



Faithfully Yours.....

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Fr. Mathew Perumpil MI  
[Provincial Delegate]

## Faithfulness

**W**e are into another beginning, beginning of a new academic year. All of us were working hard and praying earnestly that many more young men may join us this year. It is heartening to see our hardwork and prayers have brought its fruits as our minor seminaries welcomed 35 young men this year. We thank God and all who worked hard to see this beautiful result. This year is doubly special in this context of our Jubilee, as the Holy Father has announced the Year of Priests, reminding us of our call and faithfulness to Christ.

Welcoming more young men into our family means also taking care of them and preparing them for the mission God has called them to be. Actually, the real hardwork begins now, as we have the responsibility of “forming” them through our programme, and most importantly through our life example. In this way not only the designated formators in our formation houses, but all of us are formators to our younger brothers.

Being the year of priests, it is also a time for us to thank God for the gift of Vocation we have received and take every efforts to renew ourselves to be faithful to Christ and His mission. It’s a time of renewal and recommitment to the Lord who called us. We know that any gift that is taken for granted will loose its significance. When we start appreciating the gift we begin to savour its beauty more.

May the Lord continue to bless our delegation and very specially all those young men who have joined us this year and those who guide them in formation. May the Lord renew our lives with new vitality and enthusiasm as we begin this special year.



# A Time For Renewal

**The Church wants not only learned priests but, even more, holy ones.**

On the occasion of the Year of Priests, which began on June 19, 2009 in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Mary Vianney, Pope Benedict XVI, in a letter to the priests, calls for a “joyful and renewed realization of the greatness of God’s gift, embodied in the splendid example of generous pastors, religious afire with love for God and for souls, and insightful, patient spiritual guides.”

The Pontiff affirms that the lives and activity of priests need to be distinguished by a forceful witness to the Gospel. “Lest we experience existential emptiness and the effectiveness of our ministry be compromised, we need to ask ourselves ever anew: “Are we truly pervaded by the Word of God? Do we really know that Word? Do we love it?”



The Holy Father encourages priests to assimilate the “new style of life” that was “inaugurated by the Lord Jesus and taken up by the Apostles.” He points to the example of St. John Mary Vianney, and living of the evangelical counsels “in a way suited to his priestly state.”

Benedict XVI writes, “In this context of a spirituality nourished by the practice of the evangelical counsels, I would like to invite all priests, during this year dedicated to them, to welcome the new springtime which the Spirit is

now bringing about in the Church.”

The theme of the Year of Priests, according to the wishes of our Holy Father, is: “**Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of Priests.**” Cardinal Claudio Hummes, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, wrote in reflecting on the Year of Priests: “May this year be an occasion for a period of intense appreciation of the priestly identity, of the theology of the Catholic priesthood, and of the extraordinary meaning of the vocation and mission of priests within the Church and in society”.

At the ordination of St. John Vianney in 1815 the Vicar General of the diocese said, “The Church wants not only learned priests but, even more, holy ones.”

“The priest’s lips ought to safeguard knowledge; his mouth is where the law should be sought, since he is Yahweh’s messenger”. (Mal. 2:7)

# To Notice The Unnoticed

**We have fared well this year in identifying aspirants to Camillian religious life**

Joy Inchody MI

**R**ecession has hit the world economy very badly irrespective of the status and greatness of the countries and firms. The recession has become a common talk of the day. Oddly, India was not that affected because of our strong banking system and farsightedness of our leaders and India has already shown signs of growth in the market.

The number of vocations to religious life and priesthood in India has been under great

decline for the past ten years due to many reasons. Global economic recession is likely to revive in a few years, but the declining number of vocations to religious life might continue, as the statistics and studies show. Though the general situation here is not promising, Camillians have fared well in comparison with past years in identifying aspirants to the religious life. I would like to thank and congratulate our vocation promoters in a big way!

As I congratulate Eluru Community, i.e., Fr. Shibin, Fr. Benny and other brothers who joined this ministry, I would like to acknowledge their long journeys and troubles in the scorching and torrid weather conditions in the North Indian summer. They undertook two journeys to Punjab, two trips to Jharkhand and extensive travelling across Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

The conditions, to certain extent, were favourable for Eluru Community to



The aspirants who arrived at Eluru Seminary

“I shall raise myself a faithful priest, who will do as I intend and as I desire”. (1 Sam. 2: 35)



promote vocations. But the circumstances in Kerala were entirely negative and unfavorable for promoting vocations this year. 'Abhayas' and 'Jesmys' might have badly influenced catholic youth to rethink about their choice of dedicating themselves to the religious and priestly life. In this context, the hard work of the community of Mananthavady, represented by Fr. Teji, Fr. Binoy and Fr. Santhosh along with the timely help of Fr. Suneesh who made at least four trips to Kottayam from Mangalore, needs to be doubly appreciated and esteemed.

The sweat and toil of the confreres in Trichy,

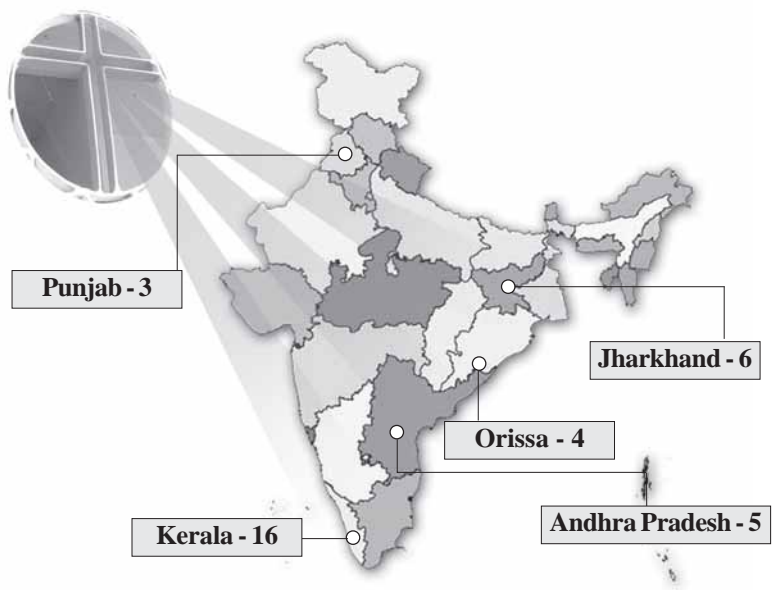


The newly arrived candidates at Mananthavady Seminary

especially of Fr. Antony, Fr. Binu, and Bros. Souri and Jomin, does not go unnoticed, though no end result was found. Some of the names mentioned are only of those who have involved directly in the mission, but I am sure that

fervent prayers and indirect contact of many confreres have contributed significantly to it. Recession might continue and decline may persist, but we have a long way to go in search of labourers for the Kingdom of God.

**Vocation promotion '09**  
**State-wise split up**



**Pastoral Year Begins**

The pastoral year formation programme of this year began with a difference, as the formation secretariat has come up with certain guidelines to follow during the year. Koickal Vince, Pattathil Lijo and Tharappel Russel began this period of their formation in the assigned communities.



# Towards A Compassionate Listening

Areparambil Sibi

**CPE was  
organized to  
mould quality  
pastoral care  
providers**

A programme in Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) was conducted for eight temporary professed members at St. John's hospital, Bangalore from March 30 to May 2, 2009. The course lasted for five weeks from Monday to Saturday for a total of 220 hours under the supervision of Fr. Anselmo Zambotti.

The programme was organized to train persons to be more effective pastoral ministers by listening people with increased sensitivity, to give awareness of the intra-inter personal dynamics, to navigate spiritual themes that offer meaning and hope, and to

infer the place of one's own story in how one chooses to minister. The month-long CPE was well integrated with input sessions on ministry-related topics, pastoral visits to the patients in the ward, verbatim presentations, group discussions and individual conferences.

The participants expressed their contentment and joy for the manifold insight, memorable sharing moments and the goals they achieved. The commitment of the supervisors with their added experiential wisdom, creative, energetic and fraternal accompaniment during the short journey was well appreciated by all.



The two deacons Chintagunda Suresh and Kureekattil Shiju are preparing for their ordination to priesthood, as the dates have been fixed. Suresh who has been doing his diaconate ministry at St. Joseph's Church, Medchal (Hyderabad diocese) since February 26, will be ordained on August 25, and Shiju on September 3. Shiju is doing his ministry at St. Joseph's Church, Kadavanthara (Ernakulam diocese).



"For the high priest we have is not incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us, but has been put to the test in exactly the same way as ourselves, apart from sin" (Heb. 2: 14)

# God of the Weak



In *Snehadaan* learnt that God is not only a God of good health but also a God of the weak and vulnerable, writes **Tomy Paradiyil**

**T**hough I was not new to Snehadaan community, I was very much new to the patients and staff. It was a golden opportunity given me by the Almighty to live my charism in serving the sick in their suffering and struggles. It was also a privilege for me to be in Snehadaan for one year after my theological studies. I feel it is all about introducing me to the pastoral dimensions of my life which consist of the elements of sincere reflection on my vocation, spiritual life, community living, ministry of service to the sick and the integration of all my studies into the context I live and work.

In the theology class I could encounter God through faith seeking understanding. Being in the healthcare world I encounter God in the midst of real suffering of humanity. As I have completed my pastoral year in Snehadaan I learnt that God is not only a God of good health but also a God of the weak and vulnerable. During the theological studies I gathered lots of ideas about God, but coming to the heart and hands level, I feel that most of the patients regarded my presence as a healing presence not only physical, but spiritual as well. For instance, whenever the nine-year old Swetha Bai saw me she used to call me “*Swami, banni*”. I feel that my presence with her was a healing one.

There was a prayerful, friendly, supportive and encouraging life in the community. I experienced various aspects of community living there. I feel that I was accepted in the community as I am. They gave me many opportunities to improve my interpersonal relationship. I was given an opportunity to take care of the patients with compassion, carrying out the role of patient care-coordinator. I got also the opportunity to look after the needs of the children at Sneha Care Home, especially during the initial stages of its activities. I had a healthy relationship with the staff at Snehadaan. I am grateful to the community, staff and the residents of Snehadaan. I feel that I could effectively carry out my duty as patient care coordinator keeping my primary identity as a Camillian.

“No one takes this honour on himself; it needs a call from God, as in Aaron’s case” (Heb. 5: 4)

# Into Your Hands, Lord..

Staff Correspondent

**Bangalore:** After an year of spiritual and personal formation in the novitiate, Karettu Aneesh and Kochukudiyil Vineesh dared to take a landmark step in their Camillian religious life. They made their first profession in the Order during the Eucharistic celebration held here at Snehadanaan on May 25, the birthday of St. Camillus.

The provincial delegate Fr. Mathew Perumpil accepted their profession in the presence of the novice master Fr. Sojan Koonanickal, some Camillian confreres, their family members and relatives, neighbours and well-wishers.



## From The Laboratory of Mind



Kizhakkarakattu Biju MI

It's from the laboratory of mind, where I have been experimenting with mind since two years. The two years spent in Montfort College has been so unique in this respect. It was a plunge into the mystery of mind.... the mind as the seat of all problems and also as the solution to all problems. It opened before me numerous aspects of the nature of human beings which give rise to many problems. The course, however, taught me that when analysing mind, we must recognize life itself, because human mind cannot be conceived independently of human life.

Hence, when someone's mind becomes important for my consideration, his/her life also should become important for me and that is where counselling comes into play. In a word, we should adopt Gestalt attitude viz. that the whole is more than the sum of its parts; wholes often have qualities not presented in their parts – the life of a person is much more than the bits of it expressed through one's behavior.

*[Fr. Biju has completed MSc in counselling and is pursuing Ph.D at Montfort college, Bangalore]*



## A Rainbow in the Summer

**Bangalore:** 'Rainbow-09', a Summer Camp for the HIV-infected children was held from May 4-8 here at Snehadaan. There were 68 participants from four centres namely Sneha Care Home, Snehasadan, Jeevadaan and Infant Jesus Children's Home. A major attraction of the camp was a rock music performed by *motherjane* held on 5th evening. The other activities included visits, group activities, magic show, cooking class, craft etc. Bangalore Sports Foundation conducted games for the children every evening. There were also certain informative sessions on topics like hygiene and ART for specific age groups. It has paved the way for building self esteem and self confidence through drawing, singing and other group activities.



**Colours of Life:** A participant during the activities

Rainbow -'09 is just through and children are looking forward to Rainbow -'10.

**Bangalore:** Snehadaan has produced a short film on its Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme. The 7 minute film, titled 'An Ode to Life' portraying the life of an HIV infected child whose dream is fulfilled, was directed by a film-maker from Kerala Mr. Joshua Newtonn and team. It is uploaded in the website [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek2845pWpGo). The link is: [Http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek2845pWpGo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ek2845pWpGo)

### An Ode To Life



### Novitiate 09-10 Begins

**Bangalore:** The novitiate of this year began on May 24 with a Eucharistic celebration held here at Snehadaan. The three novices Elevenappara Rajesh, Paimpallikunnel Bobit and Albin Reegan formally began their journey of religious life with Novice master Fr. Sojan Koonanickal.

"That is why I am reminding you now to fan into a flame the gift of God that you possess through the laying on of my hands". ( 2 Tim. 1:6)

# A Dream Comes True

Through the Corridors of Our History....

3

Santhoshkumar

**The Provincial Chapter of 1980 unanimously approved the suggestion to begin Camillian mission in Indian soil.**

Babychan Pazhanilath MI

**F**r. Antonio Crotti was the man behind new foundations. He always looked for new places and new missions. He visited many countries for further and eventual foundation like Indonesia, Korea, India, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Madagascar, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Benin etc. India was one of his dreams and for years he insisted for a foundation here, especially after hearing about the number of lepers in India. In fact he had visited or passed through India already five times before 1980 (in 1948, 1953, 1963, 1966, and 1979). On his way to the provincial chapter of 1980 he visited India, and during this trip he met the bishop of Mananthavady (Kerala) Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy and discussed possibilities of a foundation in India.

This was coincided with many requests from Indian candidates to join religious institutes with health care mission. A young medical doctor Jesu P. Manikkonda from Hyderabad expressed his desire to join the Order. His desire was directed by a Salesian priest who knew Camillians. The request was forwarded to the General Council. There came also a letter from the mother superior of the Daughters of St. Camillus Sr. Seraphina Dalla Porta suggesting to start mission in India. The letter pointed out the numerous requests of candidates to join our Order, the welcoming

“He made an everlasting covenant with him, and gave him the priesthood of the people”. (Sir. 45:6)

attitude of Bishop of Mananthavady (Daughters of St. Camillus had already begun their mission here), and the prospects of Camillian ministry in the diocese.

These two letters together with the recommendation of the council was sent to the Provincial Fr. Forsenio Vezzani (1974-1980). The letter of superior General Fr. Calisto Vendrame (1977-1989) with a suggestion to start mission in India was read out in the provincial chapter of 1980, and the chapter unanimously approved the suggestion. The same chapter entrusted Fr. Antonio Crotti to take up the task. The support of the Far East vice province was already expressed in the vice provincial chapter.

Fr. Daming as the superior general was very open and supportive to the missions. In the general chapter of 1977 he said, "I believe that I am not exaggerating if I define today our missions as the heart of the Order". The chapter members unanimously approved the expression as an official recognition of the

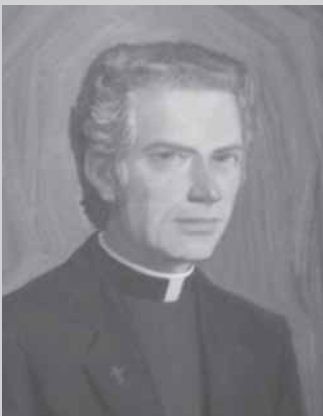
mission. Fr. Foresenio Vezzani, the provincial of LV also gained interest in missions during his term as Provincial. He said, "Looking at the past, we are tempted to think that the Institute has lost much time before moving to missions".

The foundation stone of St. Camillus seminary, Mananthavady was laid on October 23, 1982, at 3 p.m. The procurator of Austrian Province Fr. Bolech, Provincial of Austrian Province Fr. Hascech, Procurator of Lombardo Veneta province Fr. Giuseppe Baroli, General councilor for missions Bro. Gianni Dalla Rizza, members of the Daughters of St. Camillus, Rector of the Mount Mary college, Procurator of the Diocese of Mananthavady, the chancellor of the diocese, the vicar of Cathedral Church Mananthavady Fr. James Kulathinal, Camillian candidates and many others were present on this historical moment. Fr. Bolech blessed the foundation stone. The Austrian province financed the project and construction.

***Next : The first bud***

## **We Gratefully Remember**

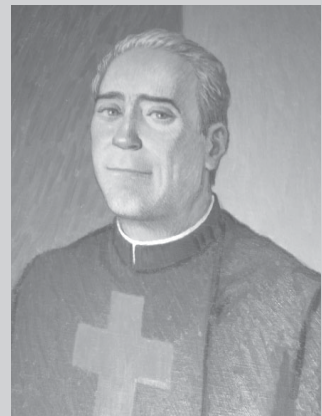
**Fr. Calisto Vendrame**



**Fr. Daming**



**Fr. Forsenio Vezzani**



Melchizedek was a priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram. (Gen. 14:18)



*Wish you all  
a joyful and blessed  
feast of St. Camillus*