



Editorial

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men and women of good will” (Lk 2: 14). The shepherds heard this song of angels, as they were informed by angels of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christ came to bring peace to all men and women. “Peace to men and women of good will” is one of refrains at Christmas. We need to look at our homes. They should be houses of warm welcome, of peace, love and forgiveness. As long as we bear grudges and nurse the wounds others have inflicted upon us, we can never have peace in our hearts and minds. But forgiveness purifies and releases the flow of peace and joy. Peace is not just the absence of war or of fighting. It is an attitude of mind and heart. Christmas is the celebration of God’s love, manifested in Jesus Christ, in the history of humanity. He is the Emmanuel and in him God’s unconditional love and grace have been revealed. God so loved the world that He gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life (Jn 3: 16). The greatest gift God could offer to this world for the salvation of humankind is nothing but His Only Son, Jesus Christ. This Son, through whom the world was created, preferred to be born not in the palace of the king Herod but in a manger. The Son, who is the Saviour of the humankind, desired not to be the friends of rich and the powerful but of the marginalized people of the society. The Son, who is ‘God with us,’ did not aspire for power and prestige but was pleased to serve. Angelus Silesius said: “Even if Christ is born a thousand times in Bethlehem, it is useless if he is not born in our hearts.” Let our Christmas celebrations make a difference in our lives. Let us allow Christ to be born in the inner sanctuary of our hearts so that we may become Christ bearers, manifesting his love and goodness to the people around. Christmas is an event in which God becoming man was manifested to the whole world. God revealed His plan of identifying Himself with all humanity, so that He belongs to every nation and race. Christmas proclaims that God has chosen to live among us — that is why He is called Emmanuel.



The event of the Incarnation calls us to become a ‘Christmas’ to one another, spreading the sweet fragrance of joy and hope to the less fortunate members of our society. For, as St Paul reminds us, that we are the aroma of Christ (2 Cor. 2:15). What needs to be lived in our families is the love of Christmas and what needs to be shared among one and all, irrespective of the differences of caste or creed, rich or poor, is the joy of Christmas. May the Spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the Joy of Christmas give you hope and the Warmth of Christmas fill you with His Love.

Fransalian International wishes you all a **Merry Christmas** and a **happy and prosperous New Year 2017**.

- Dr K. Henry Jose, MSFS
Chief Editor

Saint Francis de Sales A Saint So human Insight: Interior Peace II



Peace is essential for growth in holiness. Every virtue grows and flourishes in an atmosphere of peace just as nothing grows in a stormy atmosphere. St Francis de Sales has something interesting to tell us about peace :

All the diseases of the soul can be traced to some derangement in these passions of ours... The masters of spiritual life suggest the antidote of inward peace.

This breeds that unruffled calm of mind and heart which was so greatly recommended by the early Christians. “Peace be upon you” or “Peace be yours” was their usual greeting borrowed from the risen Christ. St Paul uses it frequently in his letters. Writing to the Corinthians, Colossians and others, he wishes them the blessing of inward peace as the only remedy for the many evils, great and small, surrounding every human soul. Peace is the key to a healthy spiritual life. We need to be continually alert and active in gaining and keeping it.

- Fr Antony Mookenthottam, msfs

Mermier Bytes



It is amazing that Fr Peter-Mary Mermier echoed in his personal life and propagated through Parish Mission Preaching, the Message that Pope Francis has expressed in his Apostolic Letter “Misericordia et Miseria” at the Close of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy, on 20th November 2016.

Pope Francis highlights (marked in bold characters), among others, that:

Mercy is the expression of God’s Love (illustrated in Jn.8:9) that touches the sinner (the adulterous woman) and transforms the accusers (the scribes and Pharisees); *Forgiveness is the most visible sign of the Father’s love ... Even at the last moment of his earthly life* (Lk. 23-24). Fr Mermier insisted that Preachers should draw inspiration from and transmit the Word of God without wasting time in useless oratory. (Let. To Fr Gaidon, 24-02-1849) For this reason the Missioners spent much time in catechesis, resorted to *dialoguedinter-active* preaching, generally with homogenous groups : (youth, fathers of families, mothers, young women, young men, children ...)

First, we are called to celebrate mercy. Fr Mermier encouraged “Celebrations” during the Parish Missions, since these allowed people to participate actively, through gestures, hymns, invocations, litanies, processions, ... and provided solemnity to the days of grace offered to the Parish.

The celebration of mercy takes place in a very particular way in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation... Christian mercy responds above all with vigilance and solidarity. Great importance was laid on the Sacrament of Reconciliation for which days were allotted for personal preparation with

sustained guidance offered by a priest of the Preaching Team. Services of additional priests were mobilized for confessions on the prescribed day. The Mission concluded with “Agreements” of resolution of disputes (economic, social) and *reconciliation* between conflicting individuals / parties through the good offices of the Preaching Team.

Mercy gives rise to joy, because our hearts are opened to the hope of a new life. ... I am loved, therefore I exist; I am forgiven, therefore I am reborn; I have been shown mercy, therefore I have become a vessel of mercy. To sustain this spirit of reconciliation and as an aid to perseverance, through prayer and devotion, Fr Mermier promoted setting up / re-viving / reinforcing “Confraternities” and similar Pious Associations in the Parishes.

It is heartening to echo these “Mermier Bytes” at this time, when Parish Mission Teams of our respective Provinces, under the guidance of the General Councillor for Missions, are re-discovering in today’s context the Apostolic Charism of the Congregation. The objective is to prepare *Modules* that will respond to the needs of the faithful of our times.

“Our ministry demands that we offer ourselves to the people, to society, like another St Francis de Sales, totally disinterested, burning with his zeal for the salvation of all, full of compassion at the sight of evils which make people suffer, without wasting time in useless oratory, with an authentic mission, irreproachable doctrine, and above all a virtuous life.” (MSFS Constitutions, Ch.1, No. 13 : “Our Foundational Vision and Charism”)

[Inspiration drawn from : Pope Francis : Apostolic Letter “Misericordia et Miseria”, and, A. Duval, “Monsieur Mermier”]

- Fr Noel Rebello, msfs

Philosophy College Entrusted with the MSFS

St Clement College, a centre of Philosophy, initiated by the Archdiocese of Guwahati for the purpose of training the candidates for priesthood for the North Eastern region of India was formally inaugurated on the 15th of June 2016. The Philosophy College was officially inaugurated by His Excellency The Most Rev. Salvatore Pennachio, the Apostolic Nuncio of India and Nepal and was blessed by The Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati. The inaugural function was solemnised by the presence of most of the bishops from the region, the



Superior General of the Missionary sisters of the Mary help of Christians, Provincials and Regional Superiors of men and women congregations based in the Northeast part of India, besides many priests, sisters and lay faithful numbering around 500. St Clement College is located at Tokobari, Nagaon, Assam.

The entire responsibility of running the Philosophy College was entrusted with the Missionaries of St Francis De Sales, North-East India Province, under the leadership of Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, the Provincial, (of the MSFS Northeast India province). Rev. Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadathil MSFS was appointed as the First Rector of the St Clement College. The other staff members are Rev. Fr Babu Kudakkachirakkunnel (Dean), Rev. Fr Stephen Avilhou (Registrar and controller of Examination) and Rev. Fr Francis Peethuruthel (Administrator). (The Philosophy college) St Clement’s is immensely grateful to Rev. Fr Johny Mavelly who completed the construction of the building (residential block) and (still in) continues to be on the staff of St Clement College to continue the construction of the Academic block of the college.

- Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadathil, msfs

Southern African Region hosts: Year of Mercy Retreat and Year of Formation Workshop

From among the 27 confreres of the region, 21 who work in different countries such as Swaziland, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Germany attended the annual retreat and ongoing formation workshop 2016. Fr JojoPazhaveetil, a member of the NE province, who works in Germany, also joined the members of the region for the retreat and workshop. The retreat was held at the scenic Stellenbosch Christian Brother's Centre, outside Cape Town, South Africa. Some of the confreres travelled as far as 2500 km to arrive at the venue. The Year of Mercy retreat was preached by Frs Joseph Kunjaparambil, Jose Mamalassery and Jijesh Palatty.



For the confreres, the days were moments of God's blessings and inspiration.

The members of the region had the rare privilege of having a workshop with Fr Marthinus Badenhorst, a Dominican priest, who was is a convert from Calvinist Church to Catholic Church. The sessions were highly informative and relevant, as he focused on the

human, political and religious history of Southern Africa. Along with all the learnings, the annual gathering was indeed a time of sharing and catching up with mission stories and life experiences.

- Fr Joseph Kunjaparambil, msfs

When Fransalian Youth Don Cloaks of Mercy



At the invitation of Pope Francis to choose seven corporal works and spiritual works of mercy in preparation for World Youth Day, Fransalian Youth in various parts of Northeast India took upon themselves to practice seven acts of mercy – one each in a month. As a lot happened around the world since the Holy Father began the Jubilee Year of Mercy by opening the Holy Doors on December 8, 2015, Fransalian Youth Mission, too, joined hands with the rest in preparing for the World Youth Day by practicing seven corporal and spiritual works of mercy – visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, giving drink to the thirsty, visiting old-age and childrens' homes, visiting the imprisoned and praying for the departed. Implementations of these acts of mercy were inspiring and challenging. Many of the youth said it gave them immense happiness to serve our Lord Jesus in a unique way.

- Fr John Barman, msfs

Diwali Celebration at SFS School, Badnera

Diwali is a festival of joy, splendor, brightness, and happiness.



St Francis de Sales Sr Sec. School, Badnera, organized Diwali celebrations on 25th October 2016 in the school auditorium. Competitions like Coloring the Diya, Greeting Cards Making, Rangoli, etc. preceded

the event. On this beautiful occasion, the chief guest of the day Fr Anthony Amaldoss MSFS, principal of SFS School Seraikella, Jharkhand, reiterated the fact that every human person is created by God with light and that light realized to shine. Diwali celebrations culminated in a get-together for staff, at the end of a three-day seminar on the theme, 'Classroom Management'. The Teachers were oriented to work towards realizing classroom objectives on a day-to-day basis.

- Fr Issac John, msfs

30 September 2016 Abondance (Chablais) Founder's Day



A good attendance for this Friday evening in the mountains of Chablais, including Mrs Joëlle GHIGO-MERMIER, grand grand-niece of our sFounder. Power Point presentation on Fr Mermier, Mass and aperitive with the parishioners, meal for the members and some guests, under the organization of the parish priest, Fr Boban Jose.

Love finds a way to Help



SFS School, Ettumanoor, is forging ahead with its charitable projects by constructing and handing over a beautiful house for one of its non-teaching staff members. Ms Divya Joseph was living in a hovel which had only polythene covering for roof and no walls to

enclose a house. When the school community came to know her situation, they took up the project to build a good house for her. They raised necessary funds through the sale of vegetables they cultivated on the school campus, the food festival they conducted at the school, and raising a charity fund through voluntary donations. The silver jubilee "home for the poor project" of the SWIP of MSFS also contributed their share. The new house costs around Rs 7 lakh.

Rev. Dr Benny Koottanal, Provincial of SWIP of MSFS blessed the building, while Rev. Fr Jose Parappillil, School Manager, handed over the keys to the would-be occupants, in the presence of the local MLA, Shri K Suresh Kurup, Rev. Fr A Jerome, councillor in charge of Mission, Rev. Fr Vinod Kanat, Provincial Bursar, Fathers and brothers from the seminary, school staff, students and a small gathering of neighbours and relatives. The function was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2016. This is the third house constructed by the School for the destitute of the area. It comprises two bedrooms, a sitting room, and kitchen. The construction of the house was supervised by Rev. Fr Sibi Manickathan, School administrator and the house is named as "Snehabhavanam".

- Fr Roy Plathottathil, msfs

Harvest Aplenty!

Mission command of Jesus – "Harvest is plentiful, but laborers are few", is very much alive in the continent of Africa, and more especially



in the Republic of Chad. St Daniel Comboni Parroisse, Doba is a living witness to this reality. The liturgical rite of the 'entry of catechumen', was organized on 3 different dates at the parish and 2 other sectors on the 7, 15 and 16 October 2016 respectively. The liturgy was animated by Fr Robin Thonikuzhuyil and was assisted by Fr Sujith John Pallassery. A total of 412 catechumens have enrolled themselves and were officially received by the liturgy of the rite of 'entry of catechumen'. The catechumens undergo 3 years of rigorous, continual catechism classes and 1 year of spiritual accompaniment, after which they would be allowed to receive the sacrament of Baptism and accepted as members of the Church. Thus, there are more than 1,300 catechumens in 4 batches, waiting to receive the sacrament of initiation (Baptism). In other words, Chad is 'Ore of faith', waiting to be unearthed. To this plentiful harvest field, we pray to the Lord of the harvest, for laborers.

- Fr Sujith John Pallassery, msfs

Social Animation Seminar

Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education in India (FASCE India), conducted a one-day seminar on Social Work at Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Umroi, Meghalaya, on June 6, 2016, with the theme, 'Religious as Development Agents'. Dealing with the history and the development of social work, Fr Jose Karippadathu MSFS said that the service to humankind is not something new in the Church, but there is a distinction between voluntary and professional social service. Fr Tomy Thekkel MSFS spoke about social teachings of the Catholic Church and Fr George Pekkadankuzhiyil MSFS dealt with relevance of social work in School settings. The seminar also trained the participants in 'Project Writing and Reporting,' giving them a new focus in social ministry.



-Fr Praveen Kumbattu, msfs

La Roche-Sur-Foron Provincial Congress



Fr Jean-Yves Le Tué



Fr Yves Cornu

2 days under the theme «MSFS, witnesses of divine Mercy today». The members elected a new team to lead the Province with Fr Yves Carron the Provincial :

Frs John HEPUNI (Ville-la-Grand), Yves CORNU (Geneva) and Jean-Yves LE TUE (Thonon), who is also Provincial bursar.



Fr John Hepuni

New MSFS Mission Centre Erected at Mangkolemba

Most Rev. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima, erected a new centre, dedicated to the loving Patronage of St Andrew the Apostle, and known hence forth under the title of St Andrew's centre, C/o St Andrew School, Mangklemba-798



604, Nagaland, with effect from November 11, 2016 and handed it over to the MSFS. On the same day Rev. Fr Kurian Pattimakal MSFS was appointed as the first Priest In-charge of the Mission.

Bishop Thoppil, while addressing the gathering, thanked the MSFS congregation for coming forward to work at the centre and thanked Fr Kurian, a veteran missionary, who has spent over 45 years in Nagaland and Manipur, for his willingness to be a pioneer again. Fr Kurian, the newly appointed Centre In-charge, thanked all for the willingness to support and assured to work together for the mission and the development of the people.

-Fr Praveen Kumbattu, msfs

Inauguration of the Friendly Home Unit- II



12th October 2016 was a joyous day for the MSFS - South East India Province because it witnessed the grant opening of the extension of the friendly home. SFS Community at Vaniyambadi was delighted to welcome all the dignitaries for the inauguration of Unit II of the friendly home.

The event began with the planting of saplings in the school campus. Rev. Fr Antony Dharma Raj, the provincial of South-East India, blessed the new building of Unit II of the friendly home and Mr Jurgen Steinmetz opened it. Rev. Fr C. Sebastin Raj and Rev. Fr Jeya Kumar unveiled the stone. The day was cheered with a multi cultural programme, organized by our Friendly Home Children & House Mothers from Alangayam and Vaniyambadi. There after a delicious lunch was served.

We, the SFS Community at Vaniyambadi, whole heartedly thank the Provincial, Councillors, confreres, Sisters, benefactors, teachers, students and guests for their great support and encouragement for our undertaking of this ministry.

- Fr D. Johnson, msfs

The Blessing of Our New Vice Provincial House – Atlanta, GA



September 15th was an important day for the Fransalian Family all over the World, as we celebrated the Feast of Our Patroness, Mother of Compassion. It was an important day for the Fransalians of the United States, as we not only celebrated the Feast of our Patroness but also blessed the new home (MSFS Vice Provincial House) for the Fransalians in the United States, at Loganville-Atlanta, Georgia (This is a property of 6.8 acres of land with the existing structure that was purchased by the previous administration). Confreres from Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee gathered in the new house on the 15th evening and Fr TomyPuliyampattayil, the Vice Provincial, blessed the house, in the presence of the confreres, and dedicated it as the new Provincial House for the Fransalians of the United States. This house will function as the Provincial House currently and all the business transactions will take place from there henceforth. After the blessing of the house, all the priests went to St Alphonsa Church on Rosebud Road and celebrated the Feast with Holy Mass and dinner. There were several parishioners from St Alphonsa Parish, along with many members from the Friends of the Fransalians of the Atlanta Chapter. There were 12 confreres to celebrate the Holy Mass. Fr Tomy was the main celebrant and Fr Joseph Pottommel delivered the homily. At the end of the Mass, the Vice Provincial delivered a message to the community which included the strategic plan of the Fransalians in Atlanta for the near future. Everyone enjoyed the Indian food. Thanks to Fr Mathew and his team for all their help.

-Fr Tomy Puliyampattayil, msfs

Inauguration of the ADJ Community Hall and the Laying of the Foundation for Mermier Home at All Saints Church, R. S. Nagar, Chennai

It was another proof of the blessings from God for All Saints Parish to have the ADJ Community Hall renovated into an entirely New look, with all facilities for the use of the public and the parishioners.



It was blessed by Most Rev. Dr George Anthonysamy DD, STD, JCL, the Archbishop of Madras Mylapore and opened by Rev. Fr A. Dharmaraj MSFS, the Provincial of South - East India Province.

On the same day, the Foundation stone for Mermier Home was blessed by his Lordship and unveiled by our dear

Fr Provincial in the presence of the parish community and neighbouring religious sisters and vicariate fathers. A planting of the saplings was organized in the church campus, followed by a solemn festal Eucharistic celebration by the bishop, concelebrated by our confreres and diocesan clergy. The feast came to an end with a grand car procession on 30th and a fellowship meal in the new community hall. We thank His Grace and our beloved Provincial for their love and support towards the growth of this parish.



- Fr G. David, msfs

Blessing and Inauguration of St Francis de Sales Church, Jakkur, Yelahanka



Another missionary venture of the South-West India Province of MSFS was launched with the inauguration of a Syro-Malabar Church, under the Mandya Diocese, at the very heart of the city of Bangalore.

The church was blessed by

Rev. Bp. Antony Kariyil, Bishop of Mandya diocese. The auspicious occasion was graced by Shri. Krishna Byre Gowda honourable Minister for agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka, Rev. Dr Benny Kootanal MSFS, Provincial of South-West India Province, Shri. Manjunath Babu, Corporator, BBMP, Shri. K. Mathai KAS, MSFS confreres, fathers, sisters and brothers from various religious congregations. The whole parish gathered to extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to the honoured guests of the day. Thereafter, the decree was read of officially establishing St Francis de Sales Church, Jakkur as a parish and appointing Fr Joseph Kannadam as the first parish priest. Bp. Antony Kariyil presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration. Fr Joseph Kannadam expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all who helped him in making this venture a reality. The agape meal added sweetness to the whole gathering.

- Br Sijo Paul, msfs

Blessing of the Foundation Stone at Nachiarkoil

16th September, 2016, was a joyous day for the parish of Nachiarkoil which witnessed the blessing of the foundation stone for the Church. Fr Anantharaj extended a warm welcome to Rev. Fr Antony Dharmaraj, the Provincial of South-East India Province, to lay the foundation stone for the parish office and it was



blessed by Rev. Fr Agnelo Fernandes, the general councilor for mission, in the presence of MSFS priests, parish council members, village heads and well wishers. After the programme the parish priest thanked everyone for their presence and prayers.

- Fr Anantharaj, msfs

New Chapel Inauguration at Kunnathur, Mariapuram Parish

The AnnaiVelankanniMadhaAlayam at Kunnathur, (Under Mariapuram Parish) was blessed and Opened by Rev. Bp. Thomas Aquinas and Rev. Fr A. Dharmaraj, MSFS, on 4th September 2016, at 6PM, in the presence of the faithful. This Chapel was a long awaited need of the people of Kunnathur. Since it is ANNAI VELANKANNI MADHA ALAYAM, every passer-by also prays and benefits. On 4th September 2016, after the blessing



and opening of the chapel, there was a short felicitation of and prayers for all the dignitaries, well-wishers and sponsors. At the end of the programme, everyone was served a fellowship dinner. This spiritual celebration went on well until 8th morning of September 2016, with a FEAST MASS celebrated at 8.30AM. Thanks to the Coimbatore Diocese, South-East India Province of MSFS and all donors and parishioners. God Bless us all through the intercession of AVM (AnnaiVelankanniMadha).

- Fr Pilavendran, msfs

Blessing of the New Chapel at Chathriam

The SFS industrial school at Chathriam celebrated the blessing and dedication of its new chapel and two renovated guest rooms. Rev. Fr Dharmaraj, the Provincial graced



and presided over the blessing and opening of the chapel, the rooms and the kitchen, accompanied by Fr Edward, Msfs, councilor in-charge for Mission. At this auspicious moment we gratefully remember and thank late Rev. Fr Dominic, Msfs, the visionary and the founder of the industrial school. Sincere thanks also to Fr Dharmaraj, the Provincial, and His council for their support and encouragement.

- Fr Benjamin, msfs

Golden Jubilee of Holy Cross Parish Desruisseaux, West Indies (1966-2016)

20th October 2016 was the greatest joyous day for the parish of Holy Cross, Desruisseaux. The golden jubilee celebration began at 2:45pm with praise and worship which was followed by a report on the history of the parish and the welcome dance. The Most Holy Eucharistic celebration began with a procession. The presence His Grace Robert Rivas, OP and our Prime Minister, Mr Allen Chastanet, priests, friends and well-wishers and various groups of parishes added colour to this great event.



Fr John Milton welcomed all the dignitaries and the faithful to the Eucharistic celebration. His Grace Robert Rivas preached a vibrant homily focusing on the theme: there is no victory without the cross. After the Communion Dance, the people who whole heartily served the parish for the past fifty years were honoured with gifts. Words of gratitude was extended to all those who were present. Finally the whole event came to an end with a fellowship meal.

- Fr John Milton, msfs

Swachh Bharat at K. Rampura Village



The members and volunteers of the FIDESIndia society joined hands with the staff and students of Tejas Vidya Petha in accomplishing the Swachh Bharat mission at K. Rampura village, almost 5km away from the NEST home. The mission was to communicate the value of cleanliness to the villagers by cleaning the surroundings, drainage, public tanks etc. and patriotism by positively responding to the call of the Honorable prime minister of India. The programme was inaugurated by Fr Joy Vazhappillil, the provincial Councilor in charge of innovative ministries and the Executive Director of FIDESIndia Society. The occasion was graced by the presence of Fr Henry Jose, the rector of Tejas Vidya Peetha. The event also communicated a strong message in disguise to transcend from the clutches of social disparity and gradation that arrest them in setting out in pursuit of any valuable cause. The active participation from the part of the villagers made the event a successful one. The moving presence and notable contribution of the children of NEST was also highly appreciated by all. The villagers expressed their delight and gratitude for the service rendered.

- Fr Jijo Chemplany, msfs

Rev. Fr Gabriel Memorial Lectures 2016

To promote the academic excellence and to keep the memory of late Rev. Fr Gabriel MSFS alive, a series of Lectures was organised in Suvidya College, Bengaluru on 8th December, focusing on various dimensions of ecology in the light of the Encyclical "Laudato Si". Suvidya choir invoked God's presence while Rev. Fr A Dharmaraj the Provincial of South-East India Province and the Chairman of Suvidya College along with Rev. Fr Noel Rebello the General Councillor in-charge of Formation, Rev. Fr K. Ignacimuthu Provincial-Elect of South-East India Province and Rev. Dr Joy Mampally President of Suvidya College lighted the lamp. In his inaugural address Rev. Fr Dharmaraj referred to Fr A Gabriel as a friend of ecology, and congratulated the Staff and students for conducting "the Gabriel Memorial lectures" for a second time. Professor Dr Kuriakose Poovathumkudy of Orients Theological College Shillong exposed the Structure of the Encyclical, to the audience numbering around 300. Professor Rev. Dr Thomas Kalariparambil in his lecture on "A philosophical Response to Ecology" explained the philosophical background and underlying principles of the encyclical and the underlying worries that prompted the Pope to such an encyclical. Professor Rev. Dr Jacob Parappally in his lecture dwelt on the Trinitarian & Christological Dimensions of Ecology. In her interactive lecture Professor Phinu Jose from Christ University Bengaluru lead her hearers to find practical solutions to Ecological concerns and issues.



The staff and students of Suvidya along with the participants renewed the memories of Rev. Fr Gabriel and felt happy about having conducted and taken part in the well organised and well delivered lecture series.

- Fr James Pattarakalayil, msfs

Congratulation to Fr Jacob Parappally, MSFS for his New Book on Christology, "The Meaning of Jesus Christ"



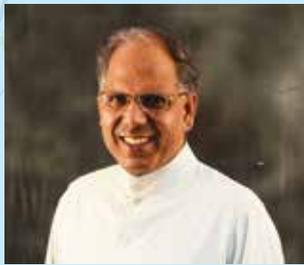
The book *The Meaning of Jesus Christ: An Introduction to Christology* is authored by Fr Jacob Parappally under the auspices of the Catholic Bishops Conference of India (CBCI) Inter-ritual Textbook Committee. This book is promoted as the textbook on Christology in all the Major Seminaries in India. No book on Christology can lead one to encounter Christ as the centre of one's life. It is only by faith or personal surrender to Jesus that the mystery of God and mystery of the humans and their world will be disclosed. Once, such an encounter has been gifted and responded to, then the Scripture and what is witnessed about Jesus or the knowledge about Jesus would deepen one's faith in him and enable one to proclaim him with courage and conviction. Therefore, this Introduction to Christology is expected to serve not only some

specific academic purposes but also to deepen the knowledge about Jesus so that one is led to know Jesus a little more deeply and intimately, growing from an infantile faith to an adult faith that is reasonable and convincing. This Introduction to Christology is presented in nineteen chapters. It presents the meaning of Jesus Christ from the biblical, historical and theological perspectives. It includes also the Western, Eastern and the Indian interpretations of Christ. The Christological reflections of some theologians who are known to be representing these traditions are included to give an insight into the challenges they faced in order to present the meaning of Jesus Christ in their particular contexts. The book elaborately presents the Hindu views on Christ and the understanding of Jesus Christ in dialogue with Islam. There is a vivid portrayal of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ in the context of religious pluralism.

Congratulations



Rev. Fr K. Ignacimuthu, msfs
Provincial of South-East India Province



Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, msfs
Provincial of North-East India Province

OBITUARY



Br Job Poovathumootil, msfs



Fr Louis Brugger, msfs



Fr Luke Cheruvil, msfs

May your Christmas be filled
with sharing, loving and
thanking God for all His
blessings.

**Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year**

