

Pedalling for **25** graceful years...

Miles to go healing...



inside



A Home of Love

▶ 4

6 ◀ Miles to go
healing...



Landed
in Ireland

▶ 8



Fr. Mathew Perumpil MI

[Provincial Delegate]

A Time To Renew

Camillians in India have entered into a very special year of their presence in India with the inauguration of the Silver Jubilee at St. Camillus Seminary, Mananthavady on October 25, 2008. It is an opportunity for us to look into the road we have travelled so far to reach where we are today. In our looking back we meet so many people who became instruments in the hands of God for the planting and growth of this young Camillian mission in India. The miles we have journeyed are filled with the manifestations of God's special care for the growth of our delegation. God used so many hearts and hands to nurture this plant to be what we are today. Therefore Jubilee is an occasion to recall with gratitude all those who have contributed to our growth.

Jubilee is also a time to move forward with Hope, on the strong foundation laid by the generous and committed people in our past. Their vision, hard work, and sacrifices are the solid blocks on which we can still stand and journey forward and bring forth fruits -the healing love of Christ to the suffering humanity.

Jubilee is a time to renew our lives to live out the dream of God for Camillians in India. This would mean looking into the gift of vocation we have received more seriously and making genuine efforts to realize God's plan through our response to this call. This issue of *Vartha* captures the beginning of this journey into new possibilities with Hope. As we travel through this path, may those who have gone before us guide us and may God continue to be our Light and Guide.





Delighted: Dr. Kalidass inaugurates *Snehakiran*

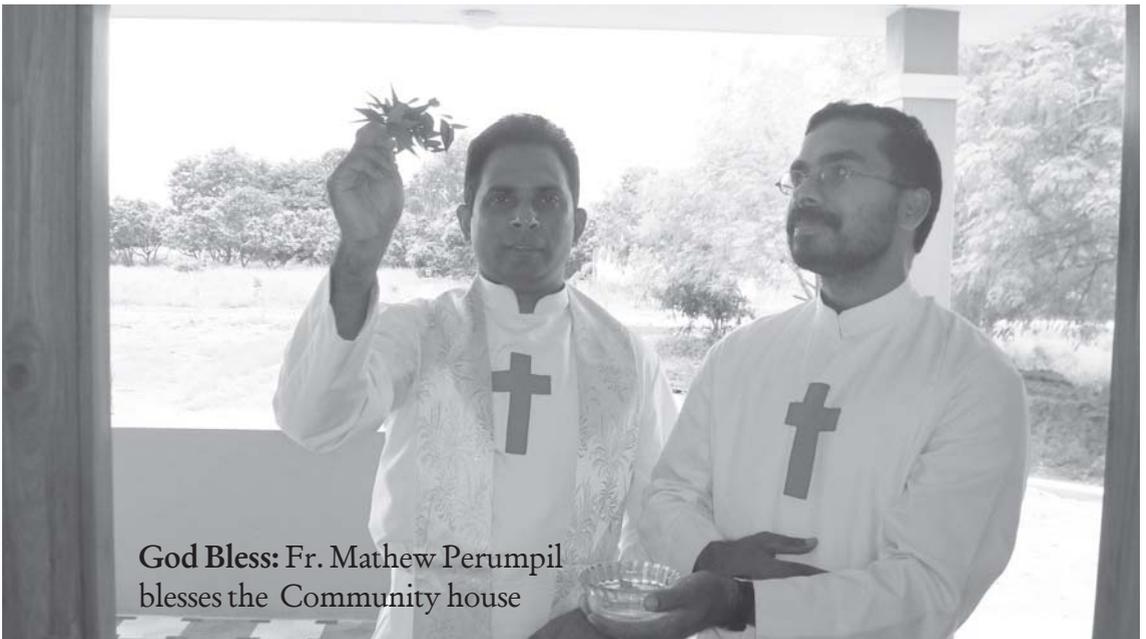
Snehakiran Inaugurated

Staff Correspondent

Secunderabad: *Snehakiran* - Centre of Excellence, a collaborative venture of Camillians and Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), was inaugurated here on September 19, 2008. Additional Project Director of Andhra Pradesh State Aids Control Society (APSACS) Dr. Kalidass inaugurated the community care centre for people living with HIV.

The director of CHAI Dr. Sebastian Ouseparambil presented the vision and mission of CHAI and *Snehakiran*. Fr. Mathew Perumpil addressed the meeting on behalf of Camillians and reiterated that Camillians were committed for the cause of the sick and suffering, especially of PLHIV.

The Centre is well-equipped with 65 beds, kitchen, dining hall, and staff quarters. Sisters of John the Baptist have joined hands with Camillians in this venture to provide nursing care to the patients. A building for the Community, well-furnished with six rooms and other facilities has been put up in the half-an-acre land leased from CHAI for 25 years.



God Bless: Fr. Mathew Perumpil
blesses the Community house



A Home
of Love

Bijumon Peter

Camillians have ventured into developing an intervention model for the Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in the context of HIV/AIDS. A maiden venture in the country, it is a combination of institutionalized and community based services, focusing on comprehensive care and protection to the OVC. This programme is to ensure quality of life for the OVC by comprehensively addressing their felt needs on health, education and psycho-social support.

The model is evolved to meet the long term needs like childhood development, adolescent issues, personality development, need - based education, value system to sustain them for life, employment, family and community acceptance etc. Present academic settings and curriculum are not favourable for OVC, as they are facing stigma and discrimination and amidst ongoing schedule, special needs of these children can not be addressed. Moreover,

poor value-based formation in early years of childhood and early exposure to multiple trauma can have a damaging effect on their over all development.

While *Sneha Care Home*, the residential facility provides a platform loaded with love, care and compassion, *Shining Star School*, the academic programme increases their confidence and self esteem. We use the National Open School System to develop a comprehensive educational package based on children's aptitude and intelligence. Apart from these children, the model also hopes to integrate care and rehabilitation of HIV-infected or affected destitute women who would re-discover a new meaning for their lives as they "create a new family in the Home".

The proposed model is to be developed in two phases: pre-adolescent and adolescent phase. In the pre-adolescent phase, the focus is on education, psycho-social support and



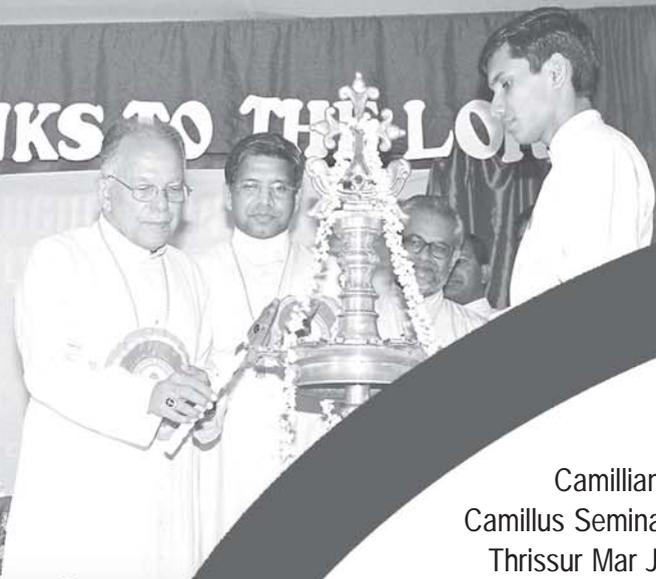
***Sneha Care Home*, the residential facility, provides a platform loaded with love, care and compassion**

medico-spiritual care. Life skill education, moral values, and life enrichment programmes are integrated into the curriculum. Yoga, regular medical checkups, prevention of opportunistic infections, delaying initiation of ART, immunization are emphasized here. Nutritional education and guidance are emphasised and provision of balanced diet is ensured with the help of dieticians. Hygiene counseling and cleanliness are part of it.

In the adolescent phase at secondary and higher secondary level, vocational training will be provided and the students will be well-equipped to make their own living independently. Linkages will be made with the corporate sector for employing these children and there will be focused intervention for adolescents like sex education, ABC message, interventions for

responsible social and sexual life, identity crisis intervention, formation for emotional maturity and sensible disclosure of HIV infection. Community reintegration efforts which are made throughout the programme right from the pre-adolescent phase will be achieved during this phase. Constant ties with the community will be ensured and family interventions and out reach activities will be held accordingly. Income generation programmes and entrepreneurship building efforts will be carried out. Foster care or exploring possible parenthood for orphans will be another priority during both the phases.

Let this model be a great source of fillip and inspiration for many who are for this noble cause to address the issues of these little ones.



Camillians in India rejoice at the opening of the 25th anniversary of the presence of the Almighty for guiding these 25 years.

Joy Inchody MI

Mananthavady: Silver Jubilee celebrations of Camillian presence in India, was inaugurated here at St. Camillus Seminary, on October 25. The Archbishop Emeritus of Thrissur Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy inaugurated the celebration.

The ceremonies began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Bishop of Mananthavady Rev. Dr. Jose Porunnedam. In the homily, Bishop Thoomkuzhy congratulated Camillians for their heroic and pioneering health care ventures in the country.

In the public function that followed the Holy Mass, Bishop Jose Porunnedam challenged all Camillians to draw energy from the compelling spirit of hard work and commitment of the founding members. Fr. Antonio Crotti and Fr. Metrini were elevated as icons of tireless hard work and missionary spirit.

The Provincial Delegate Fr. Mathew Perumpil, with the help of 'Journeying into Jubilee', a slide show presentation, led everyone through the milestones of Camillians in India.

Vicar General of Mananthavady Fr George Moolayil, the first Rector of St. Camillus seminary Fr. George Padannamakkal CMI, Prior of Makkiyad Benedictine monastery Fr. Vincent Korandiyarkunnel OSB, Prelate of Mananthavady Norbertines Fr. Jose Anthanatt, the Provincial of Austrian province Fr. Leonhard Gregotsch and Sr. Mary (Daughters of St. Camillus) felicitated during the function.



of silver jubilee celebrations and thank
rs in serving the Church and the sick.

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Special Correspondent

Mananthavady: A general gathering of all confreres residing in India took place here at St. Camillus seminary on October 26 a day after the inauguration of silver jubilee celebrations in an atmosphere of fraternal love and support.

The gathering in which twenty four confreres participated witnessed the presentations of all the communities and residences regarding their specific plans to enhance their ministry or formation activities during the coming year. Specific plans for a fruitful celebration of the jubilee year also were shared on the platform.

One of the major points of discussion was the prospects of Indian delegation becoming a Vice-province by the end of jubilee year. There were opinions for and against this proposal, and it was expected that a consensus would be made by the next general gathering to be held in January 2009 during the canonical visit of the provincial.

Miles to go...





Landed In Ireland

**With a new venture of collaboration
between Indian Delegation and Anglo-
Irish Province, Camillian ministry
gets a new pace...**

John Kakkarakunnel MI

It's now around a month and couple of weeks that we three Camillians from India are here in Ireland. Fr. Vincent and I landed into the Irish earth, breathing fresh breezing air on 4th of September. Fr. Jayan arrived here two days later from Italy after his studies at Camillianum. It's getting pretty cold as the winter is approaching.

One weekend we were at our provincial house at Killucan. Fr. Frank Monks took care of us very well there. We have a few elderly confreres there, and we were in touch with the elder generations of our order and our history.

Fr. Vincent started working as a chaplain at Mater Misericordiae hospital in Ireland's Capital. He stays in the house given by the diocese, attached to the hospital, along with Fr. Stephen Fosters, the provincial

and the head chaplain. I do my C.P.E. program in the same hospital, but staying in a community a few miles away where Fr. Jayan lives. But Fr. Jayan does the C.P.E. in St. Vincent's hospital, close to the house. The program is quite serious and time-demanding with visiting patients, verbatim, reflections and reports. It's efforts-taking, but however interesting.

As it's predominantly a catholic country, service of chaplains is well recognized here. The work can be very straining at times, depending on calls one gets from the wards, besides Mass, meetings and regular visits.

We appreciate the Indian delegation, our mother province and the Anglo-Irish province here for all the help and support.

Samastha makes documentary



Sunil Kupperi during the documentary shooting.

Vartha Photo

Samastha Correspondent

Bangalore: Sneha Charitable Trust under the *Samastha* project is giving its final touch to a few documentary films highlighting its care and support programmes throughout Karnataka with a network of 18 community care centres. The director of the documentaries Sunil Kupperi himself handles the camera for the script of Omjie John.

Experience

Inspiring Land of Mother

Bobit P.A

“The more you are intimately in love with Jesus, holier you will become, and holier you become, the more you will be a channel of love, compassion and presence of God to the poor.....” said Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta. This is a moment of immense pleasure to pen a few lines on our exposure programme to Calcutta. We, third year students of philosophy in Nagpur, Ajo, Rajesh, Reegan, Sarju and I left for Calcutta on May 29, 2008 and remained there for about a month.

It was with great enthusiasm we reached *Noorpur* far away from the city and situated on the shore of river *Hoogly*. We served the people who are blind, handicapped, mentally challenged and abandoned by the society. We are sure our care, love, concern and interaction with

them have left lasting impression on their lives.

We were really taken up by the charitable and missionary works of Missionaries of Charity Brothers and moreover their practice of extreme poverty. Apart from this, we had an opportunity to visit *Kalighat* where Mother started her ministry, Mother House and Mother’s tomb.

We could draw a lot of inspiration and spiritual insights from the land of Mother Teresa. We are sure it would help us build a strong spiritual foundation for our future ministry. We pray that like Mother Theresa we may be able to say, “Let us be one in heart full of love. When we all see God in each other, we will love one another as He loves us”

Snehasadan Opens Play Park



Mangalore: Snehasadan has opened a play-park for its children in a simple function held here on August 31. Sub Inspector of Police of Bajpe Police Station Ramesh Kumar inaugurated the park. Gurupura Gram Panchayat president Sadashiva Shetty was also present.

- *Vartha* Photos

Jyotidarsan dares new ways

S. Reagan

Nagpur: The community here has opened new ways of interacting and serving the people around, by introducing an English-teaching ministry to the children of *Chicholi* village.

Students from various standards come here for the one-and-a-half hours' classes conducted in two groups at *Jyotidarsan* in the evenings from Monday to Saturday. The students are taught basics of English grammar. The brothers who are students

of philosophy, guided by the formators take lead in organizing and handling the classes.

Those involved in this ministry feel that it is a God-given chance to be acquainted with some sort of ministry before they are entrusted with greater responsibilities. "We hope that it would not only help these children perform well in their schools, but also help them build up their future", said Fr. Sunil Pattakudilil, the formator.

Witnessing History

The Indian confreres in Italy participated in the canonization ceremony of the first Indian Saint Alphonsa, held in Vatican on October 12.

Photo: By Special Arrangement



Vartha begins a new series to highlight the history of Indian Camillians

Through the Corridors of History....

1



A Desire For India

Babychan Pazhanilath MI

The 16th and 17th centuries were well-known for missionary work, especially to the Asian continent (India, China, Japan etc) under *propaganda fide*, especially through Jesuits led by Francis Xavier.

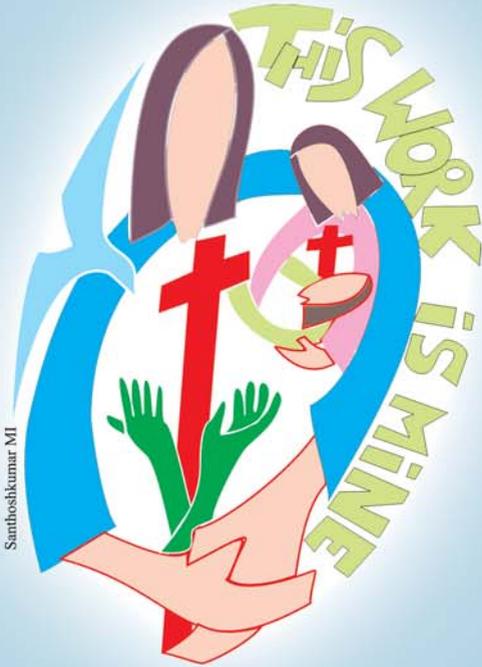
St. Camillus being close to the Jesuits, having St. Philip Neri, Jesuit Priest as his spiritual director, was update with the news from the missions. Mission and conversion were the words echoed everywhere. When some members spoke about the great missionary work and the news of numerous conversions in India and Japan, Camillus said, “For us hospitals are our India and Japan”. He meant that there are lots of occasions and urgency for conversions in the hospital set up, in service to the sick which is as important as mission work and conversions. Later part of his life Camillus had a desire to go to missions especially to India and Japan, but other members of the Order objected this because they needed his presence among them.

There is no doubt that St. Camillus ardently desired to take the gospel message ‘preach the gospel and heal the sick’ to the mission lands. From the first years of the foundation

of the Order, he had planned to journey to Spain and from there to India. But his responsibilities made his absence from Italy impossible. He was aware that in different parts of the world millions and millions of different faiths wait for the apostles of the gospel. By repeating to the confreres with sincerity and emotion that ‘our India and Japan are our hospitals’, he was expressing his secret and profound desire for the missions. He said, “If the people of other faith and Turks see the works of charity of the ministers of the sick, they would convert without any argument”

There were various attempts to go to missions in the very beginning of the Order. Fr. Giuseppe Romaguerra requested permission from the general council for starting a house in Japan during 1605-1644, and the request was turned down with a response that we were not ready for such a foundation. On 1st April 1644, to the request of Fr. Romaguerra, the general council responded “we are highly edified of the desire you have for starting an institute in India, but as of our judgment now it is not possible”

Next: Ground cleared for Indian Mission



Santhoshkumar MI

A Jubilee Gift

*“Not yours, but mine, is this work”
Said the crucifix, the crux of our hope!*

*With the outstretched arms the Father hugs
The Red Cross, our Order, for ever to flourish;
Compassion 'nd care the Good Sam'ritan digs-
Deep in our hearts for ever to cherish;
The Paraclete, His promise, fails not ever
To inspire his works of mercy for ever!*

*The Samaritan lived in Camillus, our guide
Lives and will live on, never to fade
Thanks we sing for years of silver
Two dozens coupled and a single more*

*Raised are the arms pleading care - of the ill
Raised are the arms inspired to heal
Raised are the arms in thanks to feel
For,
Raised He in us near a half millennium, His zeal!*

*“Not yours, but mine, is this work!”
“.....” (Jn. 15:16)*

- Santhoshkumar MI