Quizmaster. All the teams performed well and brothers of Second year Philosophy and Third Year Theology won the first and second positions respectively. The programme helped the community to have a flash back of the wonderful moments of the recent Rio Olympics and many other previous events.

## 2.Placid Endowment Lectures 2016

Placid Endowment Lectures were organized by the Institute of Oriental Canon Law (IOCL) during 06 - 09 September, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Varghese Koluthara CMI, Director, IOCL. Internationally famous Canonist Chore Bishop John D. Faris was the resource person. The theme of the lectures was Canon Law on Ecumenism. Rev. Dr. Sunny Kokkaravalayil SJ, delegate from Pontificio Istituto Orientale (PIO), Rome to IOCL, DVK, was also present. The lectures were inaugurated by Rev. Dr. Paulachan Kochapilly, President, DVK.

## 3.Onam Celebrations

a.Athapookkalam

Flower carpet (Athapookkalam) competition was organized by the LCA on Saturday, 10 September. All the brothers actively
participated and six amazing pookkalams were made. Brothers of Third Year Theology, College section and I Year Theology won the first, second and third prizes respectively. Many Parishners and a good number of members of neighbouring Religious communities came over to Dharmaram to watch the Pookkalam.

## b.Sravanam: Cultural programme in the Evening of Onam.

A cultural delight - Sravanam was staged by the scholastics of First year Philosophy on Wednesday, 13 September as part of Onam Celebrations. The performance of the youngest brothers of Dharmaram was commendable. The one and a half hour programme concluded with the distribution of prizes for the winners of various competitions organized by LCA in connection with Independence Day and Onam celebrations. During his message Fr Rector told that the celebrations should help us to imbibe the values conveyed by Onam.

## 4.Renovation of Dharmaram Chapel

The renovation of Dharmaram main Chapel commenced on 10 September as per the decision of the Local Council. It is a pretty long and laborious work that takes about 2-3 months. During these days the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and all the common prayers are shifted to BJTM Hall. Roofing of all the main buildings of Dharmaram, for preventing leakage, is completed. It took about 3 years and has been an expensive work. Now Dharmaram buildings have a new look and we got a lot of extra space for multiple purposes.

## 5.Talk on Global Mission

Rev. Fr. Jose Panthaplamthottiyil, Former Prior General, having a lot of experience in Global Mission and currently rendering pastoral services in the USA had a sharing session with Dharmaram Community
on Global Mission on Saturday, 17 September. The session was really enriching and motivating.
6.A new path way from Christ School Road to Christ University main campus, has been opened recently. Another small gate is opened between Christ School(state syllabus) and St. Thomas church compound, exclusively meant for the children attending catechism classes.

## 7.Blood Donation Camp

A blood donation camp was organized by the Youth Association of St. Alphonsa parish, Double Road at Theology block, DVK on 23 October 2016. It was a great success with the participation of more than 150 donors. Parishioners from various parishes in Bangalore and our scholastics joined hands for this noble mission. Hearty congrats to Fr Joy Kakkanattu, Vicar and Fr Joy Kizhakkayil, Youth Co-ordinator.

## 8.Dalit Solidarity Lectures

The Dalit Solidarity Lectures-2016 were organized by the Centre for Dalit Solidarity under the auspices of Faculty of Philosophy, DVK on 28 October 2016. Theme was "Constitutional Rights of Dalits and the Present Scenario" and Mr. T. S. S. Mani was the resource person. The atrocities done to Dalits and of the socially neglected milieu of these people in spite of the constitutional rights granted was the area of discussion and assessment in the lectures. The lectures were really enriching and enlightening.

## 9.Prof. A. Mathias Mundadan CMI Annual Lectures

The lectures which were instituted in memory of Prof. Mathias Mundadan, were organized this year, on Monday, 31 October, under the auspices of Faculty of Theology, DVK on the theme 'Addressing

Challenges in Contemporary Indian Society: Religious Engagement for Change.' Rev. Dr Roger Gaikwad was the Speaker. During the Inaugural session, Fr. Thomas Aykara, Rector, Dharmaram College, shared his Reminiscences of Prof. Mundadan.

## 10.Mercy Year Movie Meditation

Dharmaram Audio Visual Department, under the leadership of Fr. Biju Kunnumpuram organised a film festival "Mercy Year Movie Meditation" during the semester vacation from $18^{\text {th }}$ to $21^{\text {st }}$ of October. The resource person was Dr. Benny Benedict Chiramel CMI, the Director of Chetana, Thrissur. There were films, short films, documentaries, and discussions. Brothers who were interested in movies and had a taste in film making utilized this opportunity.

## 11.Scholastics to Kengeri

As a new initiative, 10 scholastics from our E- section, II year Philosophy, started going to our St. Mary’s Farm, Kengeri, to join hands with Rev. Fr George Nellikunnel, the director, in the works of dairy farm and agriculture, during weekends, Friday evening to Sunday evening. Fr Mathew Attumkal, their Master, accompanies them as best as he can. The Brothers really enjoy their involvement in our farms.

## 12.Mercy and Compassion in Indian Philosophy: Faculty Seminar

Faulty of Philosophy, DVK conducted its Faculty Seminar on the World Philosophy Day, 17 November 2016. The topic was "Mercy and Compassion in Indian Philosophy and Culture". Professors and students from our affiliated institutions, namely De Paul Institute of Philosophy, Kengeri and Pushpasram, Mysuru, also participated in the seminar. Papers and their responses presented by the students were followed by interactions. The sessions and interactions helped
the participants very much to unravel and reflect more on the message of mercy intertwined in Indian Philosophical systems and our great epics.

## 13.Rector's Day

The Rector's day celebrations generated waves of vibrancy and enthusiasm in the community. It helped the Dharmaram family, once again to express the community spirit and to be enriched with the feeling of togetherness. The sports day in connection with the Rector's day, involving track and field events, was conducted on Tuesday, 01 November. The athletic competitions had a very good standard and the cheering and support of all sections spurred up the atmosphere. The indoor and outdoor games witnessed many vigorous moments. The basket ball and volleyball games between fathers as two opposite groups turned back the clock as the veterans created dazzling performances. All the events in general maintained a jubilant mood in the community.
Prayer service was conducted on the Eve of Rector's day, 18 November. Superiors and members from the communities on Dharmaram Campus (Research Centre, Adhyayana, and Kuriakose Elias Chavara Study House) came and wished Fr. Rector and had lunch together with the Dharmaram Community on Rector's Day, 19 November 2016. The Rector's day celebrations for the CMI Community commenced with the concelebrated Divine Liturgy at 4 pm which was followed by community gathering in the BJTM Hall and dinner arranged in the mango grove.

## 14.Mercy in Practice: Release of a Book

During gathering of Rector's Day on 19 November, 'Mercy in Practice: Theological Reflections on the Life of St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara' a book published by Dharmaram publications was released by Rev Fr Thomas Aykara CMI, Rector, presenting its first
copy to Rev. Fr Joshy Cheruparambil CMI. This book is the expanded version of Chavara Lectures-2016 delivered by Rev. Dr Joseph Xavier SJ, Gregorian University, Rome, at DVK on 15 June 2016. Our sincere thanks to Fathers Shaji Kochuthara and Benny Nalkara, Directors of Centre for the Study and Research on Chavara.

## 15.Conclusion of Year of Mercy

The Conclusion of Year of Mercy was observed with due importance on the Feast of Christ the King, on 20 November 2016 with a solemn Divine Liturgy along with special homily on Year of Mercy. Nalla Appante Chavarul was distributed to the public who attended the mass. We shared our Lunch in Dharmaram dining hall with the guests from ASVAS, (where we serve free meal to around 400 people every day), most of whom were the poor patients and their bystanders from the nearby hospitals. Scholastics, under the loving guidance of Fr John Marius attended the people with care and concern.

## Darsana Institute of Philosophy, Wardha News

## Village Experience Programme (VEP)

The second year brothers were away for the Village Experience Programme from $18^{\text {th }}$ October to $29^{\text {th }}$ October. They went in four groups to different mission stations of the Chanda diocese. All of them were able to touch the down to earth life and activities of the people in their respective mission stations.

## Community Day

Darsana community celebrated the community day along with Rector's day with due solemnity on $20^{\text {th }}$ November. We had the solemn Eucharistic celebration and family gathering with camp fire and cultural programmes by the community.

## Sports Day

On $19^{\text {th }}$ November we had the annual sports day of Darsana Institute of Philosophy. Brothers had a nice platform to explore and exhibit their athletic spirit and skills.

## Research Paper Presentation

Second year brothers presented their research papers on $29^{\text {th }}$ and $30^{\text {th }}$ of November. Their spectacular thoughts, amazing philosophical visions, and their unique way of presentation were the attraction of the event. Hearty congratulations to all the brothers for your unique contributions!!!!!

## Vocation Class

A special course on vocation enrichment was conducted in Darsana on $5^{\text {th }}$ November. Fr. Dr. Tomy Tharayil of the Archdiocese of Changanacherry enlightened us with his innovative reflections on vocation. Staff and students from Darsana and Claritian Ashram, and sisters and the Atmadarsan students from different religious congregations attended the course.

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## Carmel Vidya Bhavan Pune News

## Canonical Visit

Fr. Prior General and Fr. Johny Edapulavan, the general auditor had come here for canonical visitation in the middle of the month of August. Fr. General had talked with the inmates of CVB and moved around the JDV campus and spoke to JDV academicians too. He demanded an action plan in which development and excellence are given importance. We are working with it and will be executed soon.

## Sunny Memorial Choir Competition

On August28 ${ }^{\text {th }}$, Carmel Parish had hosted a choir competition in memory of Fr. Sunny who was a priest in Kalyan Diocese. There were 8 teams from different parishes. The Carmel Choir with its melodious voice turned out to be the winners. Hats off to the Carmel Choir team.....

## ONAM Celebration

CVB had celebrated ONAM on $16^{\text {th }}$ September in a jubilant way. There was an ONASADYA on the occasion, with 18 types of curries. On the following day, the POOKKALAM competitions were
held in the parish. In the parish ONAM was celebrated on $18^{\text {th }}$ of September with a solemn Holy Mass followed by ONASADYA.

## Jubilee Celebrations of Fr. Rector

Fr. Rector celebrates the Golden Jubilee of religious profession this year. We, the CVB community along with Christ College and Carmel Parish, celebrated the Jubilee on $8^{\text {th }}$ October in a magnificent way. It was for two days. On $8^{\text {th }}$ we had a public gathering in which Mar Thomas Elavanal, the Bishop of Kalyan Diocese was the chief guest. The function was scintillated with the cultural programme headed by CVB brothers, Christ College Students, parishioners and catechism students of Carmel Parish. On $9^{\text {th }}$ October, there was a solemnly celebrated Holy Mass concelebrated in which Fr. Rector was the main celebrant, which was followed by a sumptuous dinner.

## Semester Exams and Holidays

Our semester exams were in the midst of October and everyone did well in the exams. The semester holidays were for a fortnight. During the vacation, the third years left for mission trip. They visited almost all our mission centres in Bijnor. They had a three day retreat there in view of their Diaconate. The mission trip and the retreat were a great experience for them. Meanwhile, the second year brothers went off to Goa for a picnic. The new semester resumed after the vacation on $31^{\text {st }}$ of October.

## 10 days Rosary devotion in the Parish

The traditional 10 days rosary devotion began on $21^{\text {st }}$ October. The Rosaries were led by each of the wards in the Parish. The four first year brothers and four second years preached homilies in these days. The parishioners took part in this traditional spiritual devotion in a zealous manner.

## Diaconate and Sub-Diaconate

Six third year brothers were conferred Diaconate and 9 second years Sub-Diaconate on $13^{\text {th }}$ of November. Bishop Prince Panengadan
of Adilabad Diocese ordained them. The parents, relatives of brothers and many priests witnessed this holy event. We had prepared well in advance for the ordination. We conducted seminars for both the Deacons and for the Sub-Deacons. All of us took part in the seminars which were done in two days. We also had various spiritual orientations and initiations into the life of priesthood by various resource persons which were culminated by the adoration led by Bishop Prince. Congratulations to all the deacons and Sub-deacons.

## Holy Communion of Children and Parish Feast

The First Holy Communion of the children from our Parish was conducted on $20^{\text {th }}$ November. There were 14 Children who received Holy Communion for the first time.

The feast of our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Sebastian and St. Chavara was on $27^{\text {th }}$ November. A novena observance had begun on $18^{\text {th }}$ November on which the flag was hoisted for the feast. All the parishioners took part in the feast and had the blessings on this gracious occasion.

First Profession and Vestition at Anudhavana, Mancherial


The First Profession and Vestition held at Anudhavana on the feast of Immaculate Conception, i.e., December 8, 2016, was an
inspiring experience for all those who attended it. Fourteen novices of the 7 CMI Mission provinces made their first profession and had their vestition during a liturgical celebration with Bishop Prince Panengadan as the main celebrant, and Fr. Varghese Vithayathil CMI, Vicar General, all the 7 provincials, General Formation Coordinator Fr. Paulson Thaliyath CMI, and Rector, Fr. Sany Kannampuzha CMI, as co-celebrants. There were about 60 priests, 40 sisters in addition to the parents, relatives and friends of these novices attending the 3 hour long liturgical celebration along with Bishop Joseph Kunnath, bishop emeritus of Adilabad diocese at Anudhavana Chapel.

The programme started with procession from the grotto to the church, where these novices knelt down in front of the altar face to face and their parents had imposed their hands on them and prayed for their initiation into consecrated vowed life. Fr.Sany Kannampuzha CMI, welcomed all the dignitaries and guests and introduced the programme explaining in short the meaning of vowed life. Fr. Peter Kochalumkal CMI, provincial superior of St. Xavier's Province, Rajkot delivered the homily and shed light on the radical changes that take place in the people due to the intervention of the Holy Spirit, starting with Mother Mary and Elizabeth.

Vestition and first profession were administered by Fr. Varghese Vithayathil, who blessed their religious habit and enquired solemnly their willingness and readiness for the radical following of the foot prints of Lord Jesus. Bishop Prince Panengadan blessed them while they were prostrating for receiving the Holy Spirit. Their respective provincials received their document of profession and blessed them. They were Bros. Biju Pullukalayil and Jithin Kappalumackal from Bellampally province, Bibin Chellamkottu, Manohar Xalxo, and Sameer Minj from Bhavnagar province, Jerin Kachappilly from Bhopal Province, Paulson Madathiparambil from Bijnor province, Nobin Vallippayil and Prestin Vadakeveettilan from Chanda Province, Jonis Khalkho, Nithin Lakra, Sanjeet Kerketta and Sudheer Kerketta from Jagdalpur province, and Thomas Menachery from Rajkot province. Bro Jerin Kachappilly proposed Vote of Thanks after the communion. The melodious Choir from Nazrath Bhavan,


Bellampally under the competent leadership of Fr. Jobish Chalil CMI made the liturgical celebration an inspiring experience. Fr. Jins Varacheril CMI guided the programme by his multi lingual commentary. This could be the last batch of novices making their profession here as the CMI Novitiate at Anudhavana is being shifted to a new campus at Budhni, near Hoshangabad in Madhaya Pradesh by June 2017.

## Chavara Cultural Centre, Kochi, News











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Editor: Fr. Sebastian Thekkedathu CMI

Printed and Published by Fr. Sebastian Thekkedathu
for the CMI General Secretariat for Media of Communication

