



A NEWSLETTER OF CAMILLIANS-INDIA

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# A Path In The Raging Waters

(cf. Is. 43:16)



## inside



4

### **Bread 4 Life:**

For our journey  
towards new creation  
(Gal. 6:15b)



5

Growing Pain

8

Pearl of Africa

Close to the Heart

10



Cover Photo :  
Mathew Perumpil MI



## Inquisitive About Ideas

Marie Curie was a famous scientist. Once, while she was surrounded by students to be interviewed after she won an award for her great achievements, someone asked about her husband. Her answer was so simple but thought-provoking: “Do not be inquisitive about people, but about ideas”. And anyone would believe this is what made her a great scientist.

What she wanted to communicate to her students by this statement was this: while we focus on people we may have numerous faults to find because of our limitations as vulnerable humans who live at a particular time, make decisions due to special situations, and move on with life with its pressures and tensions. Hence, if we unreasonably focus on people – what they do, what they say and how they live – we are at risk of being discouraged or spreading a kind of negative energy to those we meet and live with. On the other hand, what is constructive and healthy is when we can make a difference in the life of others and in the life of community. This is what Marie Curie could accomplish in her life while she was inquisitive about ideas and not about people.

It may appear to be a challenge and sure it is possible, because the Lord says “take up your bed and walk” (Mk. 2: 11).

Fr. Reji Kaithaparambil MI  
[Vicar Provincial]



Kaithaparambil Reji MI

It was indeed great to have participated in the meeting of General Consultation, (Vice) Provincials and Delegates of our Order held in Rome. It was a four-day meeting with various topics for its discussions ranging from Project Europe and presentations of various Secretariats to the specific discussion on the possibility of a medical university to train professionals for healthcare mission.

Project Europe looked into the present scenario of Europe in general and of the Order in Europe in particular from various angles such as vocation, ministry, spirituality, community life, formation and the future of the Order. The second day witnessed the presentation of Mons. Charls Scicluna on various challenges the Church is facing due to the ignorance and behavioural problems of the Clergy and Religious.

The meeting had still curious moments on the third day as Fr. Babychan Pazhanilath presented his report on Formation in the Order. He presented the activities of the Secretariat and statistics of the candidates in formation in our Order. It opened the mind

of everyone to seriously consider Vocation Promotion as a major target. Likewise Secretariat for Mission presented missionary activities of the Order. The final day had much to discuss on the revision of the Constitution and on the prospective Medical University to train medical professionals which was subjected to a big debate. All throughout there was a sense of being in one family living for a noble cause based on a common ground – Charism of the Founder.

After those four heavy days my task was to visit confreres who are studying and working in Europe. This was, to me personally, an occasion to strengthen fraternity having met some confreres after half a decade or more. I was impressed by those who are committed to their studies staying in communities. There was much of joy to see how confreres are working in a totally different cultural and social context. They experience a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction due to their ministry and the understanding that they are financially supporting Ministry activities in India. I am grateful to them for their sense of commitment and adaptability.

# Living Together

**Bangalore:** Drawing up a road-map for the Vice-Province of India, all the communities and residence presented their visions and activity plans for a dynamic future.

A general gathering of all Camillian confreres residing in India took place at the Camillian Pastoral Health Centre here on September 14-15 in an atmosphere of fraternal love and support. The gathering witnessed the presentations of all the communities and residence regarding their life and specific plans to enhance their living together the coming years.

Apart from the presentations of the communities, the Vice Province secretariats of Community and Spiritual life, Ministry, Formation and Finance presented their three-year plans and visions. It was also an occasion for the confreres to share their feelings on various matters related to their life.

The Vicar Provincial Fr. Reji Kaithapparambil addressed the gathering and highlighted various matters of importance and thanked everyone for making this gathering fruitful. Mr. Terence D'Souza addressed the gathering on the second day on finance management.

Kunnel Antony, Antony Raj, Bijoy Kuliraniyil were appointed the moderators of the sessions; and Binu Vellamattathil and Suneesh Memana were the secretaries.



S.P.I.R.I.T.U.A.L.I.T.Y.

New Creation Series -1

## Bread 4 Life

Get up, eat ; Or, the journey be too much



**“This is the will of God, Your Sanctification” .  
(1 Thes. 4:3a)**

### I Thirst

‘What does God wish of me?’ seems the basic search behind the radical surrender and the prophetic zeal (1King 19:14) of Samuel, Elijah, Jeremiah, Isiah and other prophets; apostles (St. Peter, St. Paul) and very many saints. In fact this is the thirst and thrust of every disciple of Christ. I, a religious/priest, too, do all the more fervently search to know the will of God.

### God’s Will

1Thes 4:3a reveals that the will of God for me is *my sanctification!* Verse 7 reaffirms it by reminding me, “For God did not call us to impurity but in holiness”. God’s ultimate aim in His plan for me is my holiness, for the Word of God says: “as he who called you is holy, be holy yourself in all your conduct” (1Pet1:15). “For God created us for incorruption, and made us in the *image of his own eternity*” (Wis.2:23). I bear the image of God’s eternity!

### For My Sanctification

Adam was created in and for the paradise, in God’s image and likeness. Sin corrupted his self and he lost God’s image. Since then humans long to see the face of God (cf Ps 27:8). And “God yearns jealously for the spirit that he has made to dwell in us” (Jas 4:5; cf Gen 2:7). However, as oil cannot get dissolved in water so is the corrupted soul in God. As wood cannot be welded to gold, so is our spirit’s inability to reach heaven in sinfulness - purification becomes inevitable! My sanctification is the purpose of my journey to the lost image: Eternal Life. This is the mystery of God’s mercy towards me, for the Word of God says: “the Lord... is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance.” (2Pet 3:9; cf Jn 6:39; Rom. 2:4b).

- From the Secretariat for Spirituality

Kunnel Antony MI

## Growing Pain

*Pain for growth is inspirational. How wonderful is it to grow with growing pains!*

It was in my Novitiate (1998) I first heard the term 'growing pains' in a sharing by Fr. Richard O'Donnell MI. From then on, I kept it in my mind and it got reflected and motivated me at tough times of my personal life as well that of the Congregation. Pain is inevitable. Pain for growth is inspirational. How wonderful is it to grow with growing pains!

Looking back, I suffered, for a long time, a bundle of contradictions, of which the most disturbing one is the disparity between what I ought to do, and what I actually do. I sometimes feel like a radio, tuned into separate stations, heaven and hell, catching neither, not knowing where to go next. I found this feeling exactly expressed when I read the words of a Latin poet Ovid, "I see and appreciate the better things of life, the worse things of life I follow". St. Paul too expressed my inmost mood when he cried out, "I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want I do" (Rom, 7:19). I felt divided against myself because I often chose what I liked, rather than what was best for me and community.

Entrapped between the loose ends of my life's reality I felt I am the lost or wayward sheep (Lk 15:37), the woman seeking the lost coin (Lk. 15: 8-10), and a father waiting to gain back his son (Lk 15:11-32). I am more than my mistakes, taught my own mistakes. This being the condition I was born into the



family of Vice Province on 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2009. I felt happy that all came together in presence and spirit accepting the costly love of the Mother Province. It seemed a time of excitement, pride and challenge. I see a tangible support and substantial possibility for prayerful growth and firm expansion. Now it is *left to us to*

*love*. If I haven't learned this I have learned nothing.

Our child (Vice Province) realized each step is a part of our journey and builds on the one taken before. The whole family gathered together on 14-15 September, 2010, 'to open the hearts to share and accept God's priceless gift of community life, staying where we may find ourselves on our journey.

Back home after general gathering, I wondered people care so much for the houses.

I cared less, to be honest, for the mission and vision of the Vice Province. I believe **Prayer** is the vision and mission of the Vice Province.

- P** - Positive (be positive and hope positive)
- R** - Responsiveness (learn from mistakes)
- A** - Acceptance (rejection is the worst trauma)
- Y** - Yoke (hard work and commitment)
- E** - Encouragement (Everyone means a lot)
- R** - Relationship (living for another).

This the time to go out and pray....

*Ob! Growing pain indeed.*

### **To undo by your good deeds....**

Your vocation is to build others up  
And your heroism is to forgive, failing which you will spread the kingdom of darkness.

*Another growing pain.*

**Any let go is a growth....** It's never too late to start growing. What's the one AREA where I need to stop growing 'my way' and start growing 'God's Way'? If we do not give thanks daily for the community fellowship in which we have been placed, even when there is no great experience, no discoverable riches, but only much weakness, small growth and difficulty; and if, on the contrary, we keep complaining that everything is petty, then we hinder God from letting our fellowship grow.

*A growing pain.*

One more growing pain...

The best use of life is love

The best expression of love is time

The best time to love is NOW.

Life is all about love for God and humans. We forget ourselves, our mission, in the ground of what we have and grab. So, with deeper and personal reflection only can we have better chances of developing our personalities. In religious life what we need is fulfillment, not achievement, says Henry J. Nouwen in one of his books. It is a hard lesson I learned, of late.....*A growing pain indeed.*



## **Satyameva Jayate....**

**Bangalore:** The children of Sneha Care Home celebrated the birthday of the Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhi. They offered flowers to Gandhiji and sang songs which reminded them of the path of truth and non-violence.



*A child offers flowers at the photo of Gandhiji*

## **Staff Training Held**

**Bangalore:** Sneha Care Home, in collaboration with NIMHANS, organized a staff training on 'Children and Mental Health' on 23<sup>rd</sup> October '10 in SCH campus. Staff of SCH and Infant Jesus Children's Home participated in this training.

The main objective was to make the staff understand the underlying cause behind a child's behaviour and strategies to tackle it effectively. Some of the behavioural issues were discussed and remedies were shared by the psychiatrists and psychologists from NIMHANS.

## Home Day Celebrated

Patrick Nayak

**Nagpur:** The Birthday of Blessed Virgin Mary was a remarkable day for the community at Jyoti Darsan here. Twenty three young boys were welcomed to the house and were marked with Red Cross. Fr. Bijoy Kuliraniyil, the main celebrant of the day blessed the Red Cross and distributed them to the candidates.

On the same day, Fr. Sunil Pattakudilil inaugurated the home day celebrations by cutting the ribbon. He gave a message about the value and importance of living together as members of the same home by loving, serving, caring, forgiving, sacrificing, correcting and encouraging. The whole community was divided into two groups and various outdoor and indoor games were held. The Home day celebrations were concluded on October 17, 2010, and on this day various cultural programmes were staged and prizes were distributed to the winners.



## Bits from Upasana

Bobit P.A

The students of Theology at Upasana initiated a sharing on Sunday Ministry experiences, and a multiple charism sharing of MCBS, CFIC and Camillians to widen our sphere of thought and understanding.



Upasana entered the finals of Table Tennis and Caroms of Inter-Sem competitions with mind-blowing performance.



After the Semester examinations, the students of theology were out for an uphill task – Vocation Promotion.



Vellamattathil Binu MI

**Trichy:** It was an exciting experience for the brothers at St. Camillus Seminary here to participate in a marathon conducted by the military segment of Trichy on Sunday, September 26, 2010.

The marathon through the heart of the city was with an intention of creating awareness of health among people. Many students representing educational institutions were part of the contingents. All the participants received certificates and the educational institutions were given mementos.



# Pearl of Africa

Vellachira Johnson MI

The collaboration between the Anglo-Irish Province and the Indian Vice Province opened the door to focus more on vocation promotion in Uganda, known as the 'Pearl of Africa'. The vocation promotion pilgrimage, arranged by the Diocese of Jinja, where we are now, offered one of the best opportunities to take us to the task. As a new comer in Africa it was a unique experience for me to enter into the depth of understanding the culture and life of Uganda. The Schools organized a gathering of students in large numbers and our team was cordially welcomed. The vocation director of the diocese began with a session on different vocations in the Catholic Church and the respective members of each Congregation introduced their own charism. The candidates were given some time for questions and clarifications. Some of their questions were indeed a great cultural shock for me. One asked, "I have a child and its mother, can I leave them and join you?". Another, "Gen. 1:28 says 'be fruitful and multiply' and Gen.2:18 says 'it is not good that the man should be alone'. As priests when you don't marry, are you not violating God's command?"

One of the enriching experiences I had was the wonderful hospitality of the people of Uganda. Wherever we went, whether it is a Parish, Mission station, Convent or School, we had a very warm welcome. One day the



Vocation Camp  
held in a school

parish priest offered his bed for me to sleep and he getting ready to sleep on a mat on the floor. It did touch my heart when I found that one of the poor schools welcomed us with cool drinks and biscuits, under the shadow of a tree, for they knew we had no lunch on that day. Just after leaving the place, I noticed the teachers collecting some money from among them. It was told me that they happily shared the expense of the refreshments. We understand the value of that sharing when we realize that the average salary of a teacher in that school is just about Rs. 1800 (\$ 40); and a bottle of 300 ml cool drink costs Rs. 45 (\$1).

Besides vocation promotion it was a practical opportunity for me to experience the real life situation in the parishes and missions of the interior parts of the country. I can never forget one of the days we spent in a parish which did not have even basic facilities like toilets and sufficient water. I had the privilege of being given three litres of water to have bath.

We realize that promoting the right candidate is the major task and challenge for us. But we feel a guarantee of God's providence and guidance when we think of our seven candidates in formation, already recruited by Fr. Tom O'Connor.



Frs. Johnson and Shubin in front of the Cathedral Church of Fort Portal Diocese, Uganda



## Secretariat For Formation

# A Formator is one...

- Who believes s/he is but a tool in the hands of the ONE and the ONLY Formator...
- Who knows his/her mission is like a farmer's: to patiently and faithfully care and nurture.
- Who knows his/her labour will yield sometimes a 30 fold, sometimes a 60 fold, and sometimes a 100 fold.
- Who knows well that the formees are just at the beginning of a long road to maturity.
- Who constantly reminds himself/herself that s/he was also once a formee like those under him/her now.
- Who is not upset or annoyed over the failures and shortcomings of his/her formees, but feels concerned.
- Who doesn't get up every morning, putting on his/her 'fault finding lens' to catch formees.
- Who tries to practise first in his/her own life which s/he expects the formees to practice in theirs.
- Who tries to educate and edify the formees more by his/her deeds than by his/her words.
- Who knows that every vocation is a mystery going beyond all tests and psychological findings.
- Who knows how to laugh and relax with them, and how to challenge and guide them.
- Who realizes that at the end of the day s/he has received more than what s/he could give.
- Who at the end of his/her term can say, 'I am only a servant. I did only what I was assigned to do'.
- Who.....

- Koonanickal Sojan MI



# Close to the Heart

## Kakkarakunnel John MI

It was an experience of warmth and joy. An experience of being close to the centuries-old heart of St. Camillus. The celebration of Seventy Five Years of Camillian presence in Ireland was marked with the veneration of the Heart of St. Camillus brought to this Land on this occasion. It was the third time the Heart was taken out of Italy; to Poland, to Peru, and now to Ireland. Fr. Vincent, Fr. Jagan and I were privileged to have been part of this mega event from July 9 to 26 and to have involved in it wholeheartedly.

We received the Heart at the airport and accompanied it to most of the places it was venerated. It was venerated in Mater Hospital where we work, at Knock a famous pilgrim place of Our Lady and at Pro-Cathedral Church in Dublin. We drove the vehicle that carried the heart, carried it to the churches and back, concelebrated Masses, blessed

people, anointed the sick, organized the veneration, presented a short visual on the life of St. Camillus and Camillians and took it back to Rome. It is estimated that around Forty Thousand people visited the heart, and this is a big success in Ireland at present.



Kanjirathamkunnel Joshy MI

**Grüß Gott** is the most popular word in Austria and the most polite way of greeting each other, no matter known or unknown person. **Grüß Gott** means ‘I greet you and the God in you’.

My initiative under the Title **“Grüß Gott”** is to reach you, on every issue, news, information about Austria, Austrian Province, our life and activities in Austria, Europe and a few words of German. This being the first article of **Grüß Gott** I would like to introduce to the readers of *Vartha* the political Austria.

The Republic of Austria is a landlocked country of roughly 8.3 million people in Central Europe. It is bordered by Germany and the Czech Republic in the North, Slovakia and Hungary in the East, Slovenia and Italy in the South, and Switzerland and Liechtenstein in the West. The territory of Austria covers 83,872 sq. kilometres. Austria is a parliamentary representative democracy comprising nine federal states. The Capital and the largest city, with a population exceeding 1.6 million, is Vienna.

*The climate:* The greater part of Austria lies in the cool/temperate climate zone in which humid westerly winds predominate. The Temperature fluctuates from - 20 °C in winter to +38 °C in summer.

*Religion:* Although Austria was a Catholic country, it is now at the danger of loosing its rich catholic culture. Catholic (68.5%) Protestant (4.7%) Muslim (4.2%) Other (3.5%) Unspecified (2.0%) None (17.1%). In a survey conducted, 54 per cent of Austrian citizens responded that they believe there is



a God, while 38 per cent answered that they believe there is some sort of spirit or life force. However, 8 per cent answered that they do not believe there is any sort of spirit, God, or life force.

*Language:* German

*Music:* Austria has been the birthplace of many famous composers such as Joseph Haydn, Michael Haydn, Franz Schubert, Anton Bruckner, Johann Staruss and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The most popular Christmas carol “Silent night, Holy Night” is from Austria.

*Science:* A focus of Austrian science has always been medicine and psychology, starting in medieval times with Paracelsus. Eminent physicians like Theodore Billroth, Clemens von Pirquet, and Anton von Eiselsberg have built upon the achievements of the 19th century Vienna School of Medicine. Austria was home to psychologists Sigmund Freud, Alfred Adler, Paul Watzlawick and Hans Asperger and psychiatrist Viktor Frankl.

This is just a general introduction to the socio, political and cultural faces of Austria. At present four of us P. Prakash Kuttiyathu, P. Biju Nannattu, P. Doise Mullankuziyil and I, live in Austria. A hearty **Grüß Gott** till we meet again.

### **5 German Words for Today**

Austria - Österreich

Vienna - Wien

Germany – Deutschland

German – Deutsch

India – Indien



**"How good, how delightful it is to live  
as brothers in unity" (Ps. 133:1)**