



# ITHAYA KHADHIR

Bi-Monthly News Bulletin of the Institute of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

DECEMBER - 2020



## Message

Dear Brothers,

*"Advent is the season for remembering the closeness of God who came down to dwell in our midst,"* Pope Francis.

As we are in the Advent Season, the period that warrants every Christian to go ahead with spiritual preparations to receive Christ's first coming to Earth as a baby, in anticipation of the Lord's second coming as King of Kings. The very word '**Advent**' has got its origin from the Latin term '**Adventus**' which means "**coming**" - denoting greater importance. Of course every year, the Advent Season is celebrated with spiritual significances and joyful expectations. But the year 2020 has been jolted by the crucial pandemic leaving challenging times to every human being on Earth. Frankly speaking, Covid-19 has taken over the whole World. We have a perplexed way of living. Our lives have changed to face the challenges. Anxiety and panic have haunted the people around the globe. Many precious lives are lost and buried unsung and dishonoured, finding no-room even in the graveyard.

Pandemic, Lockdown, Social-distancing, Face mask, Quarantine and Restricted-exists were the phenomena that determined the lives of the people. Fear factors like the fear of the virus, of loneliness, of losing income/earnings and social insecurity made the mindset of the migrated labourers to walk thousands of miles to their native soil without food and water hoping to breath their last there.

Among the elite and the middle class families domestic violence became dominant, due to work-from-home concept, on-line classes for children and youth, constant use of mobile phone and the like. Psychological problems crept into our beings leading to health disorders, economic collapse and social outburst. For the Faithful, places of worship were restricted. But our personal prayers never ceased.

In spite of all these, the love of the Lord triumphed through Religious Organisations, NGOs and volunteers who came forward to mitigate the hardship of the affected and marginalised people. Medical practitioners, Nursing staff, Health workers, sanitary employees, security

personnel like police force, played an important role while their lives were at stake. At this point of time advent prompts us to prepare ourselves to receive the new born child, the embodiment of Love in our heart, word and deed.

Advent, for every Christian is a meaningful season that reminds us the Love of the Lord. **"For, God so loved the World that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"** (John 3:16). Love is the reality of Jesus Christ that overcomes the peril due to the above causes of the Covid-19 pandemic. Let us put love into action.

Secondly Advent season insists us to wait with Hope to receive the newborn baby-the Messiah of the World. Proverbs 23:18 says; "Surely there is a future and your hope will not be cut off." Let us wait with Hope like Mother Mary who consented, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38), accepting the birth of Jesus in our heart.

God has a plan for every one of us. Let us patiently wait hoping for a dawn as promised by Him. The Covid-tide is still there and this too will pass. Medical Researchers are vying to invent vaccines to eradicate the virus. Days are not far off when we are free to worship the Lord in our Churches and meeting halls. As we find in the book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3, there is a time for everything. **"Everything that happens in this world, Happens at the time God chooses."**

With action packed love and constant hopes let us prepare ourselves to receive the Peace and Joy that is brought to this world by Child Jesus on the manger. Let us inherit the glad tidings by helping the needy and the poor and making them happy to inherit God's love for which we have been called upon.

**May the Advent Season lead us to closeness of Christ who is to come.**

*Velankanni*

Bro. M. Velankanni SHJ  
Superior General



**"Our Lord wishes that all the Brothers are Sweet in the Heart and Humble in the Mind"**

Fr. Adrian Caussanel SJ



SERVANT OF GOD  
Fr. Adrian Caussanel SJ

## FRATERNAL VISIT OF RT.REV.DR.ANTONYSAMY TO THE HOUSE OF THE SACRED HEART

The Bishop of Palayamkottai Rt. Rev. Dr. Antonysamy made a fraternal visit to our Generalate on November 17, 2020 at 6.30 in the evening. He had a pleasing conversation with our Superior General Rev.Br.M.Velankanni SHJ and other Brothers of the Community. We had the privilege of partaking in the Benediction in our Generalate Chapel in the evening. The cordial relationship with the Local Ordinary and his presence in our midst inspired and motivated us very much as a blessing from the Sacred Heart of Jesus.



## TNCRI ASSEMBLY - 2020

Our Superior General, Rev.Br.M.Velankanni SHJ hosted the TNCRI Assembly-2020 from our Generalate Conference Hall through zoom platform on November 13 & 14, 2020. National CRI President, Rev.Br.Amalan FSC, the Office Bearers of TNCRI namely Rev.Sr.Rosary SJC, Rev.Sr.Sahaya Mary FBS and Rev.Sr.Amali SCB were here at the nodal point, networking with the active participation of the Major Superiors from various parts of Tamil Nadu. It was a new experience that they had to undertake during this crucial time of health pandemic for maintaining social distancing. Various important discussions were carried out on the two days.



## UNDER GENERALATE INSTITUTIONS- SUBMISSION OF SIX-MONTHS REPORT

### PALAYAMKOTTAI

With a view to evaluating the activities of the Institutions under Generalate administration during the pandemic lockdown period and their financial status, the Heads / Secretaries / Directors along with the Superiors of the Communities were invited to the Generalate on November 18, 2020 to present the six-months Activity Report, Statement of Accounts and Future Plans for the development. The Brothers in-charge of the Institutions/Units enthusiastically participated, extending total cooperation.

Rev.Br.M.Velankanni SHJ, Superior General

welcomed the participants with words of encouragement. Rev.Br.A.S.Gnanapragasam SHJ, the Finance Commission Coordinator moderated the session in which the six-months Reports were presented by the concerned Brothers in an elaborate manner. Starting from the Generalate Community, Brothers in-charge of Institutions / Units from Caussanelpuram, Dindugul, Chennai, Muthupettai, Lourdunagar and Mekkalur communities, vibrantly explained their position and progress and the programme became an open-forum for sharing and planning. Our Brothers opined that it was very encouraging to them for their mission.



### BENGALURU

Similar programme was conducted on November 21, 2020 at Geddalahalli. The communities of Lingarajapuram, Geddalahalli and Gulbarga participated actively in a well arranged programme. Rev. Br. General in his address emphasised to the participants that the meeting at this pandemic season is really crucial. Yet we need to face the challenges on economic issues to overcome

lockdown blockades. The Brothers in-charge of the respective units gave a vivid presentation of the position and progress of their institutions. Rev. Br.A.S.Gnanapragasam SHJ, the Finance Commission Coordinator moderated the session. Rev.Br.J.Levelil SHJ, conducted a brief evaluation of the reports, with notes of appreciation and encouragement. To conclude, Rev. Br. J.Levelil SHJ conducted Prayer session for all the participants in the evening.



## ALL SOULS DAY- NOVEMBER 02, 2020

All glory and praise to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that we were blessed to have observed the All Souls Day on November 02, this year with true spirit and solemnity, reflecting our belief as said in Romans 6:8;

*"If we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall live with him".*

The All Souls Day Requiem Mass was held at விண்ணக கூடாரம் Jeeva Jyothi in Caussanelpuram at 6.15 am with a devoted gathering of our Brothers, Sisters, Relatives and friends of the departed souls. Rev.Fr.Arul and Rev.Fr.Arul Joseph our Chaplin from Palayamkottai Diocese were the celebrants of the Holy Mass. The hovering of a prayerful spirit could be witnessed among the participants.

After the Holy Mass, a memorable programme was conducted in which the Book titled இதய மலர்கள் (விழுதுகள் பாகம் 3) compiled by Rev.Br.D.Gaspar SHJ, Secretary General highlighting the life and mission of our Brothers who had entered into Eternal Bliss during the past five years (2015-2020) came into existence. Rev.Br.M.Velankanni SHJ, Superior General released the Book. Rev.Br.J.Casmir, Provincial Superior-CP Rev. Br.T.Antony Raj SHJ Provincial Superior-AP, Rev.Br.V.Lourdu SHJ, Rev.Br.A.P.Chacko Ayathil SHJ and Rev. Sr.Leena received the first copies. Rev.Br.D.Gaspar SHJ, Rev.Br.A.Maria Joseph Antony SHJ, Rev.Br.A.Alexis Antony SHJ, Rev.Br.S.Lawrence SHJ, Rev.Br.Augustine K.Raj SHJ, Rev.Br.J.Raymond SHJ, Rev.Br.M.Chris Thomas SHJ and Rev.Br.M.Sengole SHJ, have decked the book with their thoughtful writing. Rev.Br.M.Velankanni SHJ, Superior General in his address thanked the Brothers for their strenuous efforts in bringing out this third volume of விழுதுகள் that would help the young Brothers to follow the brighter foot-paths of the departed Brothers during their life time in this world. The programme came to an end with light refreshment to the participants.



## UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL 94<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY

By the mercy of the Lord, this year, the 94<sup>th</sup> USG Assembly was held on Virtual platform in Rome from November 25 to 27 and our Rev.Br.Superior General participated from our Generalate in virtual space.

The Theme: **A new Imagination of the Possible – Leadership in time of post Covid-19.**

The following thoughts were discussed on the three-day programme. We live in a post Covid world. We need a shift from old paradigm of leadership that we practiced from 1990's up to 2010's to the new paradigm we have to undertake- 'The leadership in times of post covid 19.' To put in a nutshell, it is "Life affirming Leadership". It is the time we live in the midst of Covid devastation. We need a new kind of leadership which helps people to connect their hearts, minds, hands and spirits.

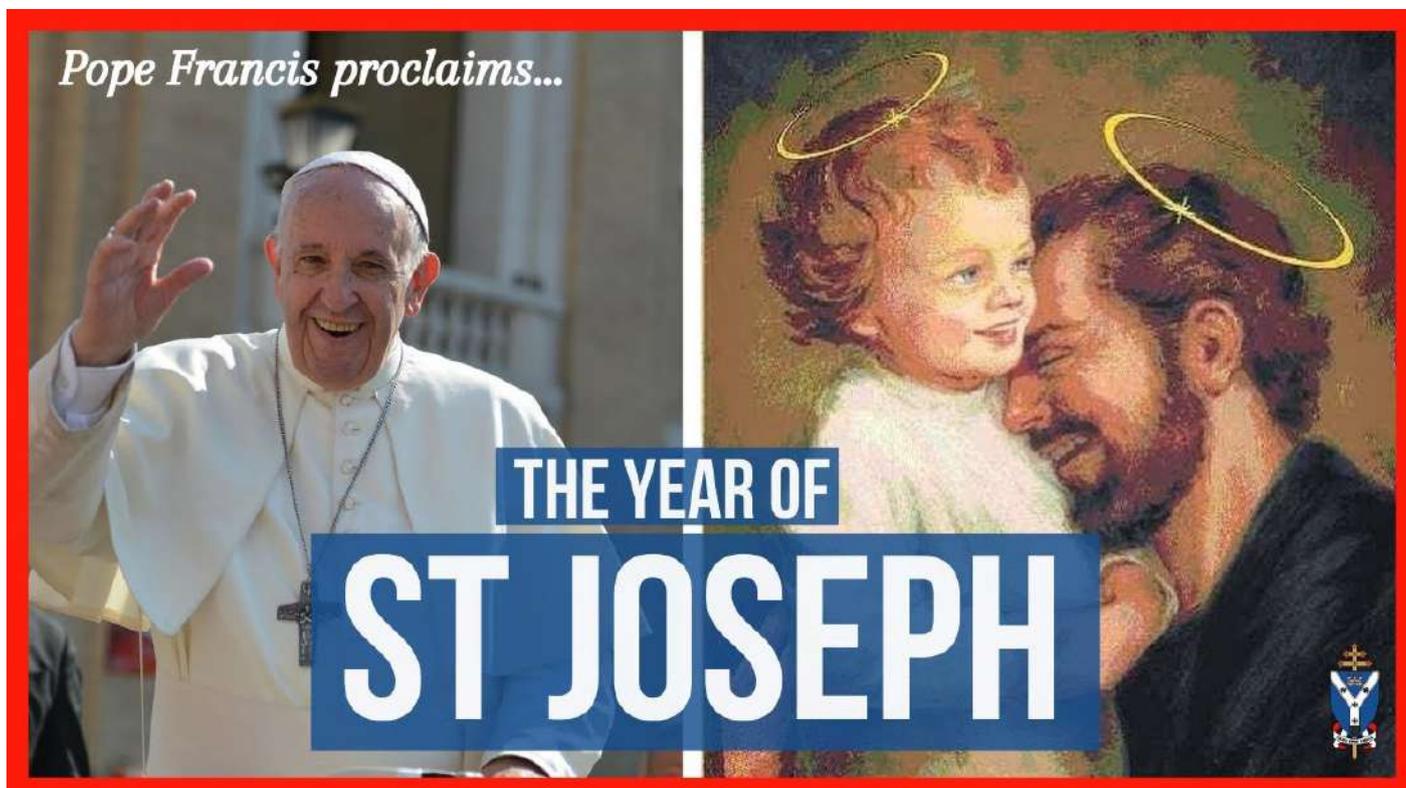
The session on 'life affirming Leadership' is more relevant to today's global context. Every community is filled with Leaders. Whatever the problem, community has the answer. We must live the World we want today. Magic happens when we encounter each other with respect, curiosity and generosity. We need **WORKERS** within the system for change. We proceed one step at a time making the path by walking it. We need **SEEKERS** to find a better way. We need **MAKERS** to establish paths to new opportunities. In the new paradigm we have to be **EMERGENT ORGANISERS** to bring structure and elegance to new systems. Finally we become **BRIDGE BUILDERS** to prepare the path for everyone to enter.



We are exploring a post Covid World with new challenges in addition to the already existing catastrophes, poverty, mass immigrations, gender and generational changes and we have to get adapted to the new paradigm shift.

## Pope Francis proclaims "YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH"

With the Apostolic Letter "**Patris corde**" (With a Father's Heart), Pope Francis recalls the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of Saint Joseph" from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021.



Our Holy Father invites us to pray to St. Joseph for the grace of graces: Our Conversion.  
*Let us now make our prayer to him:*

**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
In you Mary placed her trust;  
With you Christ became man.**

**Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
Show yourself a father  
And guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
And defend us from every evil. Amen.**

Let us constantly pray to St. Joseph and observe the "**Year of St. Joseph**" more devotedly in order to grow in his holy virtues.



*May this festive season sparkle and shine,  
may all of your wishes and dreams come true,  
and may you feel this happiness all year round.*

**Merry Christmas!**  
&  
**Happy New Year 2021**

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