



VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

Loving Jubilee and Festal Greetings from Provincial House, Kottayam!

I am happy to share with you all some of the news about our community and its various activities.

1. Silver Jubilee of our Province and Sacerdotal Jubilees

The Silver Jubilee of the formation of our Province is being celebrated with various programs on 24th September 2015. It is an occasion to remind ourselves of the great Divine Providence that has guided us all these 25 years. God has blessed us abundantly and made us grow in accordance with his plan. Let us all, join together in the thanksgiving Mass at 4.00 pm at Adichira House. The concelebrated Mass will be presided over by his Excellency Mar Mathew Vaniyakizhakkal, Bishop Emeritus of Satna. The Sacerdotal Golden and Silver Jubilee of our conferrers will also be celebrated together with the Jubilee of the Province. Immediately after the Mass, there will be a public meeting presided over by the Superior General, V. Rev. Fr. Varghese Parappuram, VC. May I invite all of you most cordially to participate in the Jubilee celebrations. On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Province I would like to thank all the Superiors General and the General Council Members during this period especially V. Rev. Fr. Varghese Parappuram, the present Superior General, and his Councilors. Let us also remember with gratitude our former provincials – Rev. Frs. Mathew Thoyalil (late), Fr. Abraham Kanjirakonam, and Fr. Jose Vettiyanikal – and also all the provincial councilors who had given leadership hitherto. I remember in a very special way the present Asst. Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Jose Chettoor and the Councilors Rev. Frs. Samuel Kanathukadu, Antony Thachethukudy, and Ebin Neeruvellil. I am also very thankful to all our members – priests and seminarians –for their cooperation and support. Thanks to each and every one!

2. Feast of St. Vincent de Paul

May I wish you all, dear Fathers and Seminarians, a happy Feast of our heavenly Patron, **St. Vincent de Paul**. He is our living inspiration in today's world of challenges. As we know and experience, we find a certain 'culture of the negatives' exerts influence on people at large (negative values are emphasized at the cost of the positive values). The negatives are wide spread. Pope John Paul spoke of the 'culture of death' while referring to this. Even we are affected by this kind of culture of the negatives.

During the time of St. Vincent too this culture of the negatives prevailed, we know. But he was able to fight against it and win over such situations. He tried to fulfill what God has revealed in Jer 9,24: "I act with steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord."

God's love and commitment for the world and men are expressed in the Bible using 2 beautiful concepts, we can see. (i.) God's steadfast love - it is called *Hesed*. Let us call it covenantal love (2 Sam 9,1); (ii.) God's Fidelity – it is called *Emunah*. Let us call it Covenantal fidelity (*Emunah* means fidelity, firmness, faithfulness, etc.) Is. 25,1

Covenantal Love - Because of His love God has made his covenant with each one of us in the Vincentian Congregation. What is the meaning of covenantal love? Whether you love God or not, He will continue to love you – a love expecting no return. This is the type of love that we see beautifully explained in hymn of love given in 1 Corinthians 13.

Covenantal Fidelity- He protects and provides for all that he has created. That is the meaning of remaining faithful to the covenant he made. What is the meaning of covenantal fidelity? Whether you are faithful to God or not, he will continue to be faithful to you – a fidelity that is independent of our response.

Thus in his lifetime St. Vincent became the symbol of covenantal love and covenantal fidelity. The Feast is an occasion to challenge ourselves to lead a life of covenantal love and covenantal fidelity. Let us try our best to take up this challenge in our world today, relying on the intercessions of St. Vincent. **Once again wish you all a very happy and blessed Feast!**

Please remember about our obligation to renew our vows on September 27th, on the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul. Let all the members of the House/community participate on that day in the Solemn concelebrated Mass in which all the priest members also are to participate (even if they have other Masses).

3. Visit to Europe

I am planning to go to Europe (September 28 - October 22, 2015). I will be making the canonical visit in our Houses, and visit our members. I will meet the Diocesan officials of the Dioceses where our members do ministry. It will be an opportunity also to visit some funding agencies and benefactors to thank for the projects helped by them and also to submit some fresh projects. **During my absence the Asst. Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Jose Chettoor, VC will discharge the duties of the Provincial Superior.** My contact number in Europe will be 0049-151 752 925 54. Anyone can contact me through the Superior of Berlin House, Rev. Fr. Thomas Ouseparambil, VC. May I request you to kindly pray for the success of my visit. Thank you!

4. Annual Retreat

The annual retreats organized by the Vincentian Generalate are scheduled for the coming months. Let us please find time for the retreat in the community and plan our programs accordingly. If you want to make any changes regarding the date please inform Rev. Fr. Jojo Marippattu in Generalate. Kindly bring the personal Mass register when you come for the retreat. The Mass Register of the House shall be brought by the House superior or someone from the House.

5. Observance of the Day of V. Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarath

As usual we observe our Founders' Day on 24th October, 2015 at Thottakom. Let us participate in the special programs scheduled for the Memorial Day organized from our Generalate (9.30 am - 4.00 pm). Let us earnestly pray for his intercession on our behalf. Let us also pray for his beatification.

6. Blessing of the Newly Bought Building for De Paul Care Center at Nedumkunnam

I am happy to share the joyful news about the Blessing of the newly bought Building (meant to function as a home for the aged people) at Nedumkunnam, which was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. George Arackal, VC, Provincial Superior, and blessed by Rev. Dr. Philip Nelpuraparambil, Vicar, Nedumkunnam on September 19, 2015 at 4.00 pm. About 20 priests and a few sisters participated in the function. Besides the seminarians from Myladi, and about 60-70 people from the locality also took part in the functions. Special congrats and thanks to Rev. Fr. Samuel Kanathukadu, Sonu Kulathoor, and Dony Vazhavelikkakathu who have worked hard for the renovation works and also for the beautification works. 'Thank you', dear Fathers!

7. Health Corner

Please continue to pray for Fr. Abraham Orathel who is undergoing chemotherapy. He is in the Provincial House. Fr. George Vadakkekara had been undergoing some ayurvedic treatment for arthritis and is now taking rest in the Provincial House. Our senior Fathers in Adichira are all OK. Frs. Kadiyankuttiyil, Kariamadam, Nampiaparambil, and Paliyakunnel Emmanuel are all fine. Fr. Karikulam is also keeping fine in Pala minor seminary.

I would like to thank all of you for your valuable prayers for them and appreciate you for spending time to visit them once in a while. Please keep them all in your prayers.

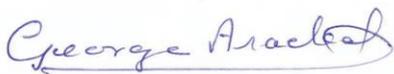
8. The Renewal Program

The Renewal Program conducted in two batches was well attended by our members. I am happy to say that 92 priests had participated in the two day seminar guided by Rev. Dr. George Manalel, VC and Rev. Dr. Tomy Tharayil, the Director of Denahalaya Institute, Punnappa, Alappuzha. The classes were greatly appreciated by all. I would like to thank you dear Fathers for your earnest participation. Let us try to resolve to live according to the insights we had received during the seminar.

9. Conclusion

Wishing you once again a very happy Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, our Heavenly Patron and praying for you all that the Lord may bless us all and our community through the intercessions of St. Joseph, St. Vincent de Paul and V. Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarath,

Yours in St. Vincent de Paul,



Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC
Provincial Superior



Kottayam

21-09-2015



HAPPY FEAST !