

# ARCHDIOCESE OF PONDICHERRY & CUDDALORE



## NEWSLETTER



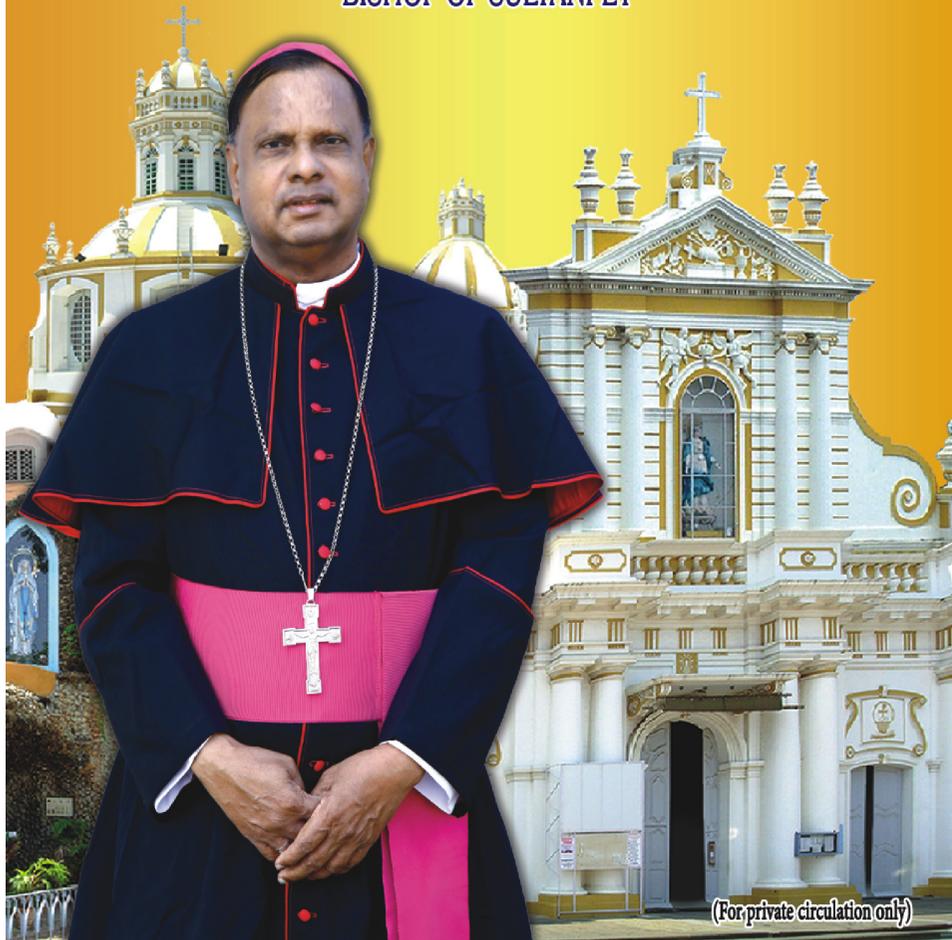
VOL. 38 NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2021

HEARTY WELCOME TO OUR  
APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR

**MOST REV. DR. ANTONYSAMY PETER ABIR**

BISHOP OF SULTANPET



(For private circulation only)



**Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar, D.D., D.C.L.,**  
Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore

Archbishop's House, Post Box No – 193, 206, Cathedral Street, Pondicherry 605 001, INDIA.

27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Reverend Fathers, Reverend Brothers, Reverend Sisters and my Dear People,**

Prayerful greetings to you.

I would like to bring to your kind notice that, His Holiness Pope Francis has accepted my resignation and has relieved me from the Pastoral Governance of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry and Cuddalore with effect from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The Holy Father Pope Francis has appointed Most Rev. Dr. Peter Abir Antonysamy, Bishop of Sulthanpet as the Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry and Cuddalore with effect from Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

We extend a very warm welcome to Bishop Peter Abir Antonysamy, offer our hearty felicitations and wish him success in his new office.

1. As per Canonical norms from this time onwards the offices of the Vicar General and the Episcopal Vicar cease to exist. The Priest's Council (Senate) and the Diocesan Pastoral Council cease to exist. But the College of Consultors and Finance Committee continue to function.
2. Henceforth in Holy Masses after the name of the Holy Father, the name of the Apostolic Administrator is to be mentioned. My name should not be mentioned.

As I am laying down my office as the Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore, I thank wholeheartedly the clergy, the religious, the laity and also other people, for your prayers, wishes, encouragement, collaboration and support for the past 16 and a half years in my service to the Archdiocese of Pondicherry and Cuddalore.

We entrust our Archdiocese to the maternal intercession of Mary Immaculate, the Patroness of our Archdiocese and to the powerful protection of St. Joseph, the Universal Patron of the Church.

Thank you very much.

With cordial wishes,

Yours in Christ,

*+ A. Anandarayar*



**Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar**  
Archbishop of Pondicherry and Cuddalore.

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### The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for February 2021

**Universal Intention:** Violence against women: We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.



### MESSAGE



#### From the Apostolic Administrator...

Dear Rev. Fathers, Brothers and Sisters and Lay Faithful,  
Greetings from Bishop Antonysamy Peter Abir, Apostolic Administrator, Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore!

#### Thanks to Archbishop-Emeritus!

At the outset, on behalf of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore and on my behalf, I wish to thank Most Rev. Mgr. Antony Anandarayar, Archbishop-Emeritus, for his yeomen service to the Archdiocese for the last sixteen long and fruitful years. Besides having taken care of the spiritual and pastoral care with much interest he did a tremendous service to the development of the Archdiocese and education of the poor children. This is elaborately detailed in the News Letter dated July 2020. We appreciate and thank him for his hard work and pray for the continued grace of God. We shall honour him and give him a formal farewell later on a suitable date. May God bless him with abundant graces for a healthy life.

### A Note of Thanks to Vicar General & Episcopal Vicar

On behalf of Most Rev. Dr. Antony Anandarayar, Archbishop-Emeritus and our Archdioceses I offer my heartfelt thanks to Rev. Mgr. A. Arulanandam, who, as Vicar General, with much commitment and interest, helped the Archbishop and served the Archdiocese for the last ten and half years. So also, we gratefully remember the dedicated service of Rev. Msgr. A. Louis as Episcopal Vicar for Clergy and Religious the last ten and half years. May God continue to bless them for a healthy life and fruitful ministry.

#### Future Course of Mission!

1. I have accepted my responsibility as Apostolic Administrator with a sense of obedience to the Holy See and concern for my Archdiocese of origin. I shall try to fulfill my mission as directed by the Holy See and for our fruitful witness to Christ.
2. I have appointed Rev. Fr. Arulanandam as my Delegate who will act under my instruction. I wish to thank him for having obliged my request.
3. My availability here will be intimated to you through News Letter.
4. Priests and the religious can meet me whenever I am here in Pondicherry, of course, with a prior intimation to the Contact Person or Fr. J. John Paul, office secretary.
5. When Priests wish to fix confirmation or any other program for me in the Parish/Institution kindly have prior discussion with me.

6. Kindly do not entertain anyone approaching you using my name for any benefit.
7. At this time of pandemic and in an atmosphere of hardships turned towards Christianity in this country we shall all devote ourselves, through our fervent pastoral and spiritual ministry, to witness to Christ and his Gospel.
8. May God bless you all!



Congregatio pro Gentium  
Evangelizatione

202/21

**INSTRUCTIONS TO THE RIGHT  
REVEREND PETER ABIR ANTONYSAMY  
BISHOP OF SULTANPET APPOINTED APOSTOLIC  
ADMINISTRATOR SEDE VACANTE ET AD NUTUM SANCTAE  
SEDIS OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PONDICHERRY-  
CUDDALORE**

With the Decree n°. 202/21 of 27th January 2021, the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples has appointed the Rt. Rev. Peter Abir Antonysamy, Bishop of Sultanpet, Apostolic Administrator *sede vacante et ad nutum Sanctae Sedis*, of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore, with all the respective canonical rights, privileges and obligations. Accordingly, Bishop Antonysamy has all the rights and obligations of the Ordinary of the Archdiocese (*can. 134, §1*). unless the contrary is evident in the laws of the Church. In particular, the following points are underlined:

- 1) The Apostolic Administrator will be fully responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore, without any reservation. To look into the affairs of the Local Church during his absence, he is free to appoint a

priest of the Archdiocese as his Delegate, who is to act according to the mind of the Administrator and in constant consultation with him.

- 2) The Administrator is not expected to make any major appointments or transfer of priests. without, however, prejudice to his right to do so when the good of the Church demands it.
- 3) The Apostolic Administrator has the faculty to promote worthy and suitable candidates to the Holy Orders, following the canonical requirements (*can. 1018, §2*).
- 4) The principle, *sede vacante nihil innovetur* (*can. 428, §1, 2*), remains valid in this situation, and in the case of doubt, the Administrator can always approach the Apostolic Nunciature or this Congregation for clarification or guidance.

Given at the Vatican, Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, 27th January 2021.

+ Antonius G. Cardinal TAGUE  
Prefect

+ Prospero RUCCHIERA  
Secretary

**NOTE ON ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Distribution of Ashes in Time of Pandemic**

*The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has sent out NOTE ON ASH WEDNESDAY on 12 January 2021.*

1. The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and **only once** says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal,

applying it to all in general: **“Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, or “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”.**

2. The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places.
3. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.
4. **My Note in our context:** The Priest may, otherwise, put the ashes in the palm of the people (as we distribute the Holy Eucharist) and let the people put it on their forehead.

### Reflection from Apostolic Administrator:

#### Sleeping Giant!

+ **Antonymsamy Peter Abir,**  
Apostolic Administrator.

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#### The Sleeping Giant!

**Bp A. Peter Abir**

Anxiety was born in the very same moment as mankind. “The punishment of every disordered mind is its own disorder,” said St. Augustine (*Confessions*). The Psalmist would lament: “I am utterly spent and crushed, I groan because of the tumult of my heart” (38:8). Pope Francis experienced and proposed (16, Jan 2015) a giant who mastered every problem while asleep. That is sleeping St. Joseph!

### Joseph the Dreamer!

We come across Joseph, son of Jacob, ridiculed by his brothers: “Here comes the dreamer” (Gen 37:19). His dreams were a manifestation of his being in the spirit of God (Gen 41:37). His dreams became the medium of God’s revelation, displaying his brothers’ inability to see the hand of God while the Pharaoh, the gentile, could discern the presence of God in Joseph (Von Rad, *Genesis*, 352). However his dreams became the cause for his fall and rise in life: rejection by his brothers and acceptance by Pharaoh (Gen 41:41). In short, Joseph’s dreams reveal that the Lord was with him in all his endeavours, In fact, he would say to his brothers: “You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good” (Gen 50: 20). Here Joseph’s dreams reveal not only the presence of the Lord but also how he was moulded to be a man of God; showing his total surrender to Yahweh (Gen 39), displaying mercy and forgiveness to his adversaries. This Joseph of OT provides much insight to understand St. Joseph who is termed by Pope Francis as *“Patris Corde”* (*With a Father’s heart*) while proclaiming the ‘Year of St. Joseph’ (8, December 2020).

### St. Joseph the Dreamer!

Matthew mentions four different dreams in the case of St. Joseph: to accept the Immaculate conception of Mary (1:20), to take Child Jesus and his mother and flee to Egypt (2:13), to return from Egypt to Israel (2:19) and finally to migrate to Nazareth in order to escape from the danger of Herod Archelaus (2:22). In the first three instances an unnamed angel appears, while the last is a warning by the Lord. The angel, in general, represents God’s visible presence among men (Gen 16:7; Exod 3:2; Judg 6:12). In the biblical concept,



dream is a genre, indicating divine prerogative (Gen 40:8) and gift of God (Dn 4:5-6). As in the case of Joseph of OT, dream is the vehicle of God's revelation for St. Joseph. In his dreams, the message is the important element. These are prophetic dreams that bring messianic revelations. They serve as contexts to convey the message. They also 'add to the wonder which surrounds the figure of Jesus' (L. Sabourine, *Matthew-I*, 199).

### **St. Joseph: Obeying God's Will!**

Many a time we humans do not understand adverse happenings in our life. Onset of sickness, loss of job, setback in business, failures in exams and so on- we tend to ask: *why me?* Often caught up in discomfort and discouragement, we tend to seek evil 'saviours.' At a moment of grave confusion what is just could seem unjust and what is unjust could seem just. St. Joseph, being a just man, could not countenance Mary's pregnancy before the formal marriage. Being betrothed to Mary he could not have been peaceful. You or I would have spent sleepless nights-but not St. Joseph! He slept peacefully, completely relying on the will of God, and the great truth of the Immaculate Conception was revealed to him (Mt 1:20-23).

St. Joseph should have sensed the antagonism of Herod the great and the elders of Jerusalem (Mt 2:2) when they came to know of the birth of the 'king of the Jews,' a child that would threaten the aristocratic rulers. But he continued to dream and wait for God's design to take Child Jesus to Egypt. Again, in Egypt, he waited for divine guidance and so in a dream was directed back to Judea, and finally to Nazareth. In all these crises and conflicts St. Joseph did not get discouraged but exhibited total surrender to God's will and direction. It is a ready '*fiat*' as in the case of Mary's encounter with the angel (Lk 1:38).

For this complete surrender of St. Joseph, God gave him the gift of becoming the formal husband of Mary ('*take up Mary as your wife*') and the father of Child Jesus (*the right to name*).

St. Joseph is the protector of Mary and Child Jesus, not only in the physical sense, but also in the moral sense, accepting the social responsibility of a husband and father. Relying totally on God's hand, St. Joseph was not worried of the social criticisms of accepting this task. So, he could sleep peacefully! As Our Lord asserted, the path towards resurrection is the way of the Cross; following religious and social responsibilities, hardships are abundant. But we can sleep peacefully like St. Joseph if we clear away all our egos, anxieties and self-centeredness and see the hand of God in everything.

### **St. Joseph: the Just Man!**

The public complement given by the evangelist is that St. Joseph was just (Mt 1:19). In the context of Mary's pregnancy, St. Joseph, a devout Jew, was to follow the Mosaic precept which prescribed: "stone her to death" (Deut 22:21). But, he, in this conflict, was not only upright ("*dismiss her quietly*") but also merciful ("*unwilling to expose her to public disgrace*"). He did not follow the letter of the law, as many legalists today make rash judgements, but manifested an intelligent application of principle and compassion. We are led by sleeping St. Joseph to the realization that there is no justice without mercy and no mercy without justice!

**APOSTOLIC ADMINSTRATOR'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR  
FEBRUARY - 2021**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme</b>	<b>Place</b>
Feb 1	3.30 pm	Meeting in Palana Hospital	Palakkad
Feb 3	4.45 pm	Farewell Function for Bishop Singaroyan	Salem
Feb 4		Feast Mass	Thanjavur
<b>Feb 5-8</b>			<b>Pondicherry</b>
Feb 9	9.00 am-	Board Meeting of Bishops	Coimbatore
	5.30 pm	Good Shepherd Seminary CBF Consultation Meeting	Webinar
Feb 10	10.30 am	Priests' Recollection	Palakkad
<b>Feb 13-14</b>			<b>Pondicherry</b>
Feb 13	11 am	Jubilee Mass for Sisters- FIHM Congregation	Cuddalore
Feb 16	6.30 am	Anniversary Mass of Episcopal Ordination Cathedral-	Sultanpet
Feb 17	6.30 am	Ash Wednesday Mass Cathedral-	Sultanpet
Feb 18-20		MTh (Bible) classes - St. Peter's Seminary	Bangalore
<b>Feb 21-23</b>			<b>Pondicherry</b>
Feb 25		Board Meeting of Bishops- St. Peter's Seminary	Bangalore



***Message of His Holiness Pope Francis  
for Lent 2021***

***“Be hold, we are going up to Jerusalem” (Mt 20:18)***

*Lent: a Time for Renewing Faith, Hope and Love*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus revealed to his disciples the deepest meaning of his mission when he told them of his passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father's will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who “humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross” (*Phil 2:8*). During this season of conversion, let us renew our *faith*, draw from the “living water” of *hope*, and receive with open hearts the *love* of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ. At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

*Fasting, prayer and almsgiving*, as preached by Jesus (cf. *Mt 6:1-18*), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (*fasting*), concern and loving care for the poor (*almsgiving*), and childlike dialogue with the Father (*prayer*)

make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

1. *Faith calls us to accept the truth and testify to it before God and all our brothers and sisters.*

In this Lenten season, *accepting and living the truth revealed in Christ* means, first of all, opening our hearts to God's word, which the Church passes on from generation to generation. This truth is not an abstract concept reserved for a chosen intelligent few. Instead, it is a message that all of us can receive and understand thanks to the wisdom of a heart open to the grandeur of God, who loves us even before we are aware of it. Christ himself is this truth. By taking on our humanity, even to its very limits, he has made himself the way – demanding, yet open to all – that leads to the fullness of life.

*Fasting, experienced as a form of self-denial*, helps those who undertake it in simplicity of heart to rediscover God's gift and to recognize that, created in his image and likeness, we find our fulfilment in him. In embracing the experience of poverty, those who fast make themselves poor with the poor and accumulate the treasure of a love both received and shared. In this way, fasting helps us to love God and our neighbour, inasmuch as love, as Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches, is a movement outwards that focuses our attention on others and considers them as one with ourselves (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 93).

*Lent is a time for believing*, for welcoming God into our lives and allowing him to “make his dwelling” among us (cf. *Jn 14:23*). Fasting involves being freed from all that weighs us down – like consumerism or an excess of information, whether true or false – in order to open the doors of our hearts to the One who comes to us, poor in all things, yet “full of grace and truth” (*Jn 1:14*): the Son of God our Saviour.

2. *Hope as “living water” enabling us to continue our journey.*

*The Samaritan woman at the well, whom Jesus asks for a drink*, does not understand what he means when he says that he can offer her “living water” (*Jn 4:10*). Naturally, she thinks that he is referring to material water, but Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit whom he will give in abundance through the paschal mystery, bestowing a hope that does not disappoint. Jesus had already spoken of this hope when, in telling of his passion and death, he said that he would “be raised on the third day” (*Mt 20:19*). Jesus was speaking of the future opened up by the Father's mercy. Hoping with him and because of him means believing that history does not end with our mistakes, our violence and injustice, or the sin that crucifies Love. It means receiving from his open heart the Father's forgiveness.

*In these times of trouble*, when everything seems fragile and uncertain, it may appear challenging to speak of hope. Yet Lent is precisely the season of hope, when we turn back to God who patiently continues to care for his creation which we have often mistreated (cf. *Laudato Si'*, 32-33; 43-44). Saint Paul urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: “Be reconciled to God” (*2 Cor 5:20*). By receiving forgiveness in the sacrament that lies at the heart of our process of conversion, we in turn can spread forgiveness to others. Having received forgiveness ourselves, we can offer it through our willingness to enter into attentive dialogue with others and to give comfort to those experiencing sorrow and pain. God's forgiveness, offered also through our words and actions, enables us to experience an Easter of fraternity.

In Lent, may we be increasingly concerned with “speaking words of comfort, strength, consolation and encouragement, and not words that demean, sadden, anger or show scorn” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 223). In order to give hope to others, it is sometimes enough simply to be kind, to be “willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to

“speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference” (ibid., 224).

*Through recollection and silent prayer, hope is given to us as inspiration and interior light, illuminating the challenges and choices we face in our mission. Hence the need to pray (cf. Mt 6:6) and, in secret, to encounter the Father of tender love.*

*To experience Lent in hope entails growing in the realization that, in Jesus Christ, we are witnesses of new times, in which God is “making all things new” (cf. Rev 21:1-6). It means receiving the hope of Christ, who gave his life on the cross and was raised by God on the third day, and always being “prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls [us] to account for the hope that is in [us]” (1 Pet 3:15).*

*3. Love, following in the footsteps of Christ, in concern and compassion for all, is the highest expression of our faith and hope.*

*Love rejoices in seeing others grow. Hence it suffers when others are anguished, lonely, sick, homeless, despised or in need. Love is a leap of the heart; it brings us out of ourselves and creates bonds of sharing and communion.*

*“‘Social love’ makes it possible to advance towards a civilization of love, to which all of us can feel called. With its impulse to universality, love is capable of building a new world. No mere sentiment, it is the best means of discovering effective paths of development for everyone” (Fratelli Tutti, 183).*

*Love is a gift that gives meaning to our lives. It enables us to view those in need as members of our own family, as friends, brothers or sisters. A small amount, if given with love, never ends, but becomes a source of life and happiness. Such was the case with the jar of meal and jug of oil of the widow of*

Zarephath, who offered a cake of bread to the prophet Elijah (cf. 1 Kings 17:7-16); it was also the case with the loaves blessed, broken and given by Jesus to the disciples to distribute to the crowd (cf. Mk 6:30-44). Such is the case too with our almsgiving, whether small or large, when offered with joy and simplicity.

*To experience Lent with love means caring for those who suffer or feel abandoned and fearful because of the Covid-19 pandemic. In these days of deep uncertainty about the future, let us keep in mind the Lord’s word to his Servant, “Fear not, for I have redeemed you” (Is 43:1). In our charity, may we speak words of reassurance and help others to realize that God loves them as sons and daughters. “Only a gaze transformed by charity can enable the dignity of others to be recognized and, as a consequence, the poor to be acknowledged and valued in their dignity, respected in their identity and culture, and thus truly integrated into society” (Fratelli Tutti, 187).*

Dear brothers and sisters, every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us – as communities and as individuals – to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Saviour, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.

**Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 November 2020,**

**the Memorial of Saint Martin of Tours**

**FRANCISCUS**

## Voice from Metropolitan Matrimonial Tribunal – 122

### 1. Report of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Tamil Nadu Canonists' Association

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of TNCA began on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 at TNBCLC, Tindivanam with the invoking of the Holy Spirit, Bible reading, prayer and the lighting of the Kuthuvillakku led by Rev. Sr. Maria Chinnarani, Frs. S. Pascal Raj, TNCA President, Angel, Alagu Selvam, C.M. Joseph, Arputha Xavier and Fr. Lawrence Irudayaraj. The President welcomed the participants whole heartily and appreciated everyone for taking trouble in spite of Pandemic Covid 19 threat attending enthusiastically. We observed a minute of silence remembering of Late Mgr. Y. Irudayaraj, one of the founding members of TNCA (Born: 25-10-1937; Ordination: 23-03-1966; Died on 19-07-2020, diocese of Triuchy), Mgr. S. Solomon (Born: 01-09-1958; Ordination: 14-04-1985; Died on 20-10-2020, diocese of Kottar) and Fr. M. Philip Santiago (Born: 10-01-1974; Ordination: 29-04-2002; Died on 14-10-2020, diocese of Kumbakonam). Fr. Xavier Devasagayam read out the minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of TNCA, Pondicherry. The participants introduced themselves one another. 38 participants attended the meeting and 5 from Our Archdiocese.

In the first session, Rev. Fr. George Vincent, Kottar presented on: "Sui Iuris Churches" and moderated by Fr. Norbert. There was good interaction and active participation. After the tea break, Fr. Arumainathan ofm explained on: "Civil Registration of Marriages" and moderated by Fr. Martin Manuel. Fr. James

Anthuvan Dass, Sivagangai, talked on: "Canonization Process" and moderated by Fr. Charles MMI. The speaker highlighted the procedure and conducting the diocesan enquiry for the causes of saints. After the interaction, there was lunch and noon rest.

The afternoon session, Fr. Yakkobu, Chingalpet, presented on: "Cooperation among the priests c. 275" and moderated by Fr. A. Rayappan. A new book on "Pastral Canon Law" by Fr. C.M. Joseph was introduced by Fr. A. Rayappan, St. Peter's Seminary, Bangalore. Fr. Peter Thumma, Chennai spoke on "Fratelli Tutti" and moderated by Fr. Charles, Chennai at the evening session. There were lots of interactions, doubts and clarifications in every session. It lasted for some time for a fruitful discussion. There was evening Holy Mass, supper and rest.

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021, at 6.30 am Morning Prayer and concelebrating of the participants, presided by Most Rev. Dr. S. Antonisamy, Bishop of Palayamkottai. This Special Requiem Mass offered for the repose of the souls of Late Mgr. Y. Irudayaraj, one of the founding members of TNCA, Mgr. S. Solomon and Fr. M. Philip Santiago. The liturgy was organized by Frs. Angel Raj and Philomindoss. Then we had the breakfast.

On the second day first session began at 9.00 am with the key note address by Bishop Antonisamy on "Amoris Laetitia" and followed by F. Jegadeesh ofm cap, on: "Patris Corde" – the role of catholic parents in the light of Tamil Nadu Family situation and moderated by Fr. Alex Gnanaraj. The Fr. Alagu Selvan presented on "Canonical Updates" and moderated by Fr. Jacob. After the interaction, Fr. Philomindoss, the treasurer, presented the account. There was group photo session. After the break Fr. Michael Anand, ofm, dealt on "Recent Civil updates" and moderated by Fr. George, Trichy.

Bishop Antonisamy, Frs. Rayappan, C.M. Joseph and Alaguselvam cleared the doubts in the Panel session.

There was election of office bearers. The participants decided unanimously to continue Fr. S. Pascal Raj as President of TNCA and Fr. Angel Raj as Vice-President. Fr. Philomindoss continues as treasurer and Fr. Antony Joseph (Tony) elected (18 out of 31) as new secretary. The President Fr. S. Pascal Raj thanked the outgoing Secretary Fr. Xavier Devasagayam who served for six years and fixing the dates and topics for the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Canonists' Association. The Venue is fixed as TNBCLC, Tindivanam and the next meeting will be on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 (Wednesday & Thursday). The Main theme as "Marriage and Family" and the presentation will be in Tamil. Under able guidance of Fr. Angel Raj, it will be compiled as book form in honour of Mgr. Y. Irudaya Raj. The topics and resource persons will be worked out by the service team. The President proposed the vote of the thanks. The meeting came to a close with hymn and angelus. (NB: Apart from the postal address, The President can be contacted only through his cell: 99402 98985 or email id: [pascalraj@hotmail.com](mailto:pascalraj@hotmail.com) ).

**Rev. Fr. A. Rayappan, MCL  
Parochial Administrator  
Kurumbagaram**

### **The Spiritual and community – life formation received lays the foundation for one's life:**

There are five principles that can be learnt and adopted from in our times, to guide all aspects of our ministry:

- First and foremost, people are more important than a task; Human dignity is to be respected and revered. Treating

people with dignity is foundational in all aspects of our life especially in community work;

- Personal well-being: if you are not well, you cannot take care of the other, self-care is important to be vital and to be present in a true way;
- Trust and honor the transforming power of the spirit that is beyond our human intellect. No matter how difficult and hard one's life has been, there is always hope and there is always a possibility for transformation and to experience life in its fullest.
- The fifth principle is the belief that our need for community and communion is an essential element to a richer life. one cannot participate in the community without going through self-transformation which is a true gift from God. The culmination of values that represents the walks of life, times, and people directed our path. Sharing some of the traits:

**Life of Gratitude:** Every day is a gift, live each moment with gratitude for the gift of our life.

**Courage:** Life is not always easy. There are times when the only way you move forward and make it through your day is by being courageous and making the choice to get up and walk even if everything looks dark and gloomy.

**Consistency:** Show consistency in life with words and actions. It is easier to follow / trust a person who shows reliability especially when you are trying to create a community with people.

**Commitment :** If you are to lead and make difference in the world, you need to be committed, like the scripture reminds

us, *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters (Col 3:23).*

**Creativity:** Sometimes, it is not the lack of resources but rather the lack of creativity that hinders us from doing things that will make a difference in another person's life. Creativity brings newness to situations, encourages people to try out new things, provide solutions rather than compound problems, and it changes the way we look at life in general.

**Hope:** The life-changing value one hold dear to one's heart as a person of faith. One learned over time and from shared stories of others that having hope can be the difference between life and death. It is the determining factor in how a person survives an ordeal or not, and how someone holds onto the last straw even when everything else tells them there is nothing to look forward to. A person who has hope finds joy in suffering and trials as they see light beyond the darkness.

In, summary, the passion, and zeal one has experienced during those years extended beyond the small Jesus Youth circles and still inspires one to do what otherwise would've been impossible. Jesus Youth and L'Arche played significant roles in shaping the person one and the leader one is called to be, providing one the opportunity to deepen one's relationship with Christ, tools for a lifetime of discipleship, and the courage to invite others to join the journey.

*(Kairos Global, Issue 31, pp. 12-13).*

**Points to Ponder:**

- When nails grow long, we cut the nails and not fingers. Similarly when, misunderstanding grow up, let us cut our ego, not our relationship.

- "Around us there is the presence of evil. The devil is at work. But in a loud voice I say: GOD IS STONGER!" - Pope Francis
- Learn to be indifferent to what makes no difference. – Marcus
- **When idiots get rich, they don't mix with others!** (Rat-swallowed diamond- spotted out- out of 1000s of rats- sitting alone. It's a bitter reality and not a joke).
- **Patience Pays:** Simplicity, patience, compassion – these three are your greatest treasures. **Simple** in actions and thoughts, you return to the source of being. **Patient** with both friends and enemies, you accord with the way things are. **Compassionate** towards yourself, you reconcile all beings in the world.

Let us offer our ministries for the souls in purgatory who will in return pray that we may learn to die to our 'ego' during the Lenten season in order to rise with Him on Easter. May the coming Holy Lenten Observances bring Peace and Reconciliation at the Families and thanking you.

**Fr. S. Pascal Raj**  
Judicial Vicar

**YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH**

**St. Joseph Pray for our Archdiocese**



## St. Xavier's Pastoral Centre

**Dear Rev. Fathers,**

St. Xavier's Pastoral Centre whole heartedly thanks and appreciates Our Archbishop Emeritus, Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar for his pastoral support to all the activities of the Pastoral Centre, such as the formation and the regular functioning of the Diocesan Pastoral Council and the Commissions of our diocese. He was really generous and understanding to all the Commissions' activities. He gave freedom to plan and do the works of the Commissions. Also financially he supported the Commissions generously. He understood the difficulties of the Commissions' Secretaries always in their work and encouraged them with loving and caring heart of a father. So as the Co-ordinator of the Commissions, on behalf of them all and myself as well, I thank our Archbishop Emeritus and wish him a peaceful, retired life and assure him of all our prayers.

We also welcome Most Rev. Dr. A. Peter Abir, Bishop of Sultanpet, Kerala, who is appointed as the Apostolic Administrator of our Archdiocese. Since he is our diocesan Priest, he will surely understand the people and the present situation of our diocese and guide and lead us in the right path and direction. And we wish him all success in his additional Episcopal ministry in our Archdiocese.

### Commission for Evangelization

I will be sending the materials for the celebration of the Holy Childhood Day either by post or through your Vicars Forane. Kindly receive them and celebrate the Holy Childhood Sunday on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

The Third Saturday Charismatic Healing Prayer Meeting for the month of February also is not possible. The government has not given permission to hold any meeting in our place for a long time and that too for us we will be around 300 to 400 people for the whole day. So the Centre doesn't want to take any risk and become the cause for any eventual spreading of Corona Virus.

### Commission for Media and Communication – Madha T.V.

On 19<sup>th</sup> of January we had an "ON LINE" meeting of the Diocesan Secretaries for the Commission for Media and Communication and discussed about the special programme for Lent. And all the dioceses have taken different programmes for the Fridays of lent and Holy Week. I have chosen to shoot the Rosary for the Maundy Thursday. So Dear Fathers, if any one of you want to record this Rosary along with your parish people, you are welcome to come forward and contact me and I will guide you how to proceed.

### Christhuvar Vazhurimai Iyakkam

On 6<sup>th</sup> February we have a joint meeting of Christhuvar Vazhurimai Iyakkam and the Laity Council at Pratiyur, Trichy, to discuss about the forth coming legislative assembly elections in Tamilnadu and Pondicherry during this very disturbing national political scenario because of so many anti-human, anti-

constitutional and anti-democratic laws of the Central Government which acts in total negligence of the welfare of the people and very specially of the poor. After this meeting I will let you know their directions and accordingly, kindly animate our people politically so that Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry be governed by peoples' welfare minded leaders.

### Commission for Anbiyam

I hope many of you have celebrated the month of Anbiyam. Kindly send me a short report of your Anbiyam activities in your parish to my Whatsapp or to my e-mail: fr\_philo@yahoo.com

### Conference of the Diocesan Priests of India (CDPI)

We usually conduct our Annual Council Meeting of the Conference of the Diocesan Priests of India for four days in various places in our country. But because of the fear of Covid-19, we are unable to conduct this meeting, instead, we will be

### Conference of the Diocesan Priests of India (CDPI)

We usually conduct our Annual Council Meeting of the Conference of the Diocesan Priests of India for four days in various places in our country. But because of the fear of Covid-19, we are unable to conduct this meeting, instead, we will be conducting a National webminar on 25<sup>th</sup> February from 15.30 to 17.30. I am giving the details about this programme here below. Kindly follow the instructions and join this meeting.



**NATIONAL SEMINAR OF CDPI**  
**THEME: Pastoral and Theological**  
**Implications of the Encyclical**  
**“FRATELLI TUTTI”**  
**VIRTUAL PLATFORM: GOOGLE MEET**  
**DATE: 25<sup>th</sup>February, 2021**  
**Time: 15.30 to 17.30**  
**Programme Schedule**

- 15.30 Introductory Prayer – Fr. Deelip Marandi, Treasurer of CDPI (National)
- 15.35 Welcome Address – Fr. Michael Ani, President of CDPI (National), Jalandhar
- 15.40 Dynamics of the Session – Fr. Raymond Joseph, Executive Secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR, Bangalore

**15.45 Theological and Spiritual Implications  
of the Encyclical “FRATELLI TUTTI”**

Fr. John Ponnore, Regional Secretary of  
CCBI Commission for VSCR, Chattisgarh  
Region, Raipur

16.00 Interventions of the Participants

**16.15 Pastoral and Practical Implications of  
the Encyclical “FRATELLI TUTTI”**

Fr. Roy Lazar, Regional President of CDPI  
(Tamil Nadu-Pondicherry Region)

17.00 Interventions of the Participants

17.15 Message from the Patron of CDPI, Most Rev.  
Bp. Udumala Bala, Warangal

17.25 Vote of Thanks – Fr. A. J. Philomin Doss,  
Vice-President of CDPI (National),  
Pondicherry

**Note:** The participants are requested to register their names  
with the Executive Secretary of CCBI Commission for VSCR  
(Bangalore). The details of the virtual platform will be inti-  
mated to you a few days before the seminar.

**Rev. Fr. A. J. Philomindoss**  
Director

**Information to the Commissions’ Secretaries**

**Dear Rev. Fr. Secretaries,**

You are kindly requested to submit the reports of the  
commissions **on or before 20<sup>th</sup> of every month** to me, the  
office secretary. It will help us to prepare and dispatch the  
monthly newsletter in time.

Thank you for your cooperation

**Fr. J. John Paul**

Office secretary

**NECROLOGY**

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of:**

02-02-1957	Planat P., MEP
03-02-1954	Escande H., MEP
04-02-1964	Blaise L., MEP
05-02-1949	Mgr. UBAGARASWAMY Bernadotte
05-02-1987	Verinaud J.B., MEP
06-02-1963	Matthew K.
14-02-1980	Joseph C.C.
15-02-1989	Henry Cailleault, MEP
25-02-2014	Elias R.
27-02-1953	Combes A., MEP
28-02-1971	Mgr. Mark Gopu G.J.
29-02-1972	Raveyre A., MEP

WWW.MESSAGINGONLINE.NET

**YOUR EXCELLENCY,**

**ON YOUR 7TH YEAR EPISCOPAL**

**CONSECRATION  
ANNIVERSARY**

**ON 16<sup>TH</sup>**

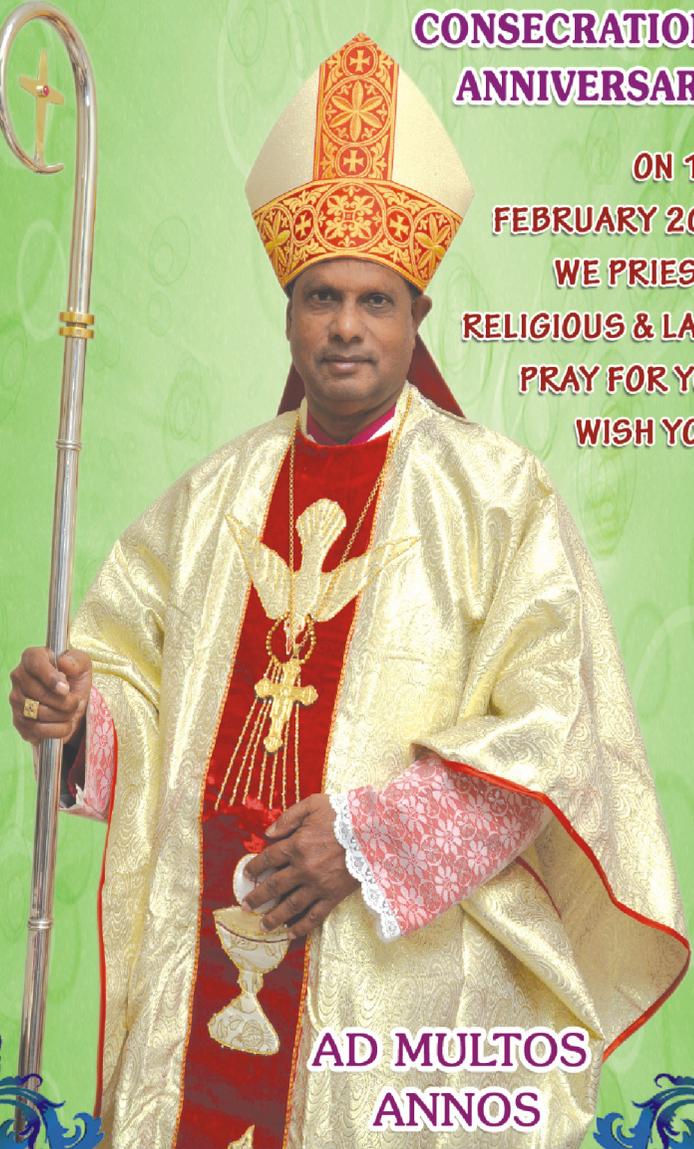
**FEBRUARY 2021**

**WE PRIESTS,**

**RELIGIOUS & LAITY**

**PRAY FOR YOU,**

**WISH YOU...**



**AD MULTOS  
ANNOS**

**THANK YOU, YOUR GRACE, FOR SHEPHERDING  
THE ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE PAST 16 AND HALF YEARS  
WITH FATHERLY LOVE & MERCIFUL HEART...**



**PRIESTS, RELIGIOUS & LAITY**

**REMAIN GRATEFUL**

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