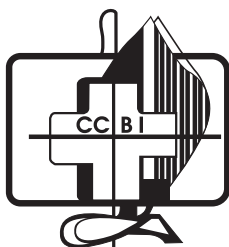


CCBI NEWS

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132 Dioceses and 195 Bishops**

Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

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Editorial

A Poor Village Girl to be a Saint: Mariam Thresia

The Indian Church is being blessed with one more saint, Mariam Thresia (1876-1926), the foundress of the Holy Family Congregation. She was a poor village girl, frail in frame, indifferent in looks but of extraordinary spiritual power, she is finally being canonised saint and it is a moment of great pride for the Indian Church.

She will be canonised by Pope Francis on 13 October 2019. She was born on 26 April 1876 in the village of Puthenchira, Trichur district, Kerala. Thresia, was the name given to her at baptism on 3 May 1876. Since 1904 she wanted to be called Mariam Thresia as she believed that through a vision she was inspired to add "Mariam" to her name by the Blessed Virgin Mary.

When Thresia was only twelve years old, her mother died, and with that also ended her elementary school education. She then set out on a long search to discern her own vocation in life. She longed for a hidden life of prayer and in 1891 she sneaked away from home to lead an eremitical life of prayer and penance in solitude. In 1886, she made a private vow to remain chaste.

She continued to frequent the church with three of her companions. In her love for Jesus she wanted to be like him in his toil and apostolate. Thresia and her three companions formed a group of prayer and of apostolate. Breaking from the custom of not leaving the house unless accompanied by men, they were on the roads visiting the families in need. On 30 April 1902, her meeting with Fr. Joseph Vithayathil changed her life and she decided to live alone.

In 1903 Mariam Thresia requested her Bishop's permission to build a prayer house of solitude, but Bishop John Menachery, the Vicar Apostolic of Trichur, first wanted to test her vocation. He suggested that she consider joining the newly founded Congregation of the Franciscan Clarists, but she did not think that she was called to it.

In 1912 the Bishop made arrangements for her to live in a convent of the Carmelite nuns at Ollur. Though the sisters would gladly have admitted her into their Congregation, she did not feel that it was her call. Finally, in 1913, Bishop John permitted her to build a prayer house. She set up a house at Puthenchira and Thresia moved in, and her three companions soon joined her. They led a life of prayer and austere penance like hermits but continued to visit the sick and help the poor and the needy irrespective of religion or caste.

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The Bishop discerned that here was a new religious Congregation in gestation for the service of the family. On 14 May 1914, he erected it canonically and named it the Congregation of the Holy Family (C.H.F.) while receiving the perpetual profession of Mariam Thresia. Her three companions were enrolled as postulants in the new Congregation, while she was appointed its first superior with Fr. Joseph Vithayathil as chaplain.

Mother Mariam Thresia saw to its strict observance in the new Congregation, which she nurtured with great care. During and after the difficult years of the First World War, with indomitable energy and utter trust in divine providence, she built three new convents, two schools, two hostels, a study house, and an orphanage in less than twelve years.

Mother Mariam Thresia died on 8 June 1926 from a wound on the leg caused by a falling object. The wound defied cure owing to her diabetes. At the time of her death, at the age of fifty there were 55 Sisters in the Congregation, 30 boarders and 10 orphans under her care. The co-founder Fr Joseph Vithayathil continued to nurture the Congregation, which grew steadily till his death in 1964.

After her death, the fame of Mariam Thresia spread as she continued from heaven to succour the sick and the needy through miraculous favours. She was declared Servant of God in 1983 and on 28 June 1999 as Venerable. She was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II on 9 April 2000.

The second miracle, the one needed for her canonization was investigated and later received the formal validation of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints on 24 June 2014. The miraculous healing of a child Christopher received approval from the medical board of the Congregation in March 2018 and theologians later confirmed it in October 2018. Pope Francis approved this miracle on 12 February 2019 which cleared the way for her canonization.

The Indian Church is blessed with one more saint as a role model. She is the daughter of our own soil. Her passion for the poor, needy and the family apostolate is a challenging mission for us. The Family was the focus of her mission and she had the audacity to help people to focus on family life. She beckons us to take care of our families.

Her canonisation reminds us to refocus and revitalize our family apostolate. The Church in India is grateful to the members of the Holy Family congregation, who continue the charism of Mariam Thresia in our country.

Fr. Stephen Alathara

Editor

Communio India

"Love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34)



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I Church Universal

1. Pope Francis' Journey to Mozambique, Madagascar and Mauritius



Vatican 10 September 2019: Pope Francis made his 31st Apostolic Journey to Mozambique, Madagascar and Mauritius from 4 to 10 September, 2019. Holy Father arrived Maputo the capital of Mozambique on Wednesday 4 September, 2019 and accorded with official welcome ceremony at the airport. On Thursday 5 September, 2019 he made courtesy visit to the President Mr. Filipe Nyusi at the "Ponta Vermelha" Palace and met the authorities, civil society and the diplomatic corps at the Palace. The same day Pope attended interreligious meeting with the youth at the Maxaquene Pavillon. He met the bishops, priests, religious, consecrated and seminarians, catechists and animators at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Maputo.

On Friday, 6 September 2019 Pope made visit to Zimpeto Hospital and celebrated Holy Mass at Zimpeto Stadium. The same day he left to Madagascar and he arrived Antananarivo the capital of Madagascar. On Saturday, 7 September 2019 he made visit to the President at "Iavoloha" Presidential Palace and met Mr. Andry Nirina Rajoelina, President of Madagascar. Pope participated prayer at the Monastery of the Discalced Carmelites and met the Bishops of Madagascar at the Andohalo Cathedral. He paid visit to the tomb of Blessed Victoire Rasoamanarivo.

On Sunday, 8 September 2019 Pope celebrated Holy Mass on the diocesan grounds of Soamandrakizay, Antananarivo. He made visit to the City of Friendship at Akamasoa and met priests, religious, consecrated and seminarians at the Collège Saint Michel. On Monday, 9 September 2019 he arrived Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius. He celebrated Holy Mass at the Monument of Mary Queen of Peace and lunch with the Bishops of CEDOI at the Bishop's House. Pope made a private visit to Père Laval Shrine, Port Luis. Pope made courtesy visit to the President Mr Barlen Vyapoory at the Presidential Palace.

2. Pope's Letter to Priests: Thank You for Your Service



Vatican City 4 August, 2019 (Vatican News) Pope Francis wants to express his gratitude to the priests who work "in the trenches", to encourage them in joy and to praise the Lord with Mary. A Letter to "thank" all the priests of the world for having said yes to vocation; to "encourage" their commitment and their joy even in moments of fatigue; to "praise" with Mary, the "promise of fullness" that arose in their lives. These are the explicit reasons - with relative paragraphs - behind the Letter that Pope Francis issued today, the memorial of Saint John Mary Vianney, on the occasion of the 160th anniversary of the death of the saintly Curé of Ars, "proposed by Pius XI as the patron of all priests of the world".

The Pope wants to comfort all the priests who work "in the trenches", carry "the burden of day and heat on their shoulders", are "exposed to countless situations" and above all, after the various allegations of sexual abuse by members of the clergy, "our priests feel themselves attacked and blamed

for crimes they did not commit." Because of this, the Letter, the paragraphs on "Gratitude", "Encouragement", "Praise" are preceded by one on "Pain": the pain of "victims of abuse of power, conscience and sexual abuse by ordained ministers", but also on the part of the priests, of "indignation", and "impotence", because of the suspicion that also hovers over them, which can generate "doubts, fears and disheartenment".

3. Pope Announces 13 New Cardinals



Vatican 1 September 2019 (Vatican News): At the Angelus Pope Francis reads the names of those prelates who will receive the red hat on 5 October 2019, the vigil of the Amazon Synod. After reciting the Angelus in St Peter's Square on Sunday, Pope Francis announced a consistory to be held on 5 October for the nomination of 10 new Cardinals. He said that the places where these new Cardinals come from express the missionary vocation of the Church as she continues to announce the merciful love of God to every person on earth.

The names of the new Cardinals are: (1) Bishop Miguel Angel Ayuso Guixot, mccc, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, (2) Archbishop José Tolentino Medonça, Archivist and Librarian of the Holy Roman Church, (3) Archbishop Ignatius Suharyo Hardjoatmodjo, Archbishop of Jakarta, (4) Archbishop Juan de la Caridad García Rodríguez, Archbishop of San Cristóbal de Havana, (5) Archbishop Fridolin Ambongo Besungu, o.f.m. cap, Archbishop of Kinshasa, (6) Archbishop Jean-Claude Hollerich, sj, Archbishop of Luxembourg, (7) Bishop Alvaro L. Ramazzini Imeri, Bishop of Huehuetenango, (8) Archbishop Matteo Zuppi, Archbishop of Bologna, (9)

Archbishop Cristóbal López Romero, sdb, Archbishop of Rabat and (10) Father Michael Czerny, sj, Undersecretary of the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Development

Along with these new cardinals, the Pope is adding two Archbishops and a bishop who have served the Church in a distinguished way: (1) Archbishop Michael Louis Fitzgerald, Archbishop Emeritus of Nepte, (2) Archbishop Sigitas Tamkevicius, sj, Archbishop Emeritus of Kaunas, (3) Bishop Eugenio Dal Corso, psdp, Bishop Emeritus of Benguela.

4. Pope's Appeal to Pray, Reflect, and Act to Safeguard Creation



Vatican 1 September 2019 (Vatican News): Pope Francis invites the faithful to pray, reflect and act to protect an endangered environment in a message released to mark the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. The World Day of Prayer falls at the start of the Season of Creation, an ecumenical initiative which runs until 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. During this time the Pope is inviting the faithful to pray, reflect and take action. Pope Francis underlines that “this is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew by closeness to nature, which spontaneously leads us to give thanks to God the Creator.” In the message the Pope urges the faithful undertake prophetic actions. “Many young people all over the world are making their voices heard and calling for courageous decisions”, he comments. Pope Francis stresses that, “we owe them real answers, not empty words, actions not illusions.”

“Now is the time to rediscover our vocation as children of God, brothers and sisters, and stewards of creation.” Those were the Pope’s words in a mes-

sage released for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, which is observed on the 1st of September. Taking inspiration from the Book of Genesis, Pope Francis describes God's gaze as "resting lovingly on his creation". But he goes on to say that, "tragically, the human response to this gift has been marked by sin, selfishness and a greedy desire to possess and exploit." Now is the time, he adds, "to abandon our dependence on fossil fuels and move, quickly and decisively, towards forms of clean energy and a sustainable and circular economy. Pope Francis also invites people to learn from "indigenous peoples, whose age-old wisdom can teach us how to live in a better relationship with the environment."

5. Pope's Condolence for India's flood Victims



Vatican 12 August 2019 (Vatican News): Pope Francis has expressed his condolence for the victims of the floods and mudslides in southern India following days of torrential monsoon rains. At least 184 people have been killed and more than 400,000 displaced. "Deeply saddened to learn of the tragic loss of life in the monsoons of recent days in Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, and mindful of all those who have lost homes and livelihood, His Holiness Pope Francis sends his heartfelt condolences to the relatives of the deceased and injured," Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, wrote in a telegram on behalf of Pope Francis. The Pope "prays for the relief efforts underway, and upon the nation, he willingly invokes the divine blessings of strength and perseverance," Cardinal Parolin wrote. The situation in Kerala is the worst where the death toll has risen to 76 and about 288,000 have been affected. In Karnataka the death toll has reached 40 and some 582,000 have been evacuated to safer grounds.

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II Church in Asia

1. MACAU: College for Evangelization in Asia Inaugurated



Macau 30 July 2019 (Agenzia Fides): The Vatican Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples has established an institute in Macau to give a boost to the mission "ad gentes" of the Catholic Church in Asia. After an audience with Pope Francis on Monday, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, the Prefect of the Congregation, signed a decree establishing the "Redemptoris Mater College for Evangelization in Asia", reported the Vatican's Fides news agency. The administration of the institute has been entrusted to the Neocatechumenal Way. According to the statute of the College, it is in fact a "major seminary of the Church, an educational community that enjoys a canonical juridical personality and will have to obtain juridical personality according to the laws of the country" in which it is established.

It opens its doors in September and intends to respond to the call of Pope St. John Paul II's 1990 encyclical, "*Redemptoris Missio*" (the mission of the Redeemer), that indicates the Asian continent as a territory where "the Church's mission 'ad gentes' ought to be chiefly directed." The priests formed in the institute "may be sent, according to the Prefect of the Congregation for the

Evangelization of Peoples, to the requesting dioceses", in different Asian territories and nations, according to the pastoral needs of those who request them. The "Redemptoris Mater College for Evangelization in Asia" has two patrons: Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, and St. Joseph, the custodian of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Asian saints also be celebrated "with particular solemnity".

2. SOUTH KOREA: Church Celebrated Mass for Peace



Seoul 25 June, 2019: South Korean Catholic Church Celebrated Nationwide Mass for Peace with 20,000 Faithful and Published a Letter of Plea for Peace on the Korean Peninsula This year's June 25th marks the 69th anniversary of the Korean War, which began on June 25, 1950. The mass, with the theme of "Blessed are the peacemakers: they shall be recognized as children of God." (Mt 5, 9), was celebrated at Imjingak Pyeonghwa Nuri Park in Paju, Gyeonggi-Do near DMZ. The main celebrant was Cardinal Andrew Yeom Soo-jung (Archbishop of Seoul Archdiocese) and concelebrants were Archbishop Alfred Xuereb (Apostolic Nuncio), Bishop Peter Lee Ki-heon (President of CBCK Committee for the Reconciliation of the Korean People), Archbishop Hyginus Kim Hee-joong (President of Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea) and around 20 other bishops and over 300 priests from different dioceses.

Government officials including Moon Hee-sang (South Korean Speaker of the National Assembly), Kim Yong-sam (The 1st Vice Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism), Choi Jong-hwan (Mayor of Paju) and others also attended the mass. The Nationwide masses for peace were celebrated in 2000, in 2003, in 2011 and this year's mass marks the fourth in the history of Korean Catholic Church. In 2011, the masses were celebrated in the same place, in Imjingak Park, and around 20,000 faithful were gathered at the mass. South Korean Catholic Church designated June 25 as the Prayer Day for the Reconciliation and Unity of Korean People. On this day, all Catholic parishes in South Korea celebrate mass with the special intention of praying for reunification of the Korean Peninsula. Since 2015, the Catholic faithful prays daily (Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be) at 9PM. Archbishop Hyginus Kim Hee-joong, in the homily, expressed his hope that "the expected summit between South Korea and the United States at the end of June could act as a springboard for peace and unification in the Korean peninsula".

3. CHINA: Bishop Ordained under Sino-Holy See Agreement



Vatican 28 August 2019 (Vatican News): The Vatican on Wednesday 28 August, 2019 confirmed the second episcopal ordination in China under last year's Provisional Agreement between the Holy See and China. Monsignor Stefano Xu Hongwei was consecrated bishop on 28 August under the Pontifical Mandate. The Provisional Agreement between the Holy See and the People's Republic of China, on the appointment of bishops in China, was signed in Beijing on 22 September 2018.

The consecration ceremony of Bishop Xu in the Cathedral of St. Michael in Hanzhong was presided over by Bishop Ma Yinglin of Kunming (Yunnan), the president of the Council of Chinese bishops, Asia News reported. Five other bishops and 80 priests concelebrated the Mass in the presence of around a thousand people. The Diocese of Hanzhong is an old mission of the Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions (PIME). It has about 30 thousand faithful, served by 30 priests and 11 women religious with 20 thousand faithful.

The first Bishop ordained after agreement with the Holy See was Mgr. Antonio Yao Shun, who has been ordained the Bishop after the Agreement with the Holy See as the Bishop of Jining/Wulanchabu, Inner Mongolia (China). He was ordained after received the Papal Mandate on 26th August 2019."

4. PHILIPPINES: Bishops issue Pastoral Letter on "Climate Emergency"



Manila 16 July 2019 (Vatican News): The Catholic Bishops of the Philippines have released a major pastoral letter on "climate emergency", urging their communities to ecological conversion, listen to the cry of the Earth and the poor and act together to mitigate the ill effects of climate change. Signed by Archbishop Romulo Valles of Davao, the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), the pastoral letter, entitled "An urgent call for ecological conversion, hope in the face of climate emergency", was released on Tuesday. The 9-page document is divided into eight sections, with the first half offering a reflection on the state of the environment, fol-

lowed by concrete ecological actions. The July 16 pastoral letter is the 8th in a series of environment-related documents that the bishops have released over the past 3 decades, since the publication of the first one in 1988 entitled, "What is Happening to Our Beautiful Land?"

Noting that poverty and environmental degradation are continuing to destroy "Our Common Home" the bishops stress that the cries of the earth and the poor are calling for social justice. "Our preferential option for the poor pushes us to prioritize the most affected 'poorest of the poor' who cry to God for justice. It is our moral obligation to respond to their suffering," the CBCP says. The bishops pastoral letter follows their July 6-8 plenary assembly in Manila, which sought to find practical ways to implement the Pope's call in "Laudato Si" in the Philippine context. The bishops also announced the creation of an "ecology desk" in all diocesan social action centres that would make ecology their special concern.

5. PAKISTAN: Bishops met Prime Minister Imran Khan



Lahore 5 July 2019 (Agenzia Fides): A delegation of the Catholic Church of Pakistan met Prime Minister Imran Khan on July 4 and expressed the concerns and issues of the Christians of the country. They also made a contribution to help improve the country's water reserves. Bishop Benny Mario Travas of Multan, Secretary-General of the Pakistan Catholic Bishops' Conference (PCBC) told the Vatican's Fides news agency that the prime minister who welcomed the delegation in his office in the capital, Islamabad, expressed appreciation for the good work of the Church for the development

of Pakistan. Responding to the concerns regarding the Christian community in the country, he said, Imran Khan reiterated the government's commitment to making every effort possible to meet the challenges that minority communities face.

PCBC President, Archbishop Joseph Arshad of Islamabad-Rawalpindi handed the Prime Minister a cheque of 5,650,000 Pakistani Rupees (about 32,470 Euros) as a contribution to a fund for developing the Diamer-Bhasha and Mahmand dams. The bishops decided in November 2018 to raise funds to support the water reservoir initiative launched by the then president of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, Mian Saqib Nisar. He had set up this specific fund for the two dams. The initiative was supported by Imran Khan who, after becoming the Prime Minister of Pakistan, continued with the commitment to build these large water reserves in Pakistan. The Catholic Church of Pakistan is made up of the six dioceses of Karachi, Hyderabad, Lahore, Faisalabad, Islamabad-Rawalpindi, Multan and the Vicariate Apostolic of Quetta.

6. PHILIPPINES: New College for Interreligious Dialogue Inaugurated



Zamboanga 9 September 2019 (Agenzia Fides): The “Silsilah” movement for dialogue has launched a new educational institute in the city of Zamboanga: the Emmaus College for Theology, which offers a Bachelor's degree in Theology, with specialization in interreligious dialogue. This is what Fr. Sebastiano D'Ambra, PIME missionary, and founder of Silsilah reports to Agenzia Fides, expressing “the joy, satisfaction and the hope that this spirit

can infect more and more young Christians and Muslims in the Philippines". The new College obtained permission to operate from the "Commission for Higher Education" in the Philippines and will start lessons in August 2020, just as the new academic year 2019-2020 will coincide with the special "Year of interreligious dialogue, of ecumenism and of indigenous peoples", proclaimed by the Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, which will begin with the Feast of Christ the King, on November 24, 2019.

In fact, the Catholic Church in the Philippines will pay particular attention to interreligious dialogue, ecumenism and indigenous peoples in preparation for 2021, when Christians in the Philippines will recall the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the archipelago. Over the years, the Silsilah Movement has in particular helped a group of Catholic teachers to launch first the "Emmaus Community" composed of consecrated laymen and then extended to married people, singles, priests, nuns, seminarians, who formed the Movement for the "Emmaus" Dialogue, active in Mindanao. "The College will be a place to train young people, men and women, to be open to inter-religious dialogue by living and promoting the culture of dialogue. The life of prayer and service to the poor will nourish their formation with adequate programs of immersion and services in parishes and other institutions", adds the PIME missionary.

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III Church in India

1. *Ad Limina* visit of Indian Bishops



Bangalore 27 September, 2019: The *Ad Limina* Visit of Indian Latin Bishops were held from 4 to 27 September, 2019. The CCBI Bishops were divided into three groups. The *Ad Limina* visit of the 48 Bishops of the first group was held from 4th to 13th September, 2019. The visit of the 60 Bishops of the second group was held from 11th to 19th September, 2019. There are 49 Bishops in the third group and their visit was held from 18th to 27th September, 2019. The first day of the *Ad Limina* visit began with Holy Mass at the tomb of St. Peter the Apostle at 7.15. The audience with the Holy Father is the last item in the Visit. The Bishops celebrated Holy Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul outside on 6th, 13th and 20th September, respectively. The Bishops also visited Major Basilicas i.e. Lateran, Maria Maggiore and St. Paul's. The Bishops presented their *Quinquennial Report* to the Holy See.

The Holy Father told the Bishops that he was aware of the challenges the Church in India was facing and encouraged them to continue working for God with faith and patience. When informed that a nun and other innocent priests and religious have been in jail, Pope Francis assured them of his

prayers. Bishops all over the world undertake the obligatory *Ad Limina* visit to the Vatican at regular intervals. Such visits include a visit to the tombs of the Apostles, Saints Peter and Paul, and a meeting with the Pope to report on the state of their dioceses. It is separate from other trips a bishop might make to the Vatican, such as to attend a synod.

The object of the visit is not merely to make a pilgrimage to the tombs of the Apostles, but, above all, to show the proper reverence for the successor of St Peter, to acknowledge practically his universal jurisdiction by giving an account of the condition of particular churches, to receive his admonitions and counsels, and thus bind more closely the members of the church to its divinely appointed head.

2. Archdiocese of Patna Inaugurated Institute for Peace



Patna 4 September 2019 (Agenzia Fides): The Archdiocese of Patna, in the Indian state of Bihar, has inaugurated the new Institute of interreligious dialogue of Rajgir (IRDIR) to promote peace, harmony and solidarity among the different religious communities of Northern India. "It is our duty to promote goodwill and religious unity. This Institute is committed to peace, unity and the unity of people", said to Fides Jesuit Archbishop William D'Souza, at the head of the diocese of Patna, at the inauguration ceremony held on 1 September 2019. The event was attended by over 450 Christians, about 250 Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhist monks, Jainist nuns and numerous government officials.

The inauguration of this Christian institution brings life and solidarity to the religiosity of Rajgir", said Muslim leader Maulvi of Makdam Kund. Philosophy and theology students who are studying to become Catholic priests will be able to directly experience relationships with members of the Buddhist, Jain, Sufi, Hindu communities, he explained. Rajgir is a historic pilgrimage center of Buddhists, Jains and Muslims. It is a land where there are many different communities and different religious experiences. According to the 2011 census, 80% or 960 million of the 1.2 billion Indian citizens are of Hindu religion. Muslims represent 14.2 percent of the population (170 million) followed by Christians with 2.3 percent (28 million).

3. Sainthood cause of Martyrs in India takes Major Step



Vatican 16 September, 2019 (Vatican News): The cause of the beatification and canonization of two French missionaries, martyred in the mid-19th century in a remote village in north-east India, took a step forward on Saturday, 14 September, with the inauguration of the Diocesan Board of Inquiry at St. Peter's Church, Tezu in Arunachal Pradesh. The two priests, Fathers Nicolas Michael Krick and Augustin-Etienne Bourry, belonging to France's Societe des Missions Etrangeres de Paris (MEP) or the Society of the Paris Foreign Missions, who sowed the first seeds of Christianity in Arunachal Pradesh, had Tibet as one of their important goals. Back then, the only way to Tibet was through what is Arunachal Pradesh today. It was on their way while halting at Somme, a Mishmi tribal village, bordering China, that they were killed by its chief, Kaisha, on 2 August 1854. The two missionaries

made their way up from Chennai to Kolkata, then to Guwahati and beyond to Arunachal Pradesh.

In the presence of priests, women religious and a large number of people from around eastern Arunachal Pradesh, the new members of the Diocesan Board of Inquiry took oath to discharge their duties faithfully according to the norms of the Church, during a solemn Eucharistic celebration at the Catholic Church in the capital town of Lohit District. In the process of canonization of an individual, the first move is made by the bishop of the diocese where the individual died. The bishop petitions the Holy See to allow him to initiate the process of beatification and canonization in his diocese.

4. Indian Archbishop Rues Freedom of Religion Bill



Vatican 5 September 2019 (Vatican News) Archbishop Felix Machado, Bishop of Vasai Diocese has criticized the Freedom of Religion Act, 2019 of India's Himachal Pradesh state saying it is restrictive and not free. The government of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, led by the pro-Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), passed a bill last week to check what it describes "forcible religious conversions". Cutting across party affiliations, the Freedom of Religion Act, 2019 was unanimously passed in the state assembly on 30 August. The new law becomes more restrictive with harsher penalties for those who engage in conversions either directly or otherwise, by "use of misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, inducement or by fraudulent means". In the previous act sanc-

tioned two to three years of imprisonment, while the new bill provides a jail term for up to seven years.

Archbishop Felix Machado of Vasai Diocese spoke to Vatican News lamenting the bill saying conversion is a free and conscientious act which should be restricted but respected. He explained that for Christians, the Himachal Pradesh bill actually goes against freedom of religion. All human beings, he said, are born with the right to choose in conscience the religion of their choice. But the understanding in India is that all religions are good, and everyone born in a religion should not change it. Any conversion is coercion, they say.

5. Unemployment Rate among Christian is the Highest



New Delhi 2 July, 2019 (Agenzia Fides): Indian Christians are among the last in terms of human development in Indian society. The rate of unemployment among Christian men in rural as well as urban areas is higher than those from other religions across the country. Minority affairs minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi presented the data in the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament) in reply to a question posed by Trinamool Congress member Prasun Banerjee. Banerjee asked the government whether it has any updated data on the unemployment rate prevailing minority communities. Naqvi cited the data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) of 2017-18. The PLFS was launched by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) in 2017 as a nationwide Labour Force Survey. According to the report, the unemployment rate among Christian men is at 6.9% in rural areas and 8.8% in urban areas,

higher than men of other religious communities. Among women, Sikh females accounted for the highest number of unemployed in urban areas and Muslim women in rural areas.

The minister said that in rural areas the rate of unemployment among Hindu men was 5.7%, among Muslim men 6.7% and among Sikh men, it was 6.4%. On the other hand, in urban areas, 6.9% Hindu men remained unemployed, 7.5% was the rate among Muslim men and 7.2% among Sikh men. Among women, at 16.9% Sikh women accounted for the most unemployed in urban areas and at 8.8% Christian women in rural areas. The rate of unemployment among women in urban areas was markedly more with 10% of Hindu women unemployed, 14.5% of Muslim women and 15.6% Christian women without jobs. In rural areas, the rate was 3.5% for Hindu women, for Muslim women it was 5.7% and 5.7% among Sikh women. In the nation the Hindus are 966 million or 80% of the Indian population, who on the whole represent 1.3 billion people. Muslims represent 172 million (about 14%) while Christians are 29 million (2.3%).



Mariam Thresia **(1876-1926)**

Birth

26 April 1876, Trichur

Beginning of Religious Life

7 October 1913

Canonical erection of CHF

14 May, 1914

Death

8 June 1926,
Kuzhikattussery, Trichur

Venerable

28 June 1999

Blessed

9 April 2000

Saint

13 October 2019

Feast Day

8 June

IV Commission Reports



COMMISSION FOR BIBLE



Bp. Antonysamay Peter Abir
Chairman

Rev. Dr. John Baptist
Executive Secretary

1. The Western Regional Programme: The Western Regional Bible Commission, in collaboration with National Commission organized a two-day regional seminar at Sharaddha Seva Centre, PDSSS, Pune on 25th and 26th of July, 2019 on the theme, "Challenges for Pastoral Interpretation of the Bible in the Life of the Church Today". Seventy members from the region participated. On the first day the programme began at 9 AM. The Bible was enthroned and a prayer service was conducted invoking the presence and blessings of God. Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Chairman of the Western Regional Bible Commission presided over the inaugural function and delivered the presidential address. Rev. Fr. Lui Heredia, Regional Director of the Bible Commission welcomed the participants and the resource persons and explained the dynamics of the seminar. After the coffee break the input ses-



sions began on various topics: Scriptural Basis in Canon Law and Regulations of the Church and its challenges (Rev. Fr. Roque Green – Judicial Vicar, Diocese of Pune), Word of God in Family Apostolate and Lay Apostolate (Fr. Roque Alphonso, Director of Family Apostolate, Diocese of Pune), Basis for Ecological Concerns in the Scriptures and its Challenges (Rev. Fr. Selva Ratnam SJ, President of Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune), Basis of Social Work and Labour Welfare in Scriptures and its Challenges (Rev. Fr. V. Louis, Director of Social Work and Labour Welfare), Enhancing Biblical Apostolate through SCCs and its Challenges (Mr. Sachin Fernandes, SCC Animator, Diocese of Pune), Biblical Apostolate at the National Level (Rev. Fr. A. John Baptist, Executive Secretary), Biblical Apostolate through Lay Missionaries (Rebecca Pinto), Scriptural Challenges in Ecumenical Apostolate (Rev. Fr. Lui Heredia), Word of God in the Prison Ministry (Rev. Fr. Wilfred Fernandes, Director of Prison Ministry, Diocese of Pune). Apart from the input sessions there was a panel discussion on the topic “Biblical Apostolate among Various Movements in the Church such as Neo Catechumenate, Renewal Movements, Krist Kiran Parivar, Sunday School, Youth and Women”.

On the first day time was allotted for the Diocesan Bible Commissions to report their activities and a meeting of the diocesan directors with the chairman to express their concerns. On the second day the participants had a group discussion and reported their findings. Before lunch there was a session on the Outcome of the Seminar and Planning. After the vote of thanks and lunch the participants departed to their respective places with renewed energy to do Biblical Pastoral Ministry in their places of ministry. Fr. Lui Heredia, Regional Director of Bible Commission of Western Region, organized the whole seminar. This seminar was a good chance to come together to share about the ministry and also to be enriched by various presentations.

2. Tamilnadu Regional Programme: The Annual meeting of the Regional Bible Commission of Tamilnadu region was held at TNBCLC, Tindivanam, on 22.6.2019. The inaugural session included enthronement of the Bible, prayer, and welcome by Rev. Fr. M. Ubald, (Secretary, Regional Bible Commission, Tamilnadu Region). Most Rev. M. Devadass Ambrose, Chairman of the Bible Commission of Tamilnadu Region presided over it. Rev. Fr. M. Philemon Dass, (Director, TNBCLC) spoke appreciating the Regional Bible Commission for its enormous activities in the region. Then there were reports of the Regional Secretary, diocesan secretaries of Bible Commission



and the report of the Biblical Apostolate undertaken by the religious congregations both men and women. After the coffee break the National Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Bible, Rev. Fr. A. John Baptist, spoke of the programmes and the plans of the National Commission. He also appreciated the many innovative ways the Biblical Pastoral Ministry is being carried out in the region and requested their continued cooperation and participation at the National programmes.

Then there was a planning session, in which the participants planned for various programmes of the year such as Laity Biblical Formation, Summer Bible Academy, Biblical Leadership, Bringing Bible to the Youth in colleges and parishes, Bible Sunday, VBS (Vocational Bible School), Youth Bible, Children Bible, Bible for the Blind, Bible through online and formation of Bible Commissions in the parishes. The meeting came to an end with the valedictory talk and the evaluation by Most Rev. M. Devadass Ambrose, (Chairman of the Bible Commission of Tamilnadu Region). Rev. Fr. Vincent Edwin, (Secretary, Diocesan Bible Commission, Kottar) proposed the vote of thanks. The participants dispersed to their respective places of ministry after the tea. Rev. Fr. M. Ubald (Secretary, Regional Bible Commission, Tamilnadu Region) organized the meeting with the help of his staff and other employees.

Appointment as CBF Coordinator. The Executive Committee of the Catholic Biblical Federation (CBF) during its meeting in Rome (April 26, 2019) based on the election made by the members of South Asian sub region, appointed Rev. Fr. A. John Baptist (Executive Secretary, CCBI Commission for Bible) to the office of CBF coordinator for the sub-region of South Asia for a consti-

tutional term. The sub region consists of India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The next meeting is proposed to January 2020.

Forthcoming Events: 1. National Meeting: A meeting of the Commission is about to take place at 10.30 a.m on 27th September, 2019, at NBCLC, Bengaluru. The chairman, member bishops, regional chairmen, regional secretaries and the members of Consultative body are invited for it. This meeting will discuss about the Biblical Pastoral Ministry at the national level and the cooperation and networking with regional Bible Commissions.

2. Research Seminar: CCBI Commission for Bible in collaboration with NBCLC, CBAI and TPI is organizing a National Research Seminar on the theme, Interpretation of Bible in India. This is to mark the completion of twenty-five years of the release of the Document, "Interpretation of the Bible in the Church" (1993). This is to be held at NBCLC from 27th evening to 29th September, 2019.



Abp. Thomas Ignatius Macwan
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR CATECHETICS



Rev. Fr. Duming Gonsalves
Executive Secretary

1. Odisha Region Meeting – July 2019: Odisha Region Commission for Catechetics meeting was held at Regional Pastoral Centre at Jharsuguda, Odisha on 01.07.2019. Meeting began with a short prayer. Fr. Duming Gonsalves the executive secretary CCBI Commission for Catechetics, Fr. Chitaranjan Senapati Regional Secretary of the commission, Fr. John Sahaya NBCLC Director (Consultor), Fr. Jadu Marndi (Balasore), Fr. Sahayaraj (Jharsuguda), Fr. Manoj Bagsingh (Cuttack-Bhubaneswar), and Fr. Martyn Porichhu (Berpampur) were present for the meeting.

After the prayer Regional Secretary Fr. Chitaranjan Senapati welcomed all and presented the report of the previous meeting. He invited all to share the report of each diocese. The reports revealed the following catechetical

activities are held in the region Sunday catechesis, School catechesis, Catechists training programmes, retreat for the Children and catechists, Bible Quiz, Marriage Preparation Course, Village Catechesis, Docat and Yocat etc.



Fr. Chitaranjan Senapati mentioned that he has conducted different seminars and training programmes in different diocese of the region. During the seminars in different dioceses various topics were dealt which were beneficial for the catechists. Fr. John Sagaya appreciated the director for their contribution in the catechetical ministry. Fr. Duming Gonsalves appreciated the hard work put in the process of deepening the faith of the faithful. He also requested them to form a Catechetical Commission in their respective dioceses. With a vote of thanks and a prayer meeting was concluded.

2. Local Organizing Committee Meeting for NCC at Joe Beach Animation Centre, Chennai, September 2019: A meeting of Local Organizing Committee for NCC was held at Joe Beach Resort, Chennai at 8.00 pm on 8 September 2019. Members of the Committee Fr. Duming Gonsalves, Fr. George Chinapan SDB (Regional Secretary of TN), Fr. Lucasraje (Chingalpette Diocesan Director for Commission for Catechetics) and Mr. Arul Fran (Manager of the Resort) were present for the meeting. The meeting began with a short prayer. Fr. Duming explained the purpose of the meeting i.e. the planning for the National Catechetical Conference in October 2019.

It was decided that 110 rooms will be provided by the Resort for the participants. Mass and conference will be held in the same hall in the Virgin Park block. Flex printing, projector, Sound System, lamp, photographer, meals, required things for Mass, and saplings will be arranged by the manager. Printing of the files, buying stationery, photo copying, three persons to share success story, arranging the bus for the outing and other things will

be looked after by Fr. Lucasraje and Fr. George Chinnapan SDB. The places for the picnic were decided as follow. Basant Nagar, Santhome, and Marina beach. With a vote of thanks meeting was concluded.



3. Sunday Catechism Preparing Committee Meeting, July-September 2019: Sunday Catechism preparing committee meeting was held on 9 July 2019 at CCBI Centre at 3.30 pm. Meeting began with a prayer. Fr. Duming Gonsalves, Mr. David Istacky, Mr. Devin Carvalho, Mrs. Monica Anthony and Mr. Mathew Mohan Thomas were present for the meeting.

Fr. Duming after having welcomed members explained the Sunday Catechism project which had begun three years ago. The purpose of the meeting was to reexamine the topics that were selected for the each volume (1-12). The topics were given to those who are actively involved in Sunday Catechesis for the further observations and critical evaluations. The members began to evaluate the suggestions given by the observers who had made very useful and apt suggestions. From Volume one to five (I : God the Loving Father, II : Jesus the Merciful Saviour, III :Holy Spirit the Life Sanctifier, IV : Jesus and the Sacraments and V : Life: A Gracious Gift of God) were discussed and many changes were made in the topics selected earlier. In volume 3 many selected topics were found quite difficult for the children to grasp at in 3rd Std. So topics were changed and it was decided to add new topics in the volume three. Suggestions from the Sunday catechists were valued and have tried to incorporate in the lessons. After a good discussion on topics of the volumes meeting was concluded at 7.30 pm with prayer and dinner.

Every week the committee members gathered in CCBI for discussing on the topics of the volumes and topics of the lessons. After having completed

the discussion and critical evaluation of the lessons' topics several changes were made. On the following days regular meetings we held... 17 July 2019, 22 July 2019, 5 August 2019, 12 August 2019, 20 August 2019, 26 August 2019, 2 September 2019, 10 September 2019, 16 September 2019 and 28 September 2019. After finalizing the topics of each volume and lesson, committee members began to prepare teachers manual with possible material for the students in each lesson of volume I: God the loving Father. As of now volume I teacher's manual has be roughly prepared.



Bp. Derek Fernandes
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR CANON LAW AND LEGISLATIVE TEXTS



Rev. Dr. Irudaya Raj
Executive Secretary

I am glad to present this 3rd quarterly report from the CCBI Commission for Canon Law and Legislative Texts, with Rt. Rev. Bishop Derek Fernandes as the Chairman and Bishop Cajetan Francis Osta and Sebastian Thekethecheril as member bishops.

5th and 6th August 2019: A two day seminar on Canonical Matters was conducted in Raipur in Chattisgarh for the priests of Raipur Archdiocese and priests from the neighbouring dioceses and the men religious working in the parishes. There were about 70 participants who had very interactive sessions. The topics dealt were 1) Parishes and Parish Priests; 2) Sacred Liturgy, Sacraments and Sacramentals and their Administration to various Catholic and Baptized Non-Catholics; 3) Difficult Marriage cases 4) Sanctions and 5) Canon Laws and Civil Laws concerning *Graviora Delicta*. Thanks to Abp. Henry Victor Thakur and Fr. Sebastian Poomathil the Vicar General of Raipur Archdiocese who took the all-important initiative to give these input sessions to his priests.

10th August 2019: The Executive Secretary of the Commission presented the 2nd draft of the Pastoral handbook for Clergy at the CCBI Executive



Committee Meeting held in St. John's Medical College & Hospital. The prelates present at the meeting gave some valid suggestions and recommendation to be added to the draft. At present the executive secretary is working on the 3rd draft of the same Pastoral Handbook for Clergy which will be scrutinized by the bishops of the commission and finalize it before taking it to His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias and His Grace, Archbishop George Anthony for their approval as suggested by the CCBI Executive Committee.

19th, 21st and 27th August 2019: One day Seminar on "*Mitix Iudex Dominus Iesus*" was held in three different places and on three dates. The Archdioceses of Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai hosted this seminar on 19th, 21st and 27th of August respectively. In each of the three venues the participants were about 150, including Archbishops, Bishops, a Coadjutor and Auxiliaries. The resource person was none other than Msgr. Leo Arockiaraj of Roman Rota. Among the participants many were canonists and mostly the Parish Priests who benefited immensely from this seminar on the Briefer Process for the Marriage Nullity Cases, where the Diocesan Bishops are the judges in their own dioceses. Msgr. Leo portrayed the roles of the parish priests and the judicial vicars in helping the diocesan bishops to adjudicate the cases while employing the shorter process. His input sessions were on the ecclesiology of Pope Francis, Historicity of the process, the connection of *Familiaris Consortio* and *Amoris Laetitia* and the actual Process Proper. They were presented through Power Point Presentations. The participants appreciated the way the topics were dealt. Thanks to His Eminence, Oswald

Cardinal Gracias for taking the lead to organize these seminars and bringing the resource person.. Thanks also to Abp. Thomas D'Souza of Calcutta and Abp. George Anthony of Madras Mylapore for hosting the seminars in their own respective places.



26th and 27th August 2019: A two day seminar on Canonical Matters was conducted in Kunkuri, in the Diocese of Jashpur, Chattisgarh for the priests of the Dioceses of Jashpur, Ambikapur, Raigarh, Jagdalpur, Raipur Archdiocese and men religious working in the parishes. There were about 60 participants who had very interactive sessions. His Lordship Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta took active part during the session on both days. The topics dealt were 1) Parishes and Parish Priests; 2) Sacred Liturgy, Sacraments and Sacramentals and their Administration to various Catholic and Baptized Non-Catholics; 3) Difficult Marriage Cases and Sanctions. Thanks to Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta of Jashpur diocese and his Vicar General Fr. Sikander Kerketta for organizing this seminar for the benefit of pastoral clergy



Bp. Francis Serrao SJ
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR ECUMENISM



Rev. Dr. Gilbert Aranha
Executive Secretary

1. Majuli United Christian Forum Meeting: On July 10, 2019 the United Christian Forum of Majuli district of Assam had organized a special meeting and

invited Fr. Gilbert Aranha, the national secretary, to address them. The meeting took place at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Jengraimukh, Dibrugarh diocese. The meeting was hosted by Rev. Fr. Joy Pallikunnel, the Parish Priest and the North East Regional Secretary for Ecumenism. He is also the advisor of the United Christian Forum. Heads of nine churches participated in the meeting. In his address Fr. Gilbert Aranha spoke about the need to shun the divisions and differences inherited from the West. He explained the doctrinal agreement arrived at by the Theological Forum of the United Christian Prayer for India (UCPI) for the purpose of witnessing to the Gospel. He appreciated the unity that exists among the churches of the world's biggest river island.

Thanks to the efforts of the United Christian Forum strong bonds of unity have been formed among the Christians of different denominations. A recent attack on a Believers' Church in the district has brought the churches all the more closer under the leadership of the Forum's advisor Fr. Joy Pallikunnel. The United Christian Forum has registered a case which is going on now. Matters related to this issue were part of the discussions held during the meeting.



Home to over 1,60,000 inhabitants, Majuli is the biggest river island in the world which is located on the Brahmaputra River in the state of Assam. This island is formed by the River Subansiri in the north and River Brahmaputra in the south. It has been known as the cultural capital of Assam ever since the 16th century. On September 8, 2016, it was declared India's first island district, the 35th district of the State of Assam. Earlier, Majuli was a subdivision under the Jorhat district of Assam. St. Paul's Parish is the only Catholic Parish in the District and Fr. Joy Pallikunnel is its Parish Priest.

2. Ecumenical Training North East Region: The CCBI Commission for Ecumenism conducted a one day Ecumenical Training/Formation Programme for the North East Region on July 12 2019 at the Pastoral Centre, Guwahati. Fr. Joy Pallikunnel, the Regional Secretary of the North East Regional Commission for Ecumenism organized the programme. Most Rev. Thomas Pulloppillil, Bishop of Bongaigaon and the regional Chairman of Ecumenism, presided over the inaugural programme and explained the purpose of the meeting and welcomed every one.



Fr Gilbert Aranha was the resource person. He dealt with the historical divisions in the Church and their causes. He demonstrated clearly how each of the divisions could have been avoided with a bit of sensitivity and far-sightedness on the part of those who made the decisions. He traced the beginning of ecumenical movement and the entry of the Catholic Church into it following Vatican II. He updated the participants on the dialogue of Roman Catholic Church with different churches and the various agreements arrived at. The talks also helped to understand the Evangelical and Pentecostal churches and suggested technics for dialogue with them. The main focus of all the sessions was the urgency to unite to carry out Our Lord's 'Great Commission': 'go and preach to all nations'. The sessions helped the members to realise that ecumenism must become part of the day to day life of the families, parishes and the dioceses. The priests, religious and the laity should be motivated to achieve this.

Among the participants were Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati and Most Rev. Thomas Menampampil, Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati. During the discussion that followed the talks the participants ex-

pressed serious concerns about the Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala. They expressed their views stating that they did not want to be judgmental but "All we want is that the Church that gave spiritual nourishment and missionary motivation to us in our young days should lose none of its glory, nor miss any opportunity for making further contribution to the common future of the Universal Church." It was decided that a letter exhorting peace between the two fractions be written and signed by the three bishops present at the meeting and sent to the Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala.

3. Seminar on Mary and Ecumenism: The Montfort Institute for Marian Studies, 'Maria Bhavan' had organized a one day seminar on "Mary and Ecumenism" on August 25, 2019 as part of the Institutes' annual conference on Mary. Fr. Gilbert Aranha, the national secretary for ecumenism was the resource person. The programme began with the Eucharistic Celebration in the morning. Fr. Peter Mascarenhas SMM, the Director of Maria Bhavan, who inaugurated the Seminar, introduced the subject and the resource person to the participants.



Marian devotion and doctrines have kept the Christians apart. Most Catholics are unable to understand why the Protestant Churches do not see what they see in Mary and feel offended by the criticism of their Marian devotion by the Protestant, especially by the evangelical and Pentecostal brethren. On the other hand, their counterparts are strongly convinced that the Marian devotion is one of the doctrinal aberrations of the Catholics who assign Mary the role due only to Christ. The excessive Marian piety on the part of the Catholics and the uncharitable criticism by the Protestants was addressed in the seminar focusing on the question: "Is Mary a uniting force or a stumbling block to Christian unity?"

The sessions covered the place of Mary in the undivided Church; the declared Marian dogmas and their background; Mary in the Orthodox tradition; Place of Mary in the Protest Reformation traditions - Lutheran, Reformed and Anabaptist churches; Mary in the Anglican tradition. After Vatican II, the Roman Catholic Church has entered into dialogue with almost all the churches. Marian issues have been boldly addressed in many of these dialogues like for example, Roman Catholic and Lutheran dialogue, Roman Catholic and Anglican dialogue, and even in the dialogue between the Roman Catholic and Pentecostal churches! In the recent years many churches of the reformation have been changing their stand on Mary. They have begun to honour Mary and even preach on Mary in their churches. Practical suggestions were given as to how to address these issues in the day to day life of the faithful. The sessions were interactive. The participants had number of questions which were clarified. The over 150 participants included priests, religious men and women, seminarians and lay faithful.

4. Major Seminary Manual Editorial Work: The CCBI Commission for Ecumenism, in collaboration with the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine has been working on a text book on Ecumenism for the use of Major Seminaries and the religious houses of formation. The editorial board, Most Rev. Anil T. J. Couto, Archbishop of Delhi, Fr. Francis Gonsalves S.J, executive secretary of the Commission for Theology and Doctrine, and Fr. Gilbert Aranha met from August 26-28, 2019 at Papal Seminary, Pune to review the entire text. The work is in its final stage. Prof. T. T. Thomas, professor of English literature and Fr. Andrew Anil Sequeira, OFM Cap are assisting the Commission giving the final touch to the text book.

5. Commission's Office Bearers Meet: A meeting of the office bearers of the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism was held at Xavier Bhavan, Jesuit House, in Mysore on August 29, 2019. Most Rev. Francis Serrao SJ, Bishop of Shimoga, the Chairman of the Commission, Most Rev. Arulappan Amalraj, Bishop of Ootacamund, Member bishop, Fr. Gilbert Aranha, Executive Secretary and Fr. Reginald D'Mello OP, the incoming Executive Secretary were present for the meeting. Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Poona, member bishop, could not participate.

The meeting began with a prayer by the Chairman who also welcomed the new Executive Secretary. The main objective of the meeting was to review the activities of the Commission and draw plans for the future. Fr. Gilbert

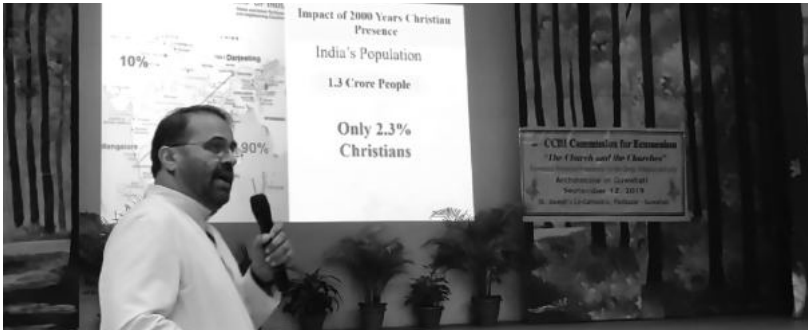


Aranha apprised the office bearers about the objective and the activities of the Commission, and presented the future plans drawn out of his experience since 2010. The office bearers discussed the various ways to make ecumenism an organic part of the life the Church at all levels. They also felt that an 'expert committee' be formed to ensure continuity and to provide advice to make the activities of the Commission relevant and effective. Accordingly the following were chosen to constitute the expert committee: (1) Most Rev. Most Rev. Felix A. Machado, Archbishop-Bishop of Vasai; (2) Most Rev. Anil J.T. Couto, Archbishop of Delhi; (3) Most Rev. Selvester Ponnumuthan, Bishop of Punalur; (4) Fr. Gilbert Aranha, current Executive Secretary and Executive Secretary FABC-OEIA.

Fr. Gilbert Aranha was asked to communicate the decision to the above members and request them to help the commission by their expertise. Rev. Fr. Anil D'Mello, SJ, the superior of the Xavier Sadana Community provided hospitality. The meeting ended with lunch.

6. Ecumenical Formation in Guwahati: During the Ecumenical Training/Formation Programme for the North East Region held on July 12, 2019 at Guwahati, it was felt that such programmes should be held at diocesan level for the clergy, religious and the laity to make ecumenism more effective. Accordingly, the Archdiocese of Guwahati organized a one day 'Pastoral Conference' with the theme, 'The Church and the churches,' and invited the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism to conduct the ecumenical formation programme for the clergy, religious and lay leaders. The programme was held at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, Panbazar, Guwahati.

The programme began with a prayer service conducted by Fr Jose Mathew Kuttappasseril. Mr. Allen Brooks, the Vice-President of Archdiocesan Pas-



toral Council welcomed the gathering and explained the object of the one day Seminar. Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati who was elected the Chairman of the Regional Bishop's Council was felicitated. The Archbishop gave the inaugural address and introduced the resource person, Fr. Gilbert Aranha.

The sessions were centered on the theme of the Conference 'The Church and the churches'. The background for the One Church of Christ to split into innumerable churches and ecclesial communities, the beginning of ecumenical movement and the entry of the Roman Catholic Church following Vatican II, results of the dialogue of the Roman Catholic Church with various churches and ecclesial communities were highlighted. Most of the issues that divided the churches have been so far resolved thanks to over 50 years of fraternal dialogue. The joint commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's attempt reform the Church - by Roman Catholic and Lutheran church - in 2017, the 20th anniversary of the "Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification" (JDDJ) this year and the ecumenical imperative were discussed.



The recent coming together of the 5 signatories of the JDDJ expressing the urgency of unity among Christians for the preaching of the Gospel was highlighted in the present socio-political context of our country. Prayer, individual and ecclesial conversion, and the need to cultivate friendship with members of different churches were emphasized. The sessions were interactive and helped the participants to understand the teaching of the Vatican II expounded in its decree *Unitatis Redintegratio* and the necessity to acknowledge the existing unity among Christians and the duty to join hands in the common mission of evangelization.

At the end of the sessions, Archbishop John Moolachira summarized the entire day's programme and gave some practical suggestions to be followed in the archdiocese in the coming years. In fact, the Archdiocese of Guwahati is one of the ecumenically vibrant dioceses in India. Christians belonging to different denominations live in brotherhood and often come together either for common activities or for common prayer. The one day seminar helped the participants to have a clear understanding of what 'the Church and the churches' are and inspired them to move forward in their ecumenical journey with greater fervour. There were nearly 300 participants. Fr. P.D. Johnny moderated the sessions.



Bp. Sebastian Kallupura
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR FAMILY



Rev. Fr. Milton Gabriel Gonsalves
Executive Secretary

1. The 38th CFC Anniversary, Manila Philippines: Most Rev. Emmanuel Kerketta, Fr. Milton Gonsalves, and three priests were special invitees for the Conference. Couples for Christ celebrated this June not only the great milestone of 38 years of its spiritual journey but more significantly, its putting the family at the focal point of its evangelization and mission.

The annual celebration was held at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila on June 22. This grand gathering was preceded by a week of conferences and

gatherings namely, International Mission Core Assembly, Clergy Congress (Family is a Gift) and ANCOP Summit. The traditional praise parade followed soon after, with an opening number by Couples for Christ. Families from Metro Manila, the Philippine Missions and the International Missions joined the parade, carrying placards which showed how families can become a gift to other families, to the community, to the Church, to society and to the whole world. After the parade, it was time for the traditional Holy Mass, His Excellency Most Reverend Broderick Pabillo, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Manila, and CFC Spiritual Adviser, led more than 40 priests, among them 4 bishops, in the celebration of Holy Mass.

2. A session for the Focolare New Families on 28th July and a half day seminar for the Focolare youth on 1st September: a session dealt with the topic of Sacrament of Matrimony in which different topics were deliberated like: the covenant nature of marriage and purpose of marriage, permanency of marriage, expression of love, love and process of procreation, responsible parenthood, faithfulness and unity, infertility, abortion and its repercussions.

3. A half day seminar at St. Rock Parish, Vasai: A half-day session was conducted for the parish family cell members on the Family Apostolate and its different aspects. Fr. Milton Gonsalves presented the topic Family Apostolate wherein he explained different aspects of the same and how the family becomes the locus of the faith formation. The Role of Family in the world is irreplaceable.



4. The Executive Secretaries visit to Nongstoin Diocese: Key Leaders' Conference at NSSS Hall, New Nongstoin: On the visit of Rev. Fr. Milton Gonsalves, Executive Secretary of CCBI Family Commission to Nongstoin Diocese, the Family Commission arranged a one-day Key Leaders' Conference on the 29th July 2019 at NSSS Hall, New Nongstoin for the members of the

Family Commission and the leaders of the Parish Family Cells of Nongstoin Diocese. The main aim of the Conference was to have the National Secretary animate and guide the leaders of the family ministry of the diocese and thus help them to deepen their commitment and to grow in this apostolate. The programme was chaired by Mr. Julius Nongstoin, Secretary of Family Commission of Nongstoin Diocese and it was attended by 25 leaders which comprises of 7 priests, 2 religious sisters and 16 lay leaders from among men, women and youth. After the welcome speech from Rev. Fr. Wilbert Marwein, VG of Nongstoin Diocese, Fr. Milton started his talk with the structure of *Amoris Laetitia*, a post-Synodal apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis addressing the pastoral care of families.

He said that that apostolic exhortation is the result of not one, but two Synods on marriage and family in 2014 and 2015. He highlighted some of the shadows of family life and a pastoral perspective in preparing engaged couples for marriage. He also stressed the need of family accompaniment after a breakdown and divorce in a kind and open-hearted way. In the afternoon, Fr. Milton guided the leaders on Family Apostolate and briefed them on the structure and plan of CCBI on the pastoral care of the family through family apostolate. He also elucidated the role of Family Commission and Parish Family Cell and concluded with the presentation of the message of 29th CCBI Plenary Assembly to the Church in India. He then divided the gathering into 3 groups on the question as to what changes/suggestions they would like to bring/make in the pastoral care of the family. The groups came out with plans to be transmitted into action in their parishes through Parish Family Cells. The fruitful conference concluded with a vote of thanks. The participants expressed their joy and gave thanks to the Lord for such a wonderful programme.



Seminars at the parish level: Fr. Milton Gonsalves, the Executive Secretary, CCBI Family Commission who was on his three-day visit to Nongstoin Di-

ocese, gave talks on the different topics. Fr. George Jarain, Director, family Apostolate organised the visits to parishes. Fr. Milton Gonsalves delivered an important message on God's love and the family. He said that our very capacity to love our families comes from this simple truth: God first loved us. Fr. Milton focussed on marriage and family as a call to holiness. He said that Marriage is a lifelong process, and the wedding celebration marks only one point in that journey. The sacramental aspect of marriage is not confined to that moment. Rather, it is the whole way a Christian man and woman live their lives together that makes the full meaning of marriage as sacrament. This is a vocation that calls for selfless love in changing and sometimes frightening circumstances, a love founded on trust in the goodness and faithfulness of God, who has given the partners in a marriage covenant to one another as one of his greatest gifts. The vocation to marriage is a call to a life of holiness and service within the couple's own relationship and in their family. He concluded his talk by saying that spousal love is very much important in the family so very clear in the chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians.

5. Jowai Diocese Seminar: The Family Commission of Jowai Diocese conducted a one day Seminar on Family for all the priests, touring Sisters, Coordinators and secretaries of Parish Family Cells, on the 30th of July, 2019 in Samanlang Pastoral Center, Lumbihsyntu. There were about 90 participants who attended this seminar including the Bishop of Jowai Diocese, Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh. At the inaugural talk the Bishop stated the importance of the family ministry in the diocese.

Fr. Milton Gonsalves the National Secretary of the Family Commission CCBI was the main resource person who animated the seminar. Fr. Milton in his teaching stressed on the importance of healthy and vibrant family units in the Church based on the church documents of the past and present. He also went on to ask the basic question, "What is family apostolate?" to have a clear picture of this apostolate in the church. He also stressed on the need to strengthen and educate our Catholic families according to the mind and teachings of the church. The participants were greatly enlightened by this seminar and many even resolved to start paying more attention to the spiritual and material building up of our Catholic families.

There was also a group discussion session; the groups came up with the following suggestion on the Pastoral care of the family: Keeping a close contact with families is a paramount duty of the church through family vis-



its, Marriage preparation course should be taken seriously in the context of many unplanned marriages in our society and the Diocese should undertake a remote preparation for marriage course for school children in the secondary and Higher Secondary level, Catechism in the schools should be given a topmost priority, there should be proper Trainings for parish family cells, there should be Follow up programs for the young couples especially in the early years of their marital life to strengthen their marital life.



Bp. Eugene Joseph
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR LAITY



Rev. Fr. Anthony J. Fernandes
Executive Secretary

TOT Programme Bhopal: A Training of Trainers (ToT) was held at the Pastoral Centre, E-6, Arera Colony, Bhopal from Saturday 13 July morning to Sunday 14 July, 2019 evening. The theme: EMPOWERING THE LAITY TO FACE THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY. It was conducted in Hindi by the CCBI Laity Commission. H.E. Bishop Joseph of Satna inaugurated it with a Eucharistic Celebration; he emphasised how important it is to empower our laity to face the modern challenges. The topics of the sessions: Exploring the Modern Day Challenges, Managing Emotions for Effective Leadership, Jesus' Style - Counselling Skills to Empower Laity, Inter-Personal Skills For Ef-

fective Communication, Aiming for 'Win-Win' as lay leaders today, Christus Vivit (Christ Lives), Animation Skills/Games/Team building exercises. The resource persons were: Ms. Rohini D'Souza from Mumbai and Fr Anthony J Fernandes. The session on Christus Vivit was given by Fr Saleen Pushparaj, the Regional Secretary of the Chhattisgarh Region. Archbishop Leo Cornelio celebrated the concluding Eucharistic celebration, elaborating ways to face the present challenges.



The feedback was very positive. Some participants expressed that the ToT helped to empower them and enhanced their awareness and skills in all kinds of relationships – pastoral, personal, family, work and societal. They became more aware of their feelings, more assertive and able to stand up for themselves; they will be able to express themselves politely, even in difficult situations. At the same time, they became better listeners, more empathetic and able to understand others at a deeper level, which will help towards smoother and satisfying relationships overall. The session on 'Walk to Emmaus' helped them to understand practical counseling skills of Jesus and how we can use it in our pastoral ministry.

Fr Saleen Pushparaj through a PPT very effectively shared the importance of Christus Vivit. He said that Pope Francis not only extols the use of kerygma in the Church's ministry to young people, but also demonstrates and models what he preaches. While the Pope has been consistent throughout his writings, including even his tweets, in employing the kerygmatic model, Christus Vivit encourages pastoral ministers to engage young people through the proclamation of the Good News more explicitly. In Pope Francis' mind, we

must give people the reason for their hope and for remaining Catholic over the noise of the world.



The 'Star of the Sea Senatus', Mumbai (i.e. a higher Legion Council) governs nearly 80% of India, covering 94 dioceses in 26 states. In addition, it also looks after Nepal and Bangladesh. Under its care, there are 600+ units (called praesidia) of the Legion of Mary. In the Bombay Archdiocese itself, there are 230+ units. Nepal has five units and Bangladesh has four units. A pair or more of Mumbai legionaries venture out on extension and consolidation in all these areas, periodically, to enhance the growth of the Legion and spread it far and wide. As their Spiritual Director (temporarily), I use the opportunity to connect with the laity in the Legion of Mary. I conducted a Retreat for them on 17-18 August, 2019 at St. Pius X College, Goregaon, Mumbai for 180 legionaries. I wish to quote from their report: "Fr Anthony urged us to take an inventory of our moral values in the light of the Ten Commandments and an inventory of our lifestyle in the light of the Beatitudes. Only childlike trust and the courageous acceptance of God's Will enables us to do great things for the Kingdom of God. In the opening prayers of the Legion, we ask the Holy Spirit to come and enkindle in our hearts the fire of love, thus enflaming our soul with an ardent desire to take an active part in God's Work of Salvation. The Retreat ended with the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Bp. Bosco Penha. The Retreat definitely revitalized all the legionaries present, and it encouraged us to be true disciples of Mary, thus deepening our relationship with God."

National Conference: The Laity Commission is organizing a National Conference for all Regional and Diocesan Secretaries at Varanasi on 28-29 September, 2019. The Theme is: Promoting and Empowering the Laity for a Vibrant Church. The main sessions will be : (1) Challenges in the Vision-Mis-

sion-Objectives of the Laity Commission, at the diocesan/regional level (2) Helping laity live their faith coherently (CL 34, LG 36) Helping laity identify their charisms (LG 30,31, CL 7) (3) Working with the changing demographics and psychographics of Indian Laity. (4) Laity as Co-evangelisers: Message of CCBI Plenary Assembly 2019 and (5) Shared responsibility of Laity with clergy and hierarchy (NMI 45).



Abp. Victor Henry Thakur
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR MIGRANTS



Rev. Fr. Jaison Vadassery
Executive Secretary

Regional Consultation Meeting: The CCBI Migrant Commission Regional Consultation meeting was held on Friday 9 August, 2019 at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore. The meeting was presided over by Most. Rev. Victor Henry Thakur, Chairman, CCBI Commission for Migrants. Most. Rev. Elias Gonsalves, Member Bishop, CCBI Commission and Rev. Fr. Jaison Vadassery, Secretary CCBI Commission for Migrants led the meeting. Seventeen directors participated the meeting.

At the outset Rev. Fr. Francis Guntipalli S.J, Regional Secretary for CBCI office commission on Labour gave a brief introduction on the context of migration and effort of the church in developing an application to register the data of people migrating in and out. Census 2001-2011 showed migration trend was within the state from northern district to southern district; after 2011 it is shifted as Northern and North eastern states to southern states. The commission focuses on distress migration more than the migration for other purposes which are inevitable. The focus of the commission is on

(1) Providing Services and ensuring safe migration paths, (2) Policy implementation and policy change. Therefore the purpose of the meeting is to getting started, meeting the south. The Northern Dioceses do a lot of work and now it is the responsibility of the South to take care of people who work and contribute. The members present were warmly welcomed to think to-

gether and share the initiatives they are involved in to do something tangible for the issues of migrants.

Fr. Jaison Vadaserry stated the context of the Meeting. CCBI Migration Commission Chairman Archbishop Victor Henry Thakur has written a letter to all Diocesan Bishops to appoint a person to accompany the migrants but it is so difficult to find a person as the issues of migrants is vast and complex with regard to their accessibility, space, nationalities and language. In other countries the migrants are extended so much support and accompaniment in every aspect to make their stay safe. Therefore this meeting is to explore ways and means to put together our efforts and experiences in this regard providing services to refugees and migrants.



Addressing the participants Archbishop Victor said I don't have any qualification to take forward the ministry of the migrants; therefore we are here to learn from the experiences of the participants. In South it is so much organised work where as in North one or two individuals work. Therefore we would consider: (1) What are the challenges of working with migrants and how to face them, (2) Where do we focus and take it forward, (3) When we care for people at the periphery because they cannot get integrated; how can we take along the local people without creating a animosity.

He said, History of migration is as old as human history and history of salvation is with migrants, therefore it is hard to say that someone is of the place. Many say the phrase "Vasudeva Kutumbakam", whole universe is a family but rarely practiced what is preached. We need to take care that we do no harm while doing something good.

Archbishop Elias said that working for migrants should involve people from all walks of life; because the issues of migrants are complex and never end-

ing. Though the church has woken up at least now to do something it is better late than never. So it is time now to network, collaborate and coordinate so that we can organise and work together.

Experiences, Gaps and Challenges: Rev. Fr. Edward shared on the efforts made in forming the commission at the request of the Archbishop of Bangalore. A commission is formed including all religious and sub committees for each Deanery. The Supreme Court Order, every one lakh population in urban setting one shelter home will be set up for the homeless. In this regard, Dream India Network, a network of organisations of all faiths made a survey in the City of Bangalore in collaboration with BBMP about homeless. The Archbishop too participated in the survey for 3 days. Based on the requirement 40 shelter homes are planned to set up. Few shelter homes are set up, one is in Bishop's house campus. 400 homeless are sheltered in these homes of which 80% are migrants. 752 children are in Bangalore from other parts of India who were on streets. Possible funding is explored and there is no dearth of funding.

Rev. Fr. Martin Puthusseri SJ, shared the efforts of Indian Social Institute (ISI) Unit on Migrants especially with Adivasies who migrated to Bangalore for working in garment factories and domestic work; face exploitation and many problems. As pastoral concern, they are welcomed in the churches, masses is organised for them in various churches and after the mass one hour session is conducted on various issues concerning migrants. Linkages are built with their State of origin and their people as ready reckoner in case of accidents, death etc. Linkages with their concerned bishops from various dioceses, for arrangements for permissions on catholic burial and also make arrangements meet their relatives in this regard. To facilitate the integration, cultural gatherings and get-together of indigenous people is organised on international migrants' day.

Mr. Sebastian, a development worker is working for the rights of labourers in agriculture, construction and garment sector. The challenge was experienced in construction field that there was lot of antagonising. So it is important organising people of the locality; forming small groups of migrants on labour rights to facilitate their integration; strengthening their organisation in home states and unionization of informal sectors. 30% of the garment workers are trafficked, so safe paths of migration need to be facilitated.

Dr. Mohan Mani, an authority on the subject of migration in South Asia shared that it is interesting to know the concerns of children affected by migration. Informal work is getting migrants employed in large scale as constructions workers and coffee pickers. The work is in shifts with capital progress but no safety for the people working. It is very difficult to get access to migrant workers because these workers are put in dormitories, brought to the work sites and taken back except for 3-4 hours free time per week. It is an opportunity for the Church for pastoral intervention, linkages, sensitization on labour law. The outside organisations could be involved to organise migrant masses.

Sr. Dulcine Crasta, a consultant to Unicef shared her experience of working with child migrants and children affected by migration of their family. A study of 2700 families who migrate has revealed the exploitation the people especially children go through due to migration. The children who are in child care institutions in urban area house 80 percent migrant children. Ensuring their safety, care and restoration to family require convergent efforts with the State. The systems in the state lack knowledge and procedure lapses making the life of the children difficult. The schools run by religious also accommodate large number of children of migrants. One of the challenges is lack of knowledge with the stakeholders and legal protection for these children. Those who are capable of working with the State take measures in empowering the State stakeholders, sensitizing and capacity building of potential and real migrants to prevent migration or safety measures. Work with judicial bodies to facilitate most appropriate orders. Build knowledge base for policy change.

Fr. Metro Xavier shared about his involvement with 40 Lakh people who migrate to other states and countries. A survey is done and the people are helped in ensuring security measures when they migrate and in migration destinations. Mr. Elroy Crasta, sharing on the experience of Udupi Diocese shared the efforts in organising migrants. A survey of Christian migrants especially fisher folk is done and mass is arranged for them in two places. Coordination between source migration and destination is done. Parish to parish linkages are built and migration cell is set up for simultaneous intervention on policy intervention and rehabilitation. Setting up a helpline for migrants is one of the requirements. Networking with individuals and organisations need to be promoted.

Sr. Nisha, shared about her experience of working with domestic workers. One of the challenges is non-cooperation from the religious and employers. Diocesan cooperation is required to organise domestic workers. Mr. Nelson from Couples for Christ group shared his experience from his focus on family. He narrated the corruption and exploitation of migrants with regard to educational fee. The migrant professionals work in Jim where the certificate is not required. The group is also working with singles where there is ample opportunity to support such youth who are migrants and experiencing exploitation.

Fr. Raj suggested that working with migrants need to forming network and working in collaboration. The problem of migration originates in family therefore we cannot focus one thing at a time but work simultaneously on pastoral engagement, ensuring the rights and humanitarian services. He suggested taking pro-active steps to prevent migration and empower people before they migrate. Rev. Fr. Joseph Menezes from Goa shared on organising cultural events which will ease the efforts in organizing the migrants. People participate and the number increases as it is one of the forum to share their problems. The Provincial opened a shelter for the migrants in this regard with a focus to include the excluded.

Response and summing up: (1) The experiences of the participants was summed up as there were efforts done on, (2) Identifying the issues of migrants, (3) Finding solutions to the problems: language issue, personnel and organising bottlenecks, (4) Efforts in facing challenges especially in times of oppositions (5) Archbishop Victor responded saying care for the migrants is more important than anything. Like a good Samaritan humanitarian services which include basic human aspirations of to be Loved, respected and accepted. If we do that we build relationships because networking is not joining wires but hearts. Being human is being holy because hands that are extended to help is more spiritual than hands that are folded in prayer.

Therefore: (1) We need to come together time to time – this team could be a team of resource persons and participate in exploring options. The wisdom and insights which is more valuable from the sharing from the grass roots could be used, (2) Apolitical people also can help and enlighten us - like Harsha Mandar, (3) Blend both spiritual and humanitarian services, (5) Use the system which is in place to share and communicate

Archbishop Elias responded saying take steps for future direction. Find the root of migration and their origin. We could prepare a list of actions to be taken and guide the people: (1) Giving a letter from the parish priest, and meeting the parish priest in the destination places which will reduce lot of problems, (2) When migrants are in a particular parish, make efforts to reach them, (3) Build a possibility or prepare guidelines on how to solve the issues of migrants, (4) Do lot of brainstorming through a think tank group because organising without proper thinking erupts in resentments, (5) Prepare manuals to help the migrants.

Rev. Fr. Jaison Vadassery presented 10 point action plant to take it forward the call of the Holy Father - Welcome, Protect, Promote and Integrate. (1) Establish regional and Diocesan commissions, (2) Engage pro-actively in building awareness among the public on different issues of migrants, (3) Education on regular and safe migration paths, (4) Conduct survey and collect data, (5) Develop programmes for welcoming migrants, (6) Inclusion of migrants in education and social work institution programmes with a preferential option for migrants, (7) Develop education and communication material on the issue of migration, (8) Take up humanitarian services like provision of food, health services and help desk, (9) Networking with Catholic organisations and other likeminded people, (10) National forum and creating evidence

Rev. Fr. Edward Thomas made a demo presentation on tracking missing person using a web based application and requested to take it up by the CBCI or Caritas India and make great impact.

Conclusion: The participants suggested the following as an outcome of this meeting (1) Prevention of migration by working on various schemes and educational programmes, (2) Include the migrants in health care and other planned programmes, (3) Work both at source and destination of migration, (4) Take safety measures by registering themselves in the application developed, (5) Build awareness with lay community and share what is discussed in this meeting, (6) Plan strategically to deal with the issues of the migrants through government systems too, (7) Networking and long-time commitments such as WIF and other movements, (8) Do easier work first such as pastoral engagement, education and health services and make the people vibrant



COMMISSION FOR PROCLAMATION



Bp. Raphy Manjaly
Chairman

Rev. Fr. S. Panneer Selvam
Executive Secretary

1. Odisha Regional Mission Team Formation 1-3 July: Missionaries and Catechists working in Odisha Region came together for a missionary formation in Utkal Jyothi Regional Centre, Jharsuguda. Fr Panneer Selvam from Suvarta National Team conducted a Seminar on Star of New Evangelization focusing on Kerygma and the spirituality of Our Mother Mary. The participants could understand the depth of the Spirituality of Mother Mary and experience it by themselves. Most Rev Niranjan and Most Rev Kishor encouraged the participants.

2. Jashpur New Evangelization Retreat for the Teachers 1-7, 29 JULY: For the teachers of Jashpur Diocese, Fr Stephen Joy from Suvarta National Team conducted 3 Retreats in three batches. All were able to experience the Spirituality of Mother Mary and decide to follow her as Stars in New Evangelization.

3. Missionaries of Mercy Meeting in Mumbai 5 July: In the Year of Mercy Holy Father has mandated more than 800 priests around the globe as Missionaries of Mercy to preach continuously about the Mercy of God and to be special confessors. We are 12 in India. Since we are permitted to continue this important ministry, some of us gathered in the Salesian Provincialate, Mumbai and shared all our experiences and concerns. We have planned to promote this movement in India. Most Rev John, Auxiliary in the Archdiocese of Mumbai celebrated Mass with us and gave a deep message on Mercy.

4. Darjeeling Mission Retreat for Priests 15-20 July: For the Priests of the Diocese of Darjeeling, Fr Stephen Joy Rodrigues, one of the team members of Suvarta conducted mission retreat on the star of New Evangelization. All the priests were led deeply into the spirituality of Mother Mary. Rootedness in Kerygma, Handmaid spirituality, Amen mentality, Cooperation in the work

of salvation, Rising with Christ, Building the Church and Spiritual Leadership were the important themes shared for the reflection.

5. Zambian School of New Evangelization 10-31 July: In 2018 we started Zambian School of New Evangelization and this year it was strengthened by the mission retreat for the priests of Ndola Diocese and New Evangelization Seminar to the laity in Luzaka.

6. Madhya Pradesh Region Motivation for EMM 11 Aug: For the Mission teams of all the Dioceses in Madhya Pradesh Region, Fr Maria Dass, one of the members of the National Proclamation Team gave motivation for the special celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019. It was all about why EMM? What is EMM? And How to pray, plan, prepare for EMM?

7. West Region EMM Seminar 17,18 Aug: Fr Panneer Selvam and Fr Raju Mathew of Jabua Diocese conducted two days seminar on Extraordinary Missionary Month for all the Diocesan Teams from the Western Region comprising Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. Maximum Illud, Joy of the gospel, Baptized and Sent, Personal Encounter, Testimonies, Missionary formation and Missionary Charity were the main themes considered in the seminar. With Most Rev. Thomas Machwan and Most Rev Rethinasamy all the participants planned to celebrate meaningfully the Extraordinary Missionary Month.

8. Prague International Conference on New Evangelization 22-24 Aug: In Prague, Czech Republic a missionary movement called Koinonia John the Baptist had organized an International Conference on New Evangelization for more than 3000 persons from 23 countries. The theme was 'Testimonies of Light'. It was really enriching and inspiring to promote New evangelization. Personal encounter with the risen Christ, Testifying to the risen Christ, Community life that reflect the power of Resurrection were the key points in the Conference.

9. Prayagraj Motivation for EMM 27-30 Aug: Most Rev. Raphy Manjaly had organized in his Diocese of Allahabad motivational seminars for the priests, religious, seminarians and laity for 4 days in view of the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019. Fr Panneer Selvam, Director of Suvarta Kendra addressed the priests in their monthly recollection, and motivated the religious and seminarians separately. A special program for the Deanery of

Kanpur was conducted for the laity, religious and the Priests to prepare for the EMM October 2019.

10. Suvarta National Team Formation 1-5 September: This year we have a new National team for Proclamation in Suvarta Kendra consisting of 5 Priests (Fr Panneer Selvam from Salem, Fr Mariadass from Jammu-Kashmir, Fr Rufus from Simla-Chandigarh, Fr Samuel Rayer MSFS) and 3 laity with 2 working staff. We had sharing and discussions and planning regarding the Vision, Mission, Methods, Strategy and Action plan for the National Centre for New Evangelization, Suvarta Kendra. Also we agreed to keep up the core values of the centre and shared the responsibilities for the smooth running of the Centre to promote New Evangelization in the Nation.

11. Chennai New Evangelization Seminar for Seminarians 8-12 Sept: Fr Panneer Selvam motivated the Seminarians of MMI congregation for New evangelization based on the Vision of Dry bones in the Book of Ezekiel. It was about the formation of Missionary Disciples in the Church through our pastoral activities especially with Sacraments. All got the clarity about New Evangelization and the concrete means of Proclamation.

12. Dharmapuri Diocese Hosur Missionary Formation 10-20 Sept: 10 days program was organized in Sion Spirituality Centre, Hosur for the religious and laity as a preparation for the Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019. Our National Team motivated all into New evangelization through the following courses: Cana Course, Good Samaritan Course, St. John Paul Course, Star of New Evangelization Course and on EMM. They all planned to evangelize personally and in their families, SCCs, Parishes and Dioceses.

13. Rourkela Star of New Evangelization Seminar 14-16 Sep: For the Handmaids of Mary Sisters, Fr Panneer Selvam conducted a Seminar on the Star of New Evangelization motivating the religious to evangelize in their institutions and places with new zeal, new methods and new expressions.

14. Ooty New Evangelization Retreat for Priests 22-27 Sept: Fr Panneer Selvam preached New Evangelization Retreat for the Priests of OOTY Diocese on the spirituality of Mother Mary and motivated them all to promote New Evangelization in all their pastoral activities. Rootedness in Kerygma, Handmaid spirituality, Amen mentality, Cooperation in the work of salvation, Rising with Christ, Building the Church and Spiritual Leadership were the important themes shared for the reflection.



COMMISSION FOR SCC



Bp. Ignatius Loyola Mascarenhas
Chairman

Rev. Fr. George Jacob SAC
Executive Secretary

1. Team Training Workshop for North India: Five days of team training workshop on SCCs was organised in Pallottine Animation Centre Nagpur from 4th July evening to 9th Noon. A total of 40 persons from Raipur, Bilaspur, Rourkela, Jabalpur and Muzafarpur diocese attend the workshop. There were Priests sisters and lay faithful. In all it was beneficiary for the participants to build teams in their regions and Dioceses. Frs. George Jacob SAC, Cassian Pradhan, and Mrs. Jyostna Lal animated the sessions.

2. DIIPA Introductory Workshop: Diipa Introductory workshop on SCCs was organised at Pallottine Animation Centre, Nagpur from 12th to 17th July 2019. A Total of 48 persons from the dioceses of Jhansi, Jabalpur, Raipur, Sambalpur, and Ambikapur attended the sessions. The Participants were really enthused to build up SCCs in their respective places. Fr. George Jacob SAC, Mr. Emmanuel Johnson from Delhi and Mrs. Jyostna Lal animated the sessions.

3. RRT Workshop for North India: Regional resource team workshop for North India was organized at PAC Nagpur from 5th to 10th August 2019.



There 35 participants from Northern region, M .P, Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal/Sikkim regions. The participants along with the regional coordinators were present for the workshop. The focus of the workshop was on the promotion of ministries in SCCs. Therefore the participants were given training on lesson preparation and made to understand the need to begin initially six main ministries in various SCCs. Workshop mainly focused on the following ministries: Family visit, Education, Social/Finance, Health and Youth. The sessions were animated by Fr. Vijay, Sr. Christin and Fr. George Jacob.



4. NST meeting with the Commission for SCCs: The SCC commission had a two days of meeting with the national service team for SCCs at the Arch-bishops house Kolkata on 11th and 12th August. Nine members were present along with the Chairman Bishop Ignatius Mascarenhas and Bishop Gerald Mathias. The meeting reviewed the preparations for the upcoming SCC Hindi convention to be held at Kolkata from 24th to 27th October.

5. RRT Workshop of North East India: North East regional training was organized at Ka Reimpei Arupe Jesuit Novitiate Mawshoroh, Shillong from 26th to 30th August 2019. Sessions were animated by Bishop Stephen Rotluanga (North East regional Chairman for SCC), Frs. Hippo. George Jacob, Vijay Thomas and Sr. Martina. In all 60 participants from various diocese were Present.

6. Agra Regional SCC Day Council Meeting: 10th Agra Regional SCC two day Council Meeting was held on 1st and 2nd of August 2019, in the pastoral centre, Jaipur diocese. Out of 12 dioceses 11 were present. First day was spent with 4 animation sessions on the theme 'Prophetic Role of SCCs'. There were 2 bishops 23 priests 13 sisters 36 laymen 38 lay women' in all



112 participants were present. Fr. Francis Scaria was the resource person and the sessions were beautifully and systematically presented. Participants took to heart why they should not play prophetic role in their area of functioning.



7. SCC Media Desk Training: SCC media Desk organised six days of media course at Pallottine Animation Centre, Nagpur from 14th to 20th August 2019. There were nine Participants. Sr. Christin Joseph H C, Fr. Jacob Malkias and Fr. Joseph Justus animated the sessions. The Main aim of the programme was to make the network of Small Christian Communities in India among the regions strong. The objective of the course was to equip participants with a broad understanding of the changing fields of communication & skills for being effective communicators of Good News. It was also designed for enhancing the skill of each individual participant to use his/her imagination, creativity & innovation.

8. SCC workshop for the Diocese of Aurangabad: Two days of SCC training workshop was conducted for priests, sisters and lay people at the pastoral centre, Aurangabad on 17th and 18th August 2019, almost all the priests and religious of the diocese and over 110 lay leaders attended the work-

shop. Bishop Ambrose and Fr. Benny Vicar General of the Diocese spoke of the need of building SCCs in the diocese and only then the faith will grow and we can be real evangelizers. Fr. George Jacob and Mrs. Jyostna Lal animated the sessions. The participant were really motivated to renew the face of the church in Aurangabad diocese through the work of SCCs.



9. SCC Convention at Bilaspur: The Archdiocese of Raipur held the SCC convention on 24th & 25th August 2019 at Sacred Heart church Bilaspur. Over 1000 people participated in the Convention. Archbishop Victor Henry Thakur spoke that it a historical moment to awaken the archdiocese through the work of SCCs. Frs. George Jacob and Vijay Thomas animated the convention along with the parish community at Bilaspur.



10. Meeting of the Kerala Regional SCC Directors/Animators: Kerala SCC regional Directors and Animators had one day meeting and planning on 7th September at Carmegiri Seminary, Aluva. Fr. George Jacob, Executive secretary for SCC oriented the members towards a fruitful celebration of the extra-ordinary mission month of October 2019 and work towards the proclamation of the Gospel message through the work of SCCs.



Abp. Felix Toppo, S.J.
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR THEOLOGY AND DOCTRINE



Rev. Dr. Francis Gonsalves, SJ
Executive Secretary

1. Wednesday, April 3, 2019: The Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Theology and Doctrine, Fr Francis Gonsalves, SJ, presented the Asian viewpoint at a tri-continental Videoconference Program involving speakers from two other continents—North America and Africa—besides himself. The topic was: "Is Our Common Home on Fire? Responding to Today's Ecological Challenges" Apart from his perspective, the north American and African speakers were from the Santa Clara University, California, USA, and the Hekima University College, Nairobi, East Africa. The climate crisis is one of the most pressing concerns of humankind, today.

2. 'Team Teaching' in a course: From Monday, April 8 to Friday, May 17, 2019 – Fr. Gonsalves did six weeks of 'Team Teaching' in a course entitled: 'Theologies of Liberation' for the post-graduate (Licentiate) students of the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, California, affiliated to Santa Clara University. The lectures mainly focused on the south Asian, east Asian, African and Latin American theologies of liberation-including Dalit, Tribal and Minjung liberation theologies.



3. 'World Catholicism Week': During the abovementioned 6-week stay in the USA, Fr. Gonsalves also travelled to Chicago and participated in the 'World Catholicism Week' celebrations at the Center for World Catholicism & Inter-cultural Theology of the De Paul University, Chicago, during the weekend from Friday, May 3 to Sunday, May 5, 2019. He presented a paper entitled: "Be the Change You Want to See: Building Interfaith Solidarity for Peace in India." The paper highlighted peace initiatives carried out by individuals and groups in India to foster peace, dialogue, and harmonious interreligious living. It was a good experience to meet professors, scholars, pastors and grassroot activists from all over the world who were committed to promoting peace and the common good across borders.

4. Book: Saint Romero and Pope Francis: The last two weeks of May 2019, and the first few days of June were spent in a little bit of rest, as well as 'undisturbed writing' of a much-delayed book on Saint Romero and Pope Francis, which Fr. Gonsalves had begun writing in mid-2018 but had to be discontinued due to his spinal problems. The book entitled: 'Saint Romero and Pope Francis: Revolutionaries of Tender Love' was completed and the manuscript was handed over to the Pauline Publications, Mumbai, by the end of June. The book will be released in the coming month of October 2019.



5. Orientation Programme' at Sadhana Institute, Lonavala: Being the Dean of Theology at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, Fr. Francis was busy in the month of June 2019 with the Inaugural Function, as well as the 'Orientation Sessions' of the Institute. This included a 3-day 'Staff Orientation Programme' at Sadhana Institute, Lonavala, from June 28 to 30, 2019—involving Group Dynamics as well as Academic planning and scheduling.

6. Bishops-Theologians Colloquium: On Thursday, July 4, and Friday, July 5, Fr. Gonsalves actively participated in the CBCI's Office for Doctrine's 21st Bishops-Theologians Colloquium, 2019, at NBCLC, Bengaluru, on the theme: 'The Gift of Priestly Vocation: Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis. He was entrusted with the recording of the happenings and the presenting of the 'Report' at the end of the Colloquium—something which he has got quite accustomed to do!

7. Agra Regional Meeting: On Wednesday, August 7 and Thursday, August 8, Fr. Gonsalves was the Resource Person for the Agra Regional Bishops and Priests' Council meeting held at the Ujala Pastoral Centre, Bijnor. The theme originally decided upon was 'Priest is a Man for Others, Just Like Jesus Christ'. Fr. Gonsalves suggested a slight modification in the theme by substituting the word 'Servant' in place of 'Man'. The bishops and priests who participated in the Meeting were quite appreciative of the inputs, while Francis was very edified by the active participation and the enthusiasm of the clergy.



8. Seminar at Bandra, Mumbai: On Monday, August 12, Fr. Gonsalves gave inputs to the priests, Eucharistic ministers, Pastoral Council members and some lay faithful of the St. Peter's parish, Bandra, Mumbai, on the theme: 'The Development of Doctrine from the Birth of the Church to Pope Francis' in Khandala.

9. Ecumenism Textbook: As part of an ongoing collaborative venture between CCBI Commissions of Theology and Doctrine and Ecumenism, Fr. Gilbert Aranha, Archbishop Anil J.T. Couto and Fr. Gonsalves met for three

days August 26 to 28 to provide the finishing touches to a Handbook of Ecumenism. It is hoped that the book will be published soon.

10. Fr. Gonsalves is grateful and relieved that most of his lecturing at JDV, Pune, has been completed in the four months of June, July, August and September. He hopes to spend more time not only in writing regularly, but in providing animation and direction to this Commission of the CCBI. He is particularly grateful to all the members of the CCBI for their generous support in various ways.



**COMMISSION FOR VOCATION
SEMINARIES, CLERGY
AND RELIGIOUS**



Bp. Udumala Bala
Chairman

Rev. Dr. Raymond Joseph
Executive Secretary

1) Meeting of Office Bearers of CDPI at CCBI Centre, Bangalore on 8th May, 2019: The Meeting of office bearers of CDPI was organized at CCBI Centre, Bangalore on 8th May, 2019 in order to discuss about "the Congress of Diocesan Priests of India" proposed by the National Council of CDPI held on 26 February-1 March, 2019 at Gianodaya Pastoral Centre, Jalandhar. This is to commemorate the 10th year anniversary of the congress of the priests of India held in 2010 at Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu. Most Rev. Bishop Udumala Bala, Patron of CDPI, Fr. Michael Ani, President of CDPI, Fr. Philomi Doss, Vice President of CDPI and Fr. Raymond Joseph, the Secretary of CDPI attended the meeting. This meeting validated the proposal of the National Council of CDPI and decided that Vailankanni is the only place that could give the spiritual atmosphere which would help the evangelical and pastoral renewal of the diocesan priests. The time fixed was the last week of January, 2020 (28-31 January, 2020). The office bearers had instructed Fr. Michael Ani, the president of Conference of Diocesan Priests of India and Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, the secretary of CDPI, to contact immediately Most Rev. Devadoss Ambrose, Bishop of Thanjavour and to apprise him of the matter.

2) Meeting of the Team of Office Bearers with the Bishop of Thanjavur: As per the decision of the meeting of the office bearers of CDPI held on 8th May, 2019 the team consisted of Fr. Michael Ani, President of CDPI and Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, Secretary of CDPI, met Most. Rev. Bp. Devadoss Ambrose, Bishop of Thanjavour, at 10 AM on 29th June, 2019 at Bishop's House, Thanjavour. The team of office bearers explained the decision of the national council of CDPI and the office bearers of CDPI to organize the National Congress of the Diocesan Priests of India in Vailankanni, TN. The bishop has agreed to be the host bishop of this mega event. He could also agree upon the dates (28-31 January, 2020) for the congress of the diocesan priests proposed by the team. He also instructed the team of office bearers of CDPI to meet the Administrative team of Priests at the Shrine Basilica, Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu.

3) Meeting of the Team of Office Bearers with the Administrative Team of Priests at Shrine Basilica, Vailankanni: On 29th June, 2019 at 6 PM the team consisted of Fr. Michael Ani, President of CDPI and Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, Secretary of CDPI, met the Administrative team of Priests at the Shrine Basilica, Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu at the administrative office of Shrine Basilica in Velankanni. Before that the team saw the Blocks for accommodation, Morning Star Church and the venue of Conference. In the absence of Fr. A.M.A. Prabakar, Rector of the Basilica, Fr. Susaimanickam S.A., Vice rector & Parish Priest, presided over the meeting. Fr. Yagappa Rajarathinam, Procurator, Fr. David Dhanaraj, Office Administrator, Fr. A. Anto Jesuraj, Administrator of Pilgrimage Quarters, and Fr. M. Arockia Stephen raj, House Minister attended the meeting. The logistics and the details of the planning of the congress of the diocesan priests were discussed. The administration of Shrine Basilica of Our Good Health wholeheartedly had agreed to help CDPI in all possible ways to organize the congress of the diocesan priests.

4) Meeting of Mrs. Barbara Rettig at Kirche in Not, Koenigstein In Taunus, Germany on 12th July, 2019: Kirche in Not, Koenigstein in Taunus, is also a partner in conducting many of the projects of the CCBI Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy and Religious. From 2013 onwards KIRCHE IN NOT, Koenigstein in Taunus, supports financially the "Silver/Ruby Jubilarians' Retreat cum Holy Land Pilgrimage" Programme of our commission. On 12th of July, 2019, the Executive Secretary, Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, had visited KIRCHE IN NOT, Koenigstein in Taunus. Ms. Veronique Vogel, in-charge of



Section Asia II, was on leave. But it was also a wonderful opportunity to meet Mr. Reinhard Backes, in charge of Section Asia III and Mrs. Barbara Rettig, Administrative Assistant of the Section Asia, in the International Head office of AID to Church in Need. The Executive Secretary also thanked the Agency for continually helping the commission work and he spoke about various programmes that the commission will take up in the future and requested for further support of the projects of the CCBI Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy and Religious.

5) Meeting of Ms. Branka Begic on 15-07-2019 at Missiio-München, Germany: ISSIO-Muenchen, supported and still supports some of the projects of the CCBI Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy and Religious. From October 2012 onwards it supports financially to conduct RECAP (Region-wise Clergy Awareness Programme) in the Regional level. The Regional CDPI is responsible for conducting above said programmes. So far twenty-one such programmes were conducted by CDPI-Jharkhand, CDPI-Bihar, CDPI-Odisha, CDPI-Western, CDPI-Tamil Nadu, CDPI-Kerala, CDPI-Bengal-Sikkim, CDPI-Chhattisgarh, CDPI-Karnataka and CDPI-Telugu Regions. The Executive Secretary, Fr. I. Raymond Joseph, had a visit to MISSIO-Muenchen on 15th July, 2019 and had a fruitful discussion with Ms. Branka Begic, In-charge of Indian Project Desk, MISSIO-Muenchen, regarding the RECAP Project. Ms. Branka Begic also promised to support further the projects of the CCBI Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy and Religious. It was also wonderful opportunity that the Executive Secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR could have a discussion with Msgr. Wolfgang Huber, the president of MISSIO.

6) On-going Formation Programme for Formators of Propaedeutic Seminaries in India (10-15 September, 2019, Alverna Dhyana Illam, Nochiodaipat-



ty, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu): Our commission organized on 10-15 September, 2019, the on-going formation programme for the formators of Propaedeutic Seminaries in India at Alerna Dhyana Illam, Nochiodaipatty, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu. There were 12 formators from 11 Propaedeutic Seminaries in 8 regions (Agra, Bengal-Sikkim, North, North-East, Tamil Nadu, Telugu, Western, Odisha) who participated in the seminar. The formators from the regions of Chhattisgarh-MP (Risda), Western (Goa), JHAAN (Jamshedpur) did not attend the seminar. Kerala, Bihar, Karnataka and the some of the dioceses in Western region have not yet decided for Propaedeutic Seminaries.

The Theme of the Seminar was "Affective Maturity and Spiritual Direction". Seminar was ably guided by Fr. Wilson Sundar, Director, Anugraha, Notcho-daipatty, Tamil Nadu.

The Forthcoming Programmes of the Commission: **(1) Jubilarians Retreat cum Seminar** 11th eve 16th noon October, 2019 at NBCLC, Bangalore: Silver and Rubi Jubilarian -diocesan Priests are to participate in the Retreat cum Seminar to be held on 11th eve to 16th noon October, 2019 at NBCLC, Bangalore. The Retreat is to be led by Fr. Lawrence OFM Cap., a renowned counsellor and a Doctorate holder in Psychology.

2) Jubilarians' Holy Land Pilgrimage (17– 27 October, 2019, Holy Land): A Ten-day Pilgrimage to Holy Land (17th October Morning to 27th October Morning, 2019) is organized for Silver & Ruby Jubilarian-Priests-2019. The Pilgrimage will be led by Fr. Raymond Joseph, a Biblical Theologian who also has done Biblical Archaeology in Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Israel-Palestine.

3) National EXCO meeting of CDPI (9 October, 2019) at Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu: The National EXCO meeting of CDPI is to be held at 9.00 AM to 3.30 PM on 30 October, 2019 at Our Lady of Good Health, Vailankanni, Tamil Nadu. All the national executive members of CDPI are expected to attend the meeting.

4) Executive Committee meeting of the ARMS (7th November, 2019 at St. John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad): The executive committee meeting of ARMS will be held at 2.00 PM on 7th November, 2019 at St. John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad. All the National Executive Members of ARMS are expected to attend the meeting.

5) XIX General Body Meeting of ARMS (7th-11th November, 2019 – Monfort Social Institute, Hyderabad): XIX General Body Meeting of ARMS is to be held on 7th-11th November, 2019 at Monfort Social Institute, Hyderabad. The Theme is "Integration of the four dimensions of priestly formation in the light of Ratio Fundamentalibus Institutionis Sacerdotalis (The Gift of Priestly Vocation, 2016) and Renewed Charter of Priestly Formation for India." All the Rectors of the Major Seminaries and Study Houses of both Philosophy and Theology are invited to the seminar.

6) Seminar for the Vocation Promoters and Minor Seminary Rectors (North Zone) On 20th Eve-23rd Eve November, 2019 At Nav Sadhana, Varanasi: The Minor Seminary Rectors and Vocation Promoters belonging to the dioceses and religious congregations from Agra, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, MP, North, North East India, Odisha, West Bengal and Sikkim and Western (Ahmedabad, Amravati, Aurangabad, Nagpur, Gandhi Nagar, Baroda) Regions are expected to participate in the Seminar for the for the Vocation Promoters & Minor Seminary Rectors (North Zone).



Bp. Francis Kalist
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR WOMEN



Rev. Sr. Lidwin Fernandes, UFS
Executive Secretary

1. Meeting with the Women's Commission of Archdioceses of New Delhi

On 25th and 26th of July the Women's Commission of Delhi Archdiocese gathered at Yusuf Sadan. At this meeting it deliberated on the forth coming

programmes and the necessary help which could be rendered by the Women's Commission of Delhi Archdiocese during the First Women's National Conference at Navinta. We congratulated Mrs Elizabeth the newly appointed Diocesan Secretary and on her request we briefed few guidelines that are necessary to be followed during the tenure as Secretary. The Women's Commission also accepted the responsibility of welcoming the participants and inaugural programme of the first National Women's Conference. On the following day we visited Fr. Joseph Vadakkumcherry, Director of Navinta, to brief the goal and objectives and to make it a conducive place for our Conference from 18th to 21st November.



2. Grandparents day and Mothers' day According to the yearly planner agreed by the Regional Secretaries meet on 11th May, an invitation was sent to all the 132 Dioceses along with the Mass Introduction, Prayers of the faithful and a few reflections. This initiative was to commemorate the feast of St. Anne and St. Joachim (July 26) as Grandparents/Parents day, and the feast of St. Monica (August 27) as Mothers' day. The theme of Grandparents/Parents day was 'Young, Accept the elder and care them till the end'. The Diocesan Secretaries were also given help to put up a drama on the life of St. Monica. The reports and the photos reveal that many Dioceses did it beautifully and meaningfully, though it was for the first time to most of the Dioceses.

3. Girl Child Day Like every year this year also information was circulated to celebrate Girl Child Day not only in the Parishes but also in our institutes wherever it is possible. The guidelines on celebration along with reflections and prayers were circulated to all the Dioceses.



Competitions Most of the Diocesan Secretaries took a lot of interest in organizing the competitions (age between 13–17) on the Girl Child day under the theme: "YOU ARE PRECIOUS". To name a few competitions, 1) Extempore Speech 2) Recitation 3) Mono Act these three competitions. The best six performances' from each Diocese will be again evaluated at the National level on November 18th and will be awarded.

A word of Thanks to all the Bishops and Archbishops for their encouragement and support to the Diocesan Secretaries of Womens' Commission in celebrating the Women's day, Grandparents day/Parents day, Mothers' day and Girl Child day. Thanks too for guiding and encouraging them to take part in the First National Women's Conference.





Bp. Nazarene Soosai
Chairman

COMMISSION FOR YOUTH



Rev. Fr. Chetan Machado
Executive Secretary

YCS YSM Live-in programme – 29 June 2019: The newly elected office bearers of YCS YSM India had their very first live-in programme in Udupi Diocese from 27th June to 29th June, 2018. All the 14 NEXCO members were present along with their Chaplain, Fr. Chetan Machado and Coordinator, Ms Jesvita Quadras. The office bearers spent three days knowing each other by building their team and also understanding their responsibilities as NEXCO's.

IYCS Asian Café – 4 July 2019: The IYCS Asian Café was organised in Indonesia from 30th June to 4th July, 2019. Five delegates from YCS YSM India participated in the Café. The theme was "Call to meet Young People, Rekindling their hearts, and walking by their side."

National Youth Sunday - 11 Aug 2019: National Youth Day was celebrated on the theme "*I am the Servant of the Lord; May it be done to me according to your word.*" (Luke 1:38) on 11th August 2019 across India. This year many more Dioceses and parishes organized and celebrated the day. On this day young people organised health camps, Bible Concerts, Fundraising events like fete, blood donation camps, *sharmadaan*, planting trees. This year many dioceses raised funds for the flood victims. This is the third year that the National Youth Sunday was celebrated and the enthusiasm of the young people was visible in their celebrations.

National Meeting of Youth Executive Secretaries/Directors - 24-25 August: The National consultative body meeting of young people organized by the National Youth Commission of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) was held on 23rd August 2019 at St. Thomas Mount Chennai. The meeting was chaired by Most. Rev. Soosai Nazarene, the Chairman Bishop of the commission along with Rev. Fr. Chetan Machado, Executive Secretary of the Commission and Rev. Dr. Stephen Alathara, Deputy Secretary General



of CCBI). Participants of the meeting included two young representatives from various youth movements such as ICYM, YCS/YSM, YU4C, Salesian Youth Movement and Focolare amidst the many catholic youth movements in India along with a representative from the commission and the Synod on Youth. The annual meeting was organized in order to deliberate on the present scenario of youth ministry, the current concerns and needs of young people, the implementation of the 2018 Synod on Youth, collaboration between the many youth movements in India and therefore to discuss the further plan of action for the National Youth Commission.

Amidst the many discussions, some of the highlighted points that emerged were the need for proper leadership training for young people, family orientations to cope up with the generational gaps, promoting higher education and career goals in young people, the importance of having a vision and expected outcome while designing programmes etc. Some of the major proposals from this forum were revision of the catechetical system of formation to answer the questions of young people; cultural and spiritual exchange programmes across cultures and states; reaching out to young people via four avenues : churches, schools, colleges and workspaces; the need for diocesan pastoral plan for minimum five years in every diocese followed by evaluation; the need for a resource/ advisory team in the youth commission of every diocese incorporating the various movements and associations; regional level training programmes for directors and animators; seminary formation on youth ministry; use of social media/ AV tools to spread the thrusts of youth ministry and using the post-synodal document along with *Christus Vivit* for a better implementation of the synod.

During the meeting, the board of advisors of the National Youth Commission of CCBI was declared which comprises of the Chairman, Member Bishops, Deputy Secretary of CCBI, Executive Secretary of the Commission, Coordinator/Lady Animator, Mr. Alison Pereira from Mumbai, Ms. Cheryl Anne Menezes from Mumbai (Synod Participant) and Mr. Percival Holt from Delhi (Synod Participant), for a minimum term of 3 years, they shall advise the Latin Church in India via the commission on matters related to the national youth ministry in India.

The Deputy Secretary General of CCBI in his remarks stressed on the importance of networking, collaborating and allowing young people to be a part of various ministries and movements based on the charisms while remaining rooted in their respective parishes which remains the focal community of a Christian life. The Chairman in his concluding remarks emphasized on the need to have a thrust for the country every year that must percolate to grassroots and reach every young people in order to make them better persons and responsible citizens of the country.



National Meeting of Youth Executive Secretaries/Directors - 24-25 August

2019: The National meeting of regional, diocesan youth commission directors and national coordinators of other youth movements in India was organized by the national youth commission of Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) from 24-25 August 2019 at St Thomas Mount, Chennai and hosted by the Diocese of Chingleput together with the Tamil Nadu Bishops Council. The participants of this annual meeting included 86 Diocesan youth directors, 13 regional directors, 8 movement directors along with some national youth leaders and members of the CCBI national youth commission. Most Rev Soosai Nazarene (chairman, CCBI national youth commission) along with Most Rev Ignatius D'Souza (member bishop) and Fr Chetan Machado (executive secretary of the commission) chaired the meeting.

The inaugural Eucharistic celebration on August 24 morning was celebrated by Most Rev George Antonysamy, the Archbishop of Madras Mylapore, Most Rev Antonysamy Neethinathan, Bishop of Chingleput along with the 2 bishops of the Commission, Fr Chetan, Fr Martin Joseph (regional secretary for Tamil Nadu youth commission) and Rev Fr Michael A D (Diocesan secretary, Chingleput youth commission).

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the challenges and concerns of youth ministry in India, evaluate the programmes and progress in the previous year and also to plan the way ahead. The agenda consisted the annual reports of the national office, regional reports of all regions, discussion on the Synod and its implementation across the 132 Latin dioceses and 14 ecclesial regions in India and reviewing the guidelines for youth ministry in India and statutes of Indian Catholic youth movement and other concerns of the youth ministry.

In his keynote address, Most Rev Soosai Nazarene shared about the growth and present scenario of the national youth ministry in India and asked the youth directors to continue to march forward for the betterment of our young people. In his concluding remarks, Most Rev Ignatius D'Souza told the youth directors that challenges are a part of this ministry, but hurdles and finances should never be a block in the formation of young people, he also urged the gathering to brainstorm on a system to make young people own up the ministry by contributing a little portion of their expenditure on gadgets in order to share in the responsibility towards the ministry.

Fr Chetan Machado presented the annual report and achievements of the commission from August 2018-August 2019 along with the ICYM & YCS/YSM reports by the Presidents, Percival Holt and Deril D'Sa, respectively. Amidst the many discussions, some of the key highlights were the need to reach out to more young people as we are not even catering to 20% of the total at present, more focus and opportunities for latin catholic youth, promoting higher education and public leadership in catholic youth, addressing the needs of young people rather than assumption of their needs, evaluation of aim, purpose and expected outcome of programmes, innovation in programmes rather than doing the same routine programmes.

Some key proposals for the directors included the need to have a diocesan pastoral plan, to have a more personal approach towards young people in



dioceses by visiting parish youth groups, the need to develop an advisory/resource team (comprising of resourceful persons, former youth leaders and representatives of various youth movements) at every diocesan level for better functioning of the ministry, collaboration and networking with other commissions and youth movements in dioceses and regions in order to reach out to more young people, sharing of charisms of various youth movements rather than replicating the wheel.

The discussion on the guidelines on youth ministry and statutes of ICYM brought out some meaningful proposals. The annual calendar of the commission was discussed and finalized in consultation with the gathering. There were also the delegates of the Synod (Cheryl Anne Menezes, Percival Holt) and Post Synodal International Youth Forum (Jesvita Quadras, Becaremeo Nongtdu) who shared about the Synod, Christus vivit and what needs to be done to further implement the synodal guidelines upto the grass-roots. This two day meeting ended with a solemn Eucharistic celebration at the National shrine at St. Thomas mount, where the apostle was martyred followed by a cultural evening and felicitation by the youth of Chingleput diocese. Most Rev Stephen Antony, Bishop of Tuticorin was present for the evening along with other dignitaries of Chingleput Diocese. Fr. Chetan expressed profound gratitude to the diocese under the guidance of Fr Michael for the hospitality and the best arrangements.

IYCS World Council, Abuja, Nigeria – 31 July 2019: The 2019 IYCS Global Training Session and 16th World Council was held in Abuja, Nigeria under the theme, “Taking Action for Peace Here and Now” at the Daughters of Divine Love Retreat and Conference Centre (DRACC), Aco Estate Lugbe.

The World Council is the highest decision-making body of the International Young Catholic Students that meets every four years. It gathers representatives from IYCS member Movements present in 87 countries, to discuss specific topics in a Study session and to adopt strategic direction and a Global Campaign theme in a Statutory Session, for the next four years.

Mr Jimmy Padang from NE Region and Ms Jesvita Quadras, National Coordinator represented YCS/YSM India at the World Council. Mr Kamal Francis from Chennai also attended the Council and contested for the post of General Secretary. Fr. Charles Menezes from India, the present International Chaplain is completing his term during the World Council.



Inauguration of BETHANIA: Centre of the Delhi Archdiocese at Faridabad city was inaugurated and blessed on 13 September 2019 by Most. Rev. Anil J T Couto, Archbishop of Delhi. This centre will also function as the National Centre of CCBI Youth Commission from where the National ministry of the commission, ICYM and YCS/YSM would operate and network across the country. There were about 40 people present on this occasion, including some priests of the archdiocese, local youth and lay people of the deanery and the National volunteers of ICYM and YCS/YSM.

Fr. Chetan Machado, Executive Secretary of the CCBI Youth Commission has been appointed as the first Director. This centre will organise educational and professional training cum formation programmes of the diocese especially for young people. Archbishop Anil gave a brief history of the place and thanked Bethany sisters for their service. He said that the CCBI youth secretary will use this centre to coordinate youth ministry in North India.



The Archbishop celebrated the Holy Eucharist at the chapel of the centre, together with some priests of the archdiocese, followed by blessing of the campus and then installation of the Tabernacle and Blessed Sacrament. Fr. Chetan thanked everyone present on the day and for all the support received from various people in preparation and renovation of the centre. He also shared the idea and purpose of this centre, mainly with focus on holistic development of young people in North India. This was followed by a fellowship meal. At present, Fr. Chetan, Ms. Jesvita Quadras of YCS/YSM and Mr. Percival Holt of ICYM are staying at and managing the centre.

Communio India Sunday

December 1, 2019 (First Sunday of Advent)

Communio India Sunday should be observed faithfully and meaningfully in all the parishes and institutions in our country, with proper commentary at Holy Mass, special prayers of the faithful and conscientization regarding our baptismal call to become missionary disciples.

We appeal to all our faithful to be generous in sharing their resources to help our brothers and sisters in the remote regions of our country, so that they can experience the love of God through the generosity of Indian Catholics. All our contributions, big or small, would go a long way in supporting the missionary work of the Church in India.

V. Pastoral News

1. Fr. Vijaya Kumar New Bishop of Srikakulam



Bangalore 16 July 2019 (CCBI): His Holiness, Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Vijaya Kumar Rayarala (50), the Regional Superior of the P.I.M.E. as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday, 16 July, 2019. He was ordained Bishop on Monday, 2 September, 2019. Fr. Vijaya Kumar Rayarala, P.I.M.E., was born in Khammam, on 15 October, 1969. He joined St. John's Minor Seminary, Nidadavolu, Eluru and then studied Philosophy at

Jnana Deep Vidyapeeth, Pune. He continued his studies of Theology and Spirituality in the International Theologate of Pontificio Istituto Missioni Estere (P.I.M.E.) in Monza (Italy) and made his final profession in the P.I.M.E. on 1 October, 1997. He was ordained priest in the Cathedral of Khammam, on 29 August, 1998. In 2003 he obtained a Licentiate in Biblical Theology from San Luigi University, Naples (Italy).

He served P.I.M.E. in the following ministries: 1998-2000: Vocations Animator, St. Xavier's Institutions, Eluru; 2003-2006: Parish Priest, Woodlark, Alotau, Papua New Guinea; 2006-2008: Associate Director, Lepers' Rehabilitation Centre, Bombay; 2008-2014: Director, Lepers' Rehabilitation Centre, Bombay; Since 2014: Regional Superior, P.I.M.E.

2. Bishop Antony Kariyil Elected as Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly

Bangalore 30 August, 2019 (CCBI): The Synod of the Syro-Malabar Major Archiepiscopal Church, gathered at Mount St. Thomas, Kerala, made the following canonical provisions on 30 August, 2019, which have been approved by the Holy See: (1) Most Rev. Mar Antony Kariyil (69), C.M.I., till now Bishop of Mandya, Karnataka, has been elected Vicar of the Major Archbishop for the Archeparchy of Ernakulam-Angamaly of Syro Malabar Church. He will



Abp. Antony Kariyil

Bp. Sebastian Adayanthrath

Bp. Jose Puthenveetil

assume full powers in the fields of administration, finances and pastoral ministry in the said ecclesiastical circumscription. The Holy Father Pope Francis granted him the personal title of Archbishop. He has been assigned the Titular See of Macriana Maggiore, elevated pro hac vice to the degree of titular archdiocese;

Archbishop Antony Kariyil was born on 26th March, 1950 in Chalil, Cherthala, Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly. He made his first profession in the CMI Congregation on 16th May 1967 and was ordained a Priest on 27th December 1977. Mar Antony Kariyil was professor and later Principal of Christ College (now Christ University), Bengaluru from 1978 to 1997. He was Principal of Rajgiri College of Social Sciences, Kalamassery from 1997 to 2002 and from 2011 to 2015 Director of Rajgiri College of Social Sciences, Rajagiri Business School and Rajgiri School of Engineering and Technology, Kochi. He was the Prior General of the CMI Congregation from 2002 to 2008 after which he served as the Provincial Superior of Sacred Heart Province, Kochi till 2011. He was ordained bishop on 18th October 2015.

(2) Most Rev. Mar Sebastian Adayanthrath (62), previously Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly, has been elected Bishop of Mandya, Karnataka. He was born on 5 April 1957 at Vaikom and was ordained priest on 18th December 1983. He was ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly 20 April 2002. (3) Most Rev. Jose Puthenveetil (58), previously Auxiliary Bishop of Ernakulam-Angamaly, has been appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad, Delhi. He was born on 4 April 1961, Edappally, Ernakulam district and ordained priest on 26 December 1987. He was ordained bishop on 21 September 2013.

3. Fr. Vincent Nellaiparambil New Bishop of Bijnor



Bangalore 30 August 2019 (CCBI): Fr. Vincent Nellaiparambil (48), of the Clergy of Bijnor, has been elected Bishop of Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh on 30 August, 2019. He was born on 30 May 1971 at Aripalam, Irinjalakuda. He joined the Eparchy of Bijnor as a minor seminarian on 16 June 1987, and did his studies at St. Joseph's Minor Seminary at Kotdwar, in the diocese of Bijnor. He did his philosophy course at St. Joseph's Regional Seminary, Allahabad (1990-

1993); his Bachelor of Arts from Allahabad University (1994); his theology course at St. Joseph's Regional Seminary, Allahabad (1994-1998). He was ordained priest on 8 April, 1999. After ordination and some pastoral ministry in the missions, he obtained Master of Arts from H.N. Bahuguna University, Uttarakhand in 2005 and Licentiate in Systematic Theology from Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore in 2008. He was priest in charge at two Mission Stations for six years. He served also as Rector of the Diocesan Minor Seminary (2008-2012), Formation Coordinator of the Diocese of Bijnor (2008-2012) and Staff at St. Joseph's Regional Seminary, Allahabad (2008-2017). Presently he was the Priest-in-Charge of Mary Matha mission station at Chiniyalisaur, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand.

4. Fr. Reginald D' Mello, New Secretary for Ecumenism Commission



Bangalore 12 August 2019 (CCBI): Reginald Edward D'Mello (54), from the Order of Preachers (OP) was appointed as the Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism. The appointment was made by the 83rd Executive Committee meeting of the CCBI held on 10th August, 2019, Bangalore. Currently Fr. Reginald is the financial administrator of the Indian Province of Dominican Fathers. He holds Licentiate in Ecumenism and MA in Sociology. He was the former

Director of Satyagiri, Dominican Centre for Inter-Religious and Ecumenical Dialogue, Igatpuri, Maharashtra (2008 – 2012). He is the visiting professor of Ecumenism at St Charles' Seminary, Nagpur.

He was born on 18th March 1965, Kallianpur, Udupi Diocese, Karnataka and joined Dominican Order of Preachers in 1980. He made his final profession

in 17th June 1990 and ordained priest on 26th April, 1992. He was the bursar and superior in novitiate community, Goa (1992 -1999) and financial administrator of St. Charles seminary, Nagpur (1999-2002). He was the Vice Provincial from 2012-2016.

5. Fr. Chetan Appointed Secretary to CBCI Council for Youth



Bangalore 13 August 2019: Fr. Chetan Machado (44) currently the Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Youth and the National Chaplin for YCS/ YSM appointed as the Secretary to the CBCI Council for Youth. This appointment was made by the 136 CBCI Standing Committee meeting, held at St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore in August, 2019.

Fr. Chetan was Born on 8 December 1975 in Shirva, Udupi, Karnataka. He did his initial schooling at Don Bosco School, Shirva and completed his graduation at St. Mary's School Shirva. He joined the St. Joseph's Seminary, Mangalore in 1993 and went to the Major Seminary, Holy Trinity College, Jalandhar to complete Philosophy in 2000. Studied Theology in Vidyajyoti, Delhi from 2002 to 2006. Ordained Priest on 2 May 2006. He served the Archdiocese of Delhi as assistant parish priest at St. Alphonsa Church, Vasant Kunj, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Editor of the Archdiocesan website, Director of Youth Commission, Yuvodaya, Head of the department of Media (Audio Visual) Production and theatre of the commission for Social Communications. He was the Secretary of the Regional Youth Commission (RYD) and the National Chaplin for the YCS/YSM India.

6. Fr. Telesphoro, the New Deputy Secretary of WRBC



Bangalore 10 August 2019: Fr. Telesphoro Tia-go Fernandes (57) was appointed the new Deputy Secretary of the Western Region Bishops' Council (WRBC) and took charge on 15 August, 2019. Born on 5 January, 1962 in Ahmedabad to Goan parents James and Martha, he did his schooling in the iconic St. Xavier's School, Mirzapur, Ahmedabad and B.A. Honours in English literature at St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad. He completed his Philosophy and The-

ology studies at Papal Athenaeum, Pune and was ordained a Priest on the 25th of April, 1992. During his Regency period he completed his B.Ed. and M.A. degrees and also taught as an assistant teacher at St. Xavier's School, Mirzapur, Ahmedabad. He went on to complete his M.Ed. and Ph.D. degrees at St. Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai, Tamilnadu and M.S. University, Baroda, Gujarat, respectively.

His first appointment was as Principal at St. Xavier's High School, Deesa in 1992. In 1997, he was Principal at St. Joseph's School, Gontipur and in 2000 he took charge as the Secretary of the Gujarat Education Board of Catholic Institutions. After the bifurcation of the diocese in 2002, he opted to serve in the newly created Archdiocese of Gandhinagar. He was then shifted to St. Xavier's School, Himmatnagar. In 2018, he was once again given the mantle of the Secretary-ship of the Gujarat Education Board of Catholic Institutions and then in 2019 was given the additional responsibility of being the Vicar General of the Gandhinagar Archdiocese.

7. The CCBI Thanks Fr. Gilbert Aranha



Bangalore 15 August 2019: The Conference of Catholic Bishops of India express its deep sentiments of gratitude to Rev. Dr. Gilbert Aranha who completed the term of his office as the Executive Secretary of the CCBI Commission for Ecumenism. He served the national Episcopal Conference from 2010 to 2019. "As the Executive Secretary of the Commission Fr. Gilbert have made a substantial contribution to both the CCBI and to the Church in India. Especially his

contribution to prepare the textbook for Ecumenism is outstanding and praiseworthy" said Archbishop Anil Couto the Secretary General of the CCBI in a special letter addressed to him.

Fr. Gilbert Aranha was appointed as the Executive Secretary to the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs (OEIA) of Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences (FABC) on 14 March, 2019. Fr Gilbert is a priest from the diocese of Mysore, Karnataka. He was born on 1 April, 1964 and was ordained priest on 27 May, 1988. He holds doctorate and Jurisprudence in canon law from Pontifical Urbanian University, Rome. He also holds diploma in canonical administration from Pontifical Congregation for the Clergy, Rome, and a licentiate in ecumenism from Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas,

Rome. He has master's degrees in history and political science from Mysore University.

He served the diocese of Mysore as associate priest of St. Theresa's Church, Mysore South, 1988-1997; director, social work centre, Mysore CCF, 1990-1997; lecturer of political science, St. Philomena's college, Mysore, 1995-1997; parish priest, Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Kudlur and parish priest, St. Peter's church, Bogadi, Mysore 2007-2013. He was also served as associate priest in the parishes of Taranto and Vicenza in Italy and chaplain at St. Martin's hospital, Genova, Italy. He was the associate priest in Spring Field diocese, Massachusetts, USA and archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, USA and Judge of the Archdiocesan Tribunal of Kansas City and chaplain at St. Francis Hospital Kansas. USA and Newman Centre, University of Massachusetts, USA.

8. The 83 Executive Committee Meeting of the CCBI



The 83rd Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India was held at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore on Saturday 10 August 2019. The meeting was presided over by His Grace Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrão, the Archbishop of Goa and Daman and the President of the CCBI. In the meeting Most Rev. Victor Henry Thakur, Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Migrants, presented the ten point- action plan of the Commission to be implemented at the national, regional and diocesan levels. The ten points can be described in the four verbs of Pope Francis, 'to Welcome, to Protect, to Promote and to Integrate'. The house approved it and requested the Commission to implement it with a sense of urgency.

Most Rev. Allwyn D'Silva, Chairman of the CCBI Commission for Ecology, presented the vision for Green Dioceses, which has become a reality in the Archdiocese of Bombay. This proposal envisages the formation of diocesan and parish level Green Teams in order to make our parishes and institutions nature friendly. It is a comprehensive approach that combines spirituality and education with conscientisation. The house approved the proposal and requested the Commission to take the necessary initiatives at the earliest.

The President Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrão presented the statistics of the Latin Church in India. There are 1,59,26,630 faithful and there is an increase of 4,66,805 than the year 2017. There are 9,294 parishes in 132 dioceses and there is an increase of 579. There are 21,018 priests and there is an increase of 807. There are 58,079 religious sisters in the Latin congregations, but there is a decrease of 4,645 religious sisters. The house observed that the decrease among women religious is alarming and it will affect the ministries of the Church in the future.

The house decided to convene the 33rd Plenary Assembly in 2021 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha and suggested the following themes: (a) youth; (b) ecology and (c) migrants. The theme will be finalized in the next one day Plenary Assembly on Sunday, 16th February 2020, Bangalore.

9. CCBI Office Bearers Meeting, Bangalore

Bangalore 11 August, 2019: The CCBI Office Bearers two meetings were held on Friday 9 August, 2019 at CCBI Centre, Bangalore and Sunday 11 August, 2019 at St. John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore respectively. Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrão, the President of the CCBI presided over the meeting. His Grace Most Rev. George Antonysamy, the Vice President of the CCBI, His Grace Most Rev. Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, the Secretary General of the CCBI and Fr. Stephen Alathara, the Deputy Secretary General of the CCBI were present in the meeting. The meeting discussed and finalized the agenda of the 83 Executive Committee meeting.

10. CCBI Boundary Commission Meeting, Bangalore

Bangalore 9 August 2019: The Boundary Committee meeting of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India was held on Friday 9 August, 2019 at the CCBI Centre, Bangalore. Most Rev. Filipe Neri Ferrao, the Chairman of the Boundary Commission presided over the meeting. Archbishop George Antonysamy, the Vice President of the CCBI and member of the CCBI Boundary

Commission, Archbishop Anil Joseph Thomas Couto the Secretary General of the CCBI and member of the Boundary Commission and Fr. Stephen Alathara the Secretary for the Boundary Commission and the Deputy Secretary General of the CCBI were present. Meeting discussed the pending files of the request of the dioceses for bifurcation to create a new diocese and the new proposal of the Archdiocese of Cuttack-Bhubaneswar to bifurcate the Archdiocese and to create the new diocese, Kandhamal.

11. Recent Bishop Events

Date	Event	Bishop	Age	Current Title
16 Jul 2019	Appointed	Rayarala Vijay Kumar, P.I.M.E	50	Bishop of Srikakulam
4 Aug 2019	Ordained	Joseph Thykkattil	67	Bishop of Gwalior
30 Aug 2019	Appointed	Antony Kariyil, C.M.I.	69	Archiepiscopal Vicar of Ernakulam-Angamaly (Syro-Malabar)
30 Aug 2019	Appointed	Sebastian Adayanthrath	62	Bishop of Mandya (Syro-Malabar)
30 Aug 2019	Appointed	Vincent Nellaiparambil	48	Bishop of Bijnor (Syro-Malabar)
30 Aug 2019	Appointed	Jose Puthenveetil	58	Auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad (Syro-Malabar)
30 Aug 2019	Retired	John Vadakel, C.M.I.	75	Bishop Emeritus of Bijnor (Syro-Malabar)
2 Sep 2019	Ordained	Rayarala Vijay Kumar, P.I.M.E.	50	Bishop of Srikakulam
2 Sep 2019	Ceased	Prakash Mallavarapu, Apostolic Administrator of Srikakulam	70	Archbishop of Visakhapatnam
1 Nov 2019	Ordained	Vincent Nellaiparambil	49	Bishop of Bijnor (Syro-Malabar)