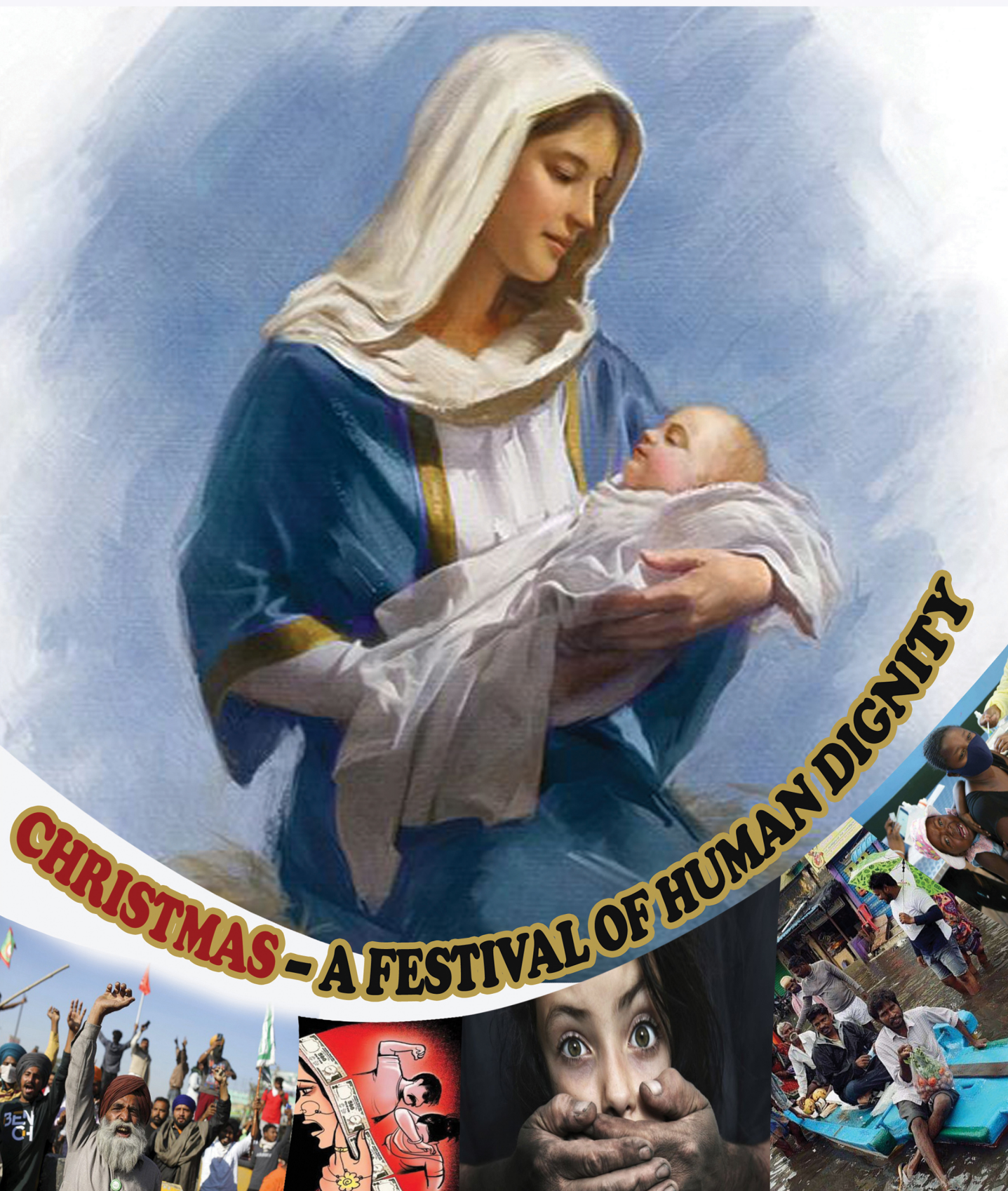


WAVES

DECEMBER 2021

SISTERS OF THE CROSS OF CHAVANOD - PROVINCE OF TIRUCHIRAPPALLI



"Thus Christmas reveals the immense love of God for humanity. From that flows also the enthusiasm, the hope of us Christians, that in our poverty we know that we are loved, we are visited, accompanied by God; and we see the world and history as the place in which we journey together with him and amongst ourselves, towards a new heaven and a new earth."

- POPE FRANCIS

Merry
Christmas



&

HAPPY NEW YEAR - 2022

From the Editor's Desk...

I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people (Lk 2:10)

Dear Sisters,

Christmas is around the corner. Joy fills our hearts as we get ready to celebrate this great feast of the birth of our Saviour. Expressing our sentiments of joy, prophet Isaiah has long back prophesied saying, "You have brought abundant joy and great rejoicing" (Is 9:3). The shortest version of Christmas festival is the fact that God became man: "and the Word became flesh and lived among us" (Jn 1:14). The Christmas festival is the festival of Incarnation, that is God becoming human. The thought of God identifying himself with our human nature fills us with mysterious joy and hope. It is said that where God is born, hope is born; and where hope is born, persons regain their dignity and hope; where God is born, peace is born. By putting on our human nature, God has restored our human dignity and we have once again been recognized as the children of God (1Jn 3:1).



**Sr. Jasmine Amalraj
Fort**

What attracts our thoughts and minds in this season of Christmas is the way in which God came into the world. He was born into the poverty of this world; there was no room in the inn for him and for his family. He found shelter and support in a stable and was laid in a manger for animals. We need to remember that when God became one of us, he demanded none of the world's comforts, luxuries or protections. Yes, God arrives in ways that are small, poor and hidden. And yet, from this nothingness, the light of God's glory shines forth. The power of this Child, Son of God and Son of Mary, is not the power of this world, based on might and wealth; instead, it is the power of love. This is what prophet Isaiah expresses in 9:6: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Is 9:6).

As we celebrate the Christmas festival amidst the fear of the pandemic, let us keep our eyes open to the ways in which God is looking to be present in the world amidst the crisis of the pandemic. May we uphold the human dignity in every diverse situation that we encounter in our society and in the world.

At this juncture, I would like to thank sincerely Rev. Sr. Vinnarsi Mathias, the outgoing editor of Waves and all her collaborators. Thank you Sisters for contributing your might in every way for the growth of Waves in these past years. I would like to add a personal note of thanks to all the contributors of articles for this issue of Waves. The current issue of Waves comes along with a rich sharing of the diverse apostolate experiences of our dear sisters in the province. I am sure that it will inspire us a lot to carry forward to the world battered by the fear of the pandemic, the seeds of hope, love and abundant Joy which our Lord has brought us with his Holy birth. Stay Blessed!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a grace filled New Year 2022!



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CHRISTMAS - A CALL TO SHIELD HUMAN DIGNITY

On that memorable midnight, an angel of the Lord said to the Shepherds, “Do not be afraid ... I am bringing you good news of great joy” (Lk 8:9-10). It is this message that our world desperately needs today. Pope Francis’s words of mercy, reconciliation, respect for the dignity of human person, becomes a clarion call to the world to abandon violence and to embrace peace and live in faith. Pope Francis is sowing a new path for the Catholic Church, showing the people a way to turn from the frenzied consumer culture and inviting them to putting aside divisions and search for a deeper meaning of life.



***Sr. Rosy Antony
Perambur***

Jesus loved humanity so much that He became a child and dwelt among us. Divine love is all inclusive. If the conditions of Jesus’ birth teach us anything, it is this: prepare to encounter Christ in the most unexpected people and in the most unexpected places. Jesus was mostly drawn towards the forsaken and despised. Jesus came to seek and to save the sinner, to heal the broken-hearted, to destroy demonic works and to establish his kingdom of peace and joy on earth where hostility, turbulence and divisions rule. The Pharisees and their Scribes, found His preaching and healings to be strange, threatening and revolutionary. Jesus was dramatically countercultural in His time.

Christmas then is a cry for life, a call to preserve human dignity of every person, ensuring all rights coming from that dignity. Every human life is sacred. One cannot get into the joy of this festival in a world ridden with hatred, violence, conflicts and dissensions that endanger life, particularly the weakest and the vulnerable. It is the call to us, during this festive season to strive to bring people together in an aura of peace and help avoid tensions and conflicts based on race, language, ethnicity or religion which surely would risk endangering human dignity and threaten human rights. Our mission statement rightly explains that we are all called to reveal to all people His merciful love and the liberating power of His Paschal mystery.

For us religious, it seems easy to condemn others, overlook the vulnerability of others with those whom we live and ill-treat those who serve us. God wants our lives to overflow with mercy, love, and compassion - the marks of His kingdom. Loving the Lord with all our heart means allowing Him to touch our emotions and saturate our soul with compassion. As followers of Jesus, we have a choice: Either we respond to the unsettling realities in fear and withdraw, or follow Him by responding to the greatest needs of our day with love and hope. We have become too accustomed to privileges, considering our call as an “office,” or worst yet, a “dignity.” As long as we cling to our comfort zones, it would be difficult to bring hope where there is no hope, to bring peace where there is no peace. The good tidings of joy which Christmas promises is the love that gives freely of itself to another, that lays down its own priorities, interests and the very life for another.

In the Nazi concentration camp, Saint Maximilian Kolbe sacrificed his life so that another man might be spared and eventually return to his wife and children. ‘Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends’ (Jn 15: 13). Jesus lived it. Archbishop Oscar Romero was



canonized not for his “Liberation Theology”, rather for being the man of God who proclaimed the Gospel courageously, even at the cost of his life. We need not go thus far, but we have them at our doorsteps – the people who serve us.

If only we believe that every human being is created by God in His own image, we will begin to show mercy and compassion to those who seek our help. Will we be able to joyfully celebrate Christmas, if we trample down the rights of others?

Our communities could live in a happier condition, if we could open our doors and windows to those who knock at our doors; or if we could have come down to the streets and accompanied the caravans of men and women, listening with our hearts the sufferings of people and their struggle to live a dignified life. Then we would dare to stand by them in the difficulties. Our concern, like that of God, should be for the suffering humanity, and our love, like that of Jesus, should be the love that seeks life for everyone. Instead of wasting our time in criticism, gossip, envy, jealousy, etc., we can become more sensitive to the daily unpredictable realities and an increasingly uncertain future that people battle with than wallow in our own self-pity. If we look only to our own interests, this world will certainly fall apart.

The Gospel of St. John doesn’t speak much about the nativity because Christmas was more than just a day. Real Christmas is personal, believing, obeying and sharing the experience of seeing God in others and in our daily encounter with Nature. Remembering the poor God child lying in the manger, Pope Francis would say, “the manager, poor in everything yet rich in love, teaches us that true nourishment in life comes from letting ourselves be loved by God and loving others in turn”. It is our call and responsibility to open our doors to the unwanted, the abandoned and the underprivileged, so that we could respect the sacredness, dignity and worth of every human person. The birth of Jesus is a sign for people of faith, that God is alive and at work in the world.

May the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus give us an unshakeable hope this season of Christmas and may we ever experience His abiding presence at every turn of our lives.

Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year 2021





CHRISTMAS - A FESTIVAL OF HUMAN DIGNITY

Introduction

The birth of Jesus Christ as a poor, small and vulnerable child, gives our world the reason to pause and to think. Why would the Word of Life, the creator of all that is seen and unseen, not cling to Godliness (Phil 2:6)? Why would God's anointed Christ be born in a stable at Bethlehem? For two thousand years, philosophers and theologians, kings and princes, women and men, have asked the same question. And for two thousand years, they have returned to the truth that God is love. It is only through love that we can make sense of the festival of Christmas. Christmas is part of God's larger plan to rescue humanity because he loves us (Jn 3:16). Jesus came so that we might live. The world is once again blessed with a fresh opportunity for celebrating the Christmas festival because of the birth of our Saviour. By becoming man and putting on the human nature, Jesus Christ gave a new degree of eminence and dignity to human beings. If God became human, then there must be something really sublime and noble about being human.



*Sr. Jasmine Amalraj
Fort*

The Principle of Human Dignity

Human life is sacred because the human being was created by God in his own image and likeness (Gen 1:27; 1 Cor 11:7; Jas 3:9). As created in God's image, every human has a sublime dignity. In his dignity, human becomes the centre point of social interactions and social activities. All the views, teachings, and attitude of the Church are about how to respect the human dignity. There are three aspects in doing so.

The first aspect is about the equality of dignity, degree, and rights for every human being. All human beings have equal rights. They are entitled to equal treatment, namely the right to live humanly. To live humanly means to live as human beings with the needs of the body and the demands of life in spiritual, moral and intellectual fields.

The second aspect deals with the truth that in every dimension of life, every human must be treated as a subject. Human being is the subject, not the object, and s/he is the goal, not the means. The human person is the highest form of God's creation. Man as the image of God is a person. That is the subject which is capable of acting in a planned and rational way, able to make decisions about themselves, and able to develop oneself toward self-realization.

The third aspect deals with the social dimension of human person. Humans live together as social beings who respect and support one another. Through this coexistence, the human person can develop his personal and his interdependent relationship with mutual relationship.

Falls of Human Dignity

Today the dignity and rights of the human person are trampled upon in the following circumstances: whenever fundamental freedom is denied or truncated; whenever the selfishness of





individuals and groups prevail over the common good; whenever fratricidal hatred and the exploitation of man by another man, the risk of being taken for granted; whenever internecine conflicts divide ethnic and social groups and disrupt peaceful coexistence; whenever terrorism continues to strike; wherever the basics needed for survival are lacking; wherever an increasingly uncertain future is regarded with apprehension. The new-born infant of Christmas would therefore be a prophesy against this destructive and dehumanizing culture that has come over our modern world. The feeble cry of the innocent babe from its stable of Bethlehem, is an echo of a cry for life for the defenceless victims of human being.

Therefore, the Christmas festival is a positive reinforcement of Christian faith in the values and principles that Jesus brought into the world that are valid even today, as they were on the day when he spoke them out: Blessed are the poor for they have a right to inherit the land, He said. Blessed are the oppressed, they have a right to justice and freedom. Blessed are they who are oppressed and threatened with death, for they deserve freedom and life and many more.

Dignity of Human Race

In his Christmas message in 1959, Pope St. John XXIII marvelled at what this fact of Divine condescension says about the dignity of the human race, and every individual human being. “He loved me and gave himself up for me”, spoke St. Paul to the Galatians (Gal. 2:20). And if God has loved man to such a degree, which indicates that man is of interest to Him and that the human person has an absolute right to be respected. God’s coming to earth in human flesh was and is the greatest affirmation that, whatever the mysteries, messiness, sufferings, and sins that mar human existence in our fallen state, every single human life is endowed with infinite value and dignity, a dignity beyond telling. There is not one among us who is not infinitely precious in God’s sight.

Conclusion

Christ, by taking the human form and the human nature, has permanently elevated the human existence as expressed by St. Pope John Paul II who said, “Christ reveals man to himself.” Because Jesus is the Word made flesh, He is the Truth. So our human dignity consists in seeking



Jesus, the truth, and our dignity consists in living this truth. Pope Francis would say that “we do not possess the truth but that the truth possesses us.” Therefore, the human dignity is not realized by living simply as one chooses to be but it is gained in opening one’s life to God, and to the truth of Jesus. Because Jesus existed with the Father from the foundation of the world, it is right to say that the truth has existed well before the human person. So, true freedom is found in the pursuit of truth. Human freedom does not exist before all else, but rather, is discovered and realized in relation to Jesus. Therefore, let this Christmas become a day of celebration of Human dignity.



GIVING - A SIGN OF FULFILMENT

The very word 'giving' sends a positive vibration to the entire personality. We are created in God's own image and likeness to give joy to everyone. While giving joy we may have to go through certain amount of emptiness and we are sure that this emptiness will be filled when the receiver accepts it. Yes, giving hands are purer than the receiving hands.

We have ample examples of people who inspired others by giving material things, time, talents and energy both in history and in recent times. Following the footsteps of Jesus who gave himself even to the last drop of His blood, we try to find ways and means to spread His kingdom values. We had kept the doors open of our Mambalasalai Community for all our sisters who were on Quarantine after the attack of COVID-19. Around 30 of the neighbouring G.V. N. Hospital nurses were accommodated in our hostel as there was no transportation due to lock down.



**Sr. Susai Mary
Mambalasalai**

Lock down days were indeed days of closing— closing down of the churches, closing down of friends, dear and near ones meeting each other etc. Once the lock down was little relaxed, the people of our sub- station Nadu Kondayanpettai were anxious about celebrating the Feast of their Guardian Saint, St. Pio. We were also invited to participate in their feast which lasted for three days. We really appreciated the way they gathered together and prayerfully attended the hoisting of the flag and the final celebration. We were given grand welcome and delicious meals. We felt that we were one with them and shared their joy. Our joy was doubled because it was a gathering not only of Catholics but also other religious brethren.



Due to the pandemic, what a silence we have experienced for more than fourteen months! No adults no youth, no kids, no tiny tots. Now once again we feel that life is coming back to normalcy everywhere. As the situation has brought under control, we have now some students in the Typing and Needle work centres, college students in the Hostel, Kids in the school and tiny tots in the Adoption centre. We can now see the gentle and sweet smiling faces in the entire campus and we get certain amount of satisfaction in giving Christ to all who enter in our campus. We are able to spread the Kingdom values in our own way and we find happiness in seeing happy and joyful faces everywhere in the campus.

One of the powerful lessons that we have learnt from the COVID – 19 is that, giving opens up the pathway to the suffering, unwanted and neglected. It is in giving that we can become true disciples of Christ. May we always be on the giving side to experience immense joy and fulfilment and live as joyful witnesses of Christ.



MY GIFT TO MY SAVIOUR

When the Magi laid their rich offerings of myrrh, frankincense, and gold, by the bed of the sleeping Christ child, legend says that a shepherd maiden stood outside the door quietly weeping. She too, had sought the Christ Child. She too, desired to bring him gifts. But she had nothing to offer, for she was very poor indeed. In vain she had searched the countryside over for one little flower to bring Him, but she could find neither bloom nor leaf, for the winter had been cold.

And as she stood there weeping, an angel passing saw her sorrow, and stooping he brushed aside the snow at her feet. And there sprang up on the spot a cluster of beautiful winter roses, waxen white with pink tipped petals.

“Nor myrrh, nor frankincense, nor gold,” said the angel, “is offering more fragrance for the Christ Child than these pure Christmas Roses.” Joyfully, the shepherd maiden gathered the flowers and made her offering to the Holy Child.



THE WISE MEN'S GIFT

Gold may have been the first metal that human beings encountered, because it can often be found in its pure natural state (for instance, nuggets in streams) rather than mixed in ore, which requires smelting. People have always valued gold for its luster, beauty, malleability, and the resistance to corrosion and tarnish. These attributes also led ancient civilizations throughout the world to associate gold with royalty, immortality and deity. It was first used in minted currency in the seventh century B.C.



Bible Facts

Gold from the Wise Men has frequently been mentioned as possibly being very useful in helping Joseph and Mary pay for their flight to Egypt to escape Herod. (The other gifts could have been sold for a very good price as well.)



This gift can be said to point to Christ's kingship as gold is a gift for royalty. Christ is the final king of Israel. He is the king of kings. He is our king and we are his subjects. We as his disciples, live in His kingdom even now. He is our Lord and ruler. We talk about accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour upon conversion, but we are to spend our lives submitting to Jesus as our Lord.

Frankincense - Originated in Arabia and in northern Africa. It is made up of a dried resin (from trees of the genus *Boswellia*) used in perfumes and incense for thousands of years. Historically, frankincense was a highly valued commodity. When burned as incense, it was often valued for its aroma as well as for its reputed ability to disinfect and repel insects and other pests.



Bible Facts

- ❖ Frankincense was used in ancient Israelite temple worship as: An ingredient in the perfume of the sanctuary (Ex 30:34).
- ❖ An accompaniment to the meat offering, which was part of all burnt and peace offerings (Lev 2:1.16).
- ❖ An accompaniment to the shewbread in the outer compartment of the tabernacle (or holy place) and burned as a memorial before the presence of the Lord (Lev 24:7). Burning incense in the temple represented prayer (Ps 141:2).

This gift can point to Jesus in two ways. First, it can point to Jesus' role as our high priest since incense was used by priests in temple worship. Jesus is our intercessor, our mediator before God. He is our avenue to forgiveness. He is the doorway to God the Father. He is always interceding for us.

Myrrh is also a dried resin from Arabia and northern Africa (*from thorny shrubs and trees of the genus Commiphora*) that was used in perfumes, incense, and medicines for thousands of years. The word comes from an Arabic word meaning "bitter." It has been valued for its aroma as well as for its use as an antiseptic, analgesic, and other medicinal qualities.

Bible Facts

Myrrh was used in ancient Israelite temple worship as an ingredient in the holy anointing oil for consecrating priests, the tabernacle and kings (Ex 30:23 - 25). It was used in the purification of Queen Esther (Esth 2:12) and it was also used in embalming (Jn 19:39).

This gift can also point to Christ as "Divine", since it was used in worship. Scripture tells us over and over that Jesus is the "image of the invisible God." He is the Word made flesh. He is the exact imprint of God's very being. In him the fullness of deity was pleased to dwell.

In the present situation, the Wise Men's gifts could be: 1. **Our Time and Talents:** Some of the best gifts that we can give to the Saviour are our time and talents, which we can put to use in the service of others. 2. **Precious Gift of our service:** In their offering to the Saviour, the Wise Men gave Him things that were both rare and valuable. They offered Him the best gifts they knew to give. As we approach the Saviour with our offerings of time and service, let us offer Him our very best selves. 3. **To honour our King with our lives:** The gifts that the Wise Men brought to Jesus were the kinds of gifts they would have brought to a king. Jesus Christ is indeed our King and much more. As we contemplate what He has done for us and what He offers us, we are filled with awe, gratitude, and reverence. We should always honour and revere Him for His atoning sacrifice, His grace, His mercy and His love.



Waves Team



BIRTHDAY - AN INCREDIBLE MILE STONE ACHIEVED! SR. MARTINA CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF 100TH BIRTHDAY

Let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation. Let us come with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song (Ps 95:1-2).

We the Cantonment Community had a great privilege to celebrate the 100th birthday of our dear Sr. Martina. She was a cute little smiling 'girl' when she was one-year-old, and now she is the same cute smiling Religious on her 100th birthday celebrations held on 23rd September 2021 at Cantonment, Trichy. A 100th birthday is a rare milestone! Who has ever shared many memories and touched many lives for over a century? There's nothing better than showing the true appreciation for

all she had done by giving her a heartfelt 100th birthday wishes! She has also been an inspiration to all the Sisters for which we are truly grateful.



*Sr. Christy Mettilda Joseph
Cantonment*

What an honour and opportunity our beloved Sr. Martina had given us to celebrate a century of life with her and to thank God for the gift of life through the Eucharistic Celebration held in her room. We are truly blessed to have her and with love in our hearts and with joy on our faces, we wished and prayed that she be blessed with many happier returns of the day.

Sr. Martina had immense happiness, love and joy to celebrate her life in the presence of her family members, dear and near ones, relatives and friends, especially the presence of her beloved brother priest Rev. Fr. Varaprasadham (SJ) who is 97 years old, who offered the Holy Eucharist for her. We were also blessed to have the presence of our Province Animator Sr. Lourdu Adaikalasamy. No doubt that these 100 years of her life is indeed a sign of great blessing from God. One should remember that it is not the years in her life that matters; but the life that she has put in her years. We should say that, with 100 years of life, love, sweet memories and God's manifold blessings, she had inspired us all.

Sr. Martina is known for her cheerfulness, pleasant disposition, joyful endurance and she is most attentive in listening and observing what happens around her. Above all God has





blessed her with good memory power even at this age. It is marvellous to see that she is much interested to know about each sister and what is happening in the province and keeps everyone in her prayer. This shows her connectedness to the Province. She is able to recognize and remember the names of all those who come to see her. Great indeed is her memory power. Her esteemed presence adds beauty, joy and life to the Community. Her encouraging words and prayerful support are a great source of strength and energy for all of us. We thank God and we admire her for what she is to each of us and her best contribution for the development of our Congregation and particularly to the province of Trichy.

As the apostles gathered around our Lord, keenly to listen to what He said, so also we had gathered around her to listen and to speak to her and never felt tired of looking at her. Her gestures create a conducive atmosphere where we feel at ease. As God had blessed Abraham with a child at the age of 100, the Patriarch Shem with a son at the age of 100 and as promised in the book of prophet Isaiah (65:20) that all humans will be able to live up to the age of 100, He has also blessed our beloved Sr. Martina with the age of 100. So, we too pray to the good God that He may bless her with good health, peace and heavenly happiness for the days and years to come. May the Lord bless her and keep her always in His tender loving care. It isn't that every day someone turns to be hundred years old. We all should be glad to note that Sr. Martina is one of the lucky few. It's a blessing to have her as our role model in our lives. Long live Sr. Martina- a centenarian who is still energetic in spirit even in this ripe of old age.



A SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE EFFORT AND OUR COMMITMENT TOWARDS LIVING THE RULE OF LIFE

In one of the pages of the general chapter (2019), under the directives we read like this: “To grow deeper in the spirit of the congregation, we set aside one year for a profound study of our Rule of Life.” So the year 2021 was declared as the ‘year of Rule of Life’ to deepen our spirituality, and to live our charism profoundly and joyfully and share this experience with others. Our General took sincere efforts to execute this directive, in order that we become credible and authentic Sisters of the Cross by having the “BIBLE” in one hand and our “RULE OF LIFE” on the other hand.



*Sr. Anto Kanagarathinam
Antoniyarpuram*

According to the meticulous planning of the commission members, along with our General and her team, they had prepared the text based on different topics from the Rule of Life with exhausted explanations, giving importance even to the minute details. The guidelines in the circulars such as questions for the feed-back, questions for introspections, questions for personal reflections, discussions and the report writing etc., encourage us to take personal effort to read and to interiorize the points and to put them into practice.

The enormous effort of the group, working day and night untiringly in fulfilling this task was really admirable. May God reward them by filling them with countless blessings. Words are not adequate to thank our sisters. Yes, dear sisters, we sincerely express our gratitude to you.

Our Rule of Life is our priceless treasure which influences us to empty ourselves through our Charism and urges us to fill us with the sap of Christ. The passage of Phil 2: 6-11, shows the downward movement of the Divine Self humbling to come down from heaven to earth and as a result, to make the upward movement of Exaltation is the kernel of the text. It is a symbol of living and dying for love and calls us to adapt ourselves in the Crossian Way.

The steps such as, awareness, acceptance, evaluation of our life, owning our Cross, letting go, Re-programming and move towards new directions are very helpful to live our Crossian Way.

The arrangement of the retreat for all of us is another boon to go through the text thoroughly and meticulously in order to imbibe and change ourselves and thus become a completely transformed person. It will really pave the way to become an authentic sister of the Cross.

Along with the with the General and Her councillors, the commission members we hold together our hands and giving our whole hearted co-operation, we can indeed reach the summit of the spirituality through transformation. For this we need to be rooted and grounded in Christ to become joyful witnesses, by sincerely following the steps and guide-lines indicated in the circulars regarding the Rule of Life. Hoping to imitate Christ profoundly in our lives, we set our hearts on fire with the power of the Spirit and the hearts of people with the same fire. Are we ready for it?



COME LET'S JOURNEY WITH FR. PETER MERMIER

I	N	D	E	F	A	T	I	G	A	B	L	E	H	E
S	O	U	N	D	J	U	D	G	E	M	E	N	T	A
A	D	N	O	H	R	F	A	M	O	T	H	E	R	S
S	I	M	P	L	E	W	O	O	D	S	A	C	H	T
W	D	B	E	T	U	D	O	N	P	E	S	T	L	U
U	T	R	P	N	S	O	P	S	E	F	C	I	E	H
S	H	O	B	I	A	F	I	C	H	N	W	R	S	M
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N	T	P	R	S	L	O	L	R	E	H	L	O	E	R
U	H	S	P	N	A	N	W	P	A	R	I	S	H	S
C	H	O	S	E	N	S	O	U	L	E	H	S	D	D
I	O	N	S	H	C	T	C	O	M	E	I	T	N	P
H	P	M	H	O	H	A	N	P	P	N	O	P	H	E
D	L	O	W	S	E	R	S	H	T	S	C	D	N	A
N	M	N	R	D	S	A	C	R	I	F	I	C	E	O

1. Fr. Mermier's Mother repeated the lessons of
2. Who favoured young Peter to send for study.....
- 3..... and Melan were the places of the first witnesses for Fr. Mermier.
4. Fr. Mermier had possessed an upright and a.....
5. During holidays, he edified his family, theand the neighbourhood.
6. People recognized him as when he was young.
7. On the basis of **operatory**, Fr. Mermier said, my cross or crucifix will be of
8. Fr. Mermier, as a young priest showed himself to be anworker.
9. Fr. Mermier remainedyears at Magland.
10. Desiring earnestly to instruct his parishners, he did not shrink from any

Sr. Nancy Arockiya

7th year junior, Fatimapuram.

THE THIRST

Digital men and women are living with an unappeasable thirst for intimacy, beauty and adventures. Yes, thirst or hunger, whether psychical or spiritual are natural expressions of the basic human desire. Hence, to thirst for God is at the very root of every human person. But often we satisfy this thirst with work, shopping, social media, lust, greediness, fame, etc., which do not satisfy us. Though these are not bad in themselves, they do control our way of life and in the long run make our lives meaningless on this planet (Is 55: 1-2).



*Sr. Sagayam
Palani*

In this season of Christmas, let us journey with three persons, who have yearned for God and were ready to pay the costly prize for it. They are none other than the three Magi of the Bible, who had burned with an unquenchable '**thirst**' for the new star that appeared on the sky and took a very long journey into the unknown land of Bethlehem. The three Magi, namely, Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar were basically pagans, believed to have lived in Babylon, Arabia and Asia. These men were influenced by the God of David, the true God. Attracted and drawn by the God of David, these astrologers got united and set out, with great hope to search for the king of kings. They took upon themselves the hardest adventure of travelling 1000 miles in order to find Jesus, the Messiah and the true God.

As we know, their march was uncertain and was filled with cold and snow, dark and cloud, tired and weariness. But nothing could deter their passion, undaunted courage and commitment to journey together towards the promised Messiah. They say, '**Every dark cloud will have it is bright lining**'. So too the wise men were blessed with a guiding star, which enabled them to walk hand in hand with relentless pursuit.

The Star became their consolation and comfort amidst the doubtful situations. Strengthened by the presence of God, the Magi's were endowed with infinite knowledge in their search for true God. Determination and ardent desire kept them alert and enabled them to find their desired destination. Thus, their risk became reachable and the mission achievable.

Hence, with exuberance of joy, they worshiped the Redeemer of the world and offered their humble gifts. And the Magi's thirst elevated them as the ambassadors of the good news to the entire human race. Yes, when one commits to seek God with purity of heart and mind, then God reveals himself and His perfect will, quenching the thirst of all who aspire to find him with undivided and zealous love (Jer 29:13).

Jesus said, ask it will be given to you, Seek and you will find, knock and it will be open to you (Lk 11:9). It is whom you ask, where you seek and what door you knock on that makes all the difference. Let us also find the star of Christ in our search and be guided through the thick jungles of confusion and adversity of daily life. May this season of Christmas empower us to grow as seekers of God and messengers of His good news.



DEEPLY MOVED BY THE SPIRIT OF MOTHER FOUNDRESS AND TO HAVE PASSION FOR MISSION

‘Life is a mission with passion. In mission we go beyond our being, our thinking, our understanding and doing. In mission God send forth the messenger and we become His instruments’.

We the junior sisters of Trichy and Madurai Province were privileged to attend the session on “Be Claudine for Mission Today - Phase - I”. We were totally 27 juniors (Trichy 09 and Madurai 18) who benefited from this session. As I was attending this session, I was deeply moved by the spirit of our venerated foundress and our early sisters. Their inspirational life and teachings have inculcated in me a strong spirit and revitalized my consecrated life as a sister of the cross and to live our mission and charism joyfully. Here I would like to share some of the insights that we have benefited from this session on behalf our group.



**Sr. Preeta Belcy
Fort**

History of the Congregation and Mission:

“Mother Claudine was humble before people and great before God”

Our Mother Foundress was simple in living, kind in approaching, passionate in her working and above all her ardent desire was to seek the Lord’s presence constantly and to possess him alone in her life. She had the thirst to fulfil God’s will in her life. She was a great leader from her childhood until her death. She was a great person who set an example to live her best in the vineyard of God.

Rev. Sr. Lourdes Arockiasamy dealt with the theme, “History of our Congregation and Mission, Claudine’s leadership and the life of Mother Veronica Pollien”. Sister also spoke about the crisis that had taken place and why there was a need to start the congregation. In spite of the difficult situation the Foundress had one goal, ‘to make the good God known and loved’ and to uplift the women in the society and to give them the education and good formation.



Mother Claudine’s vowed life and community life:

“The true happiness is found in a pure heart”

God’s passionate love for a particular person and God’s choice of that person is the foundation of living a religious life of relationship with Jesus. Mother Claudine’s vowed life was the reflection of Christ in His mission of the Father. She was seeking and doing God’s will and it was her unique pre-occupation. She was detached from everything and relying on the power of God and in humility, she





gave glory to God by attributing everything to God. Mother Claudine was a woman of large heart and she was a Ciborium in her relationship with God and others.

“Our community is an essential element of our religious life and a privileged place where we live the paschal mystery”. Community is the place of union with God, mutual love and care, confidentiality and charity, rejuvenation and renewal, forgiveness and a place to be faithful to rules in obedience. The spirituality of Mother Claudine and of her sisters are cantered mainly on the love of the cross of Jesus and of the cross of community life.

In her talk, Sr. Jeusin Francis focused on the theme of ‘vowed life and community life’. Sister explained well about our Mother’s relationship with God, with the sisters, with her family, with friends and about her apostolic relationships. She edified many young women in the parish and loved them like her other self. Sister also explained about the characteristics of a consecrated celibate women.

Mother Claudine - A Mystic and a Prophet:

“Spiritual discipline aiming at union with the divine”

A mystic is someone who attributes everything to God and a Prophet is someone who is in an intimate union with God. Mother Claudine was a person who encountered Jesus and responded to the call of Jesus at all times.

Mother Claudine lived in continuous intimacy with God and sought His will alone in her life. Mystic stands firm in their faith in the face of trials and storms of life. Mother Claudine used to say that, ‘let the world torment and agitate itself as much as it likes but it could never separate us from our spouse’. This shows clearly how our Mother and the early sisters lived the paschal mystery by accepting the challenges joyfully. She lived an exemplary life and brought many souls before God. She was filled with flames of fire to make the good God known and loved.

Sr. Saveri Savarimuthu in her talk insisted that the meeting point of mysticism and prophetism is the cross of Christ. Sister had well explained about the mysticism and prophetism of Mother Claudine and how we need to imbibe her spirit as a Mystic and a Prophet.

The six days’ session on **‘Be Claudine for Mission Today – Phase -I’** has revitalised to live my apostolic life meaningfully in this evolving world. The many texts and the references helped me to understand more about the life of mother Foundress and early sisters. While I was reading, the mission of our early sisters challenged me to live my mission more authentically as a Sister of the Cross. I was thrilled by the spirit of our founders and early sisters and to re-live my mission according to the signs of the times. The missionary zeal of our sisters have encouraged and inspired me to live my mission more joyfully and to endure everything for the glory of God. May the flames of fire of Mother Claudine be in my heart to proclaim God’s love to the people.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas filled with an abundance of health and happiness and a prosperous New Year 2022!



THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

Psalms 34:9 “Oh, fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him have no lack!”

If we fear Him, we will lack nothing on this earth. All our needs will be met if we tremble at His Word.

Psalms 19:9 “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever, the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether”.

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” It is a command from the Lord to stay strong and courageous. While we fear Him, we do not need to fear for anything or anyone in this world, even death.

Exodus 20:20 Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.” The fear of God prevents a person from sinning and going to hell. When God tests us, we fear Him, and not the circumstances.

2 Corinthians 7:1 Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. Our holiness is complete when we fear the Lord, when we cleanse ourselves from every evil, through our work.

Psalms 25:14 The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant, if we fear the Lord, He is our friend, even though he was King of Kings, He came to earth to live as a forerunner and our eldest brother just because of our friendship. So, what can we learn from the Lord of Lords who came to our rescue?

- ❖ 30 years of obeying parents and God the Father, even unto death.
- ❖ 30 years of helping His father Joseph in His carpentry work among others.
- ❖ 30 years of detachment from all the worldly pleasures that could lead to sin.
- ❖ 30 years of dying to self, without seeking honour or sympathy from anyone.
- ❖ He took delight in the fear of God. He took delight in obeying His will. He took delight in glorifying God by His deeds, words, and actions and attitudes. God’s will for me is to fear Him and to grow in the knowledge of Him day by day.



*Sr. Julie Uthariyam
Vadugerpattam*





- ❖ All things work together for good of those who are called according to His purpose. My goal is not possessing earthly things but to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Through the Eucharistic celebration, He invites me to present my body as a living sacrifice and to die to myself to see the glory of God come alive. He invites me every day to read His word which pierces my heart and soul. He expects me to obey His Word every day.
- ❖ I can overcome any temptation when I obey His Word by fleeing from temptation and by resisting the evil one. I should also allow the Holy Spirit to control my thoughts, words and deeds. I am free from anxiety when I trust in Him fully, not lean on my own understanding but commit all my works to Him.

As we celebrate the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ this Christmas 2021, let us remember the purpose for which He came to this earth. He came not only to save us from eternal damnation but also to save us from sin. The fear of the Lord gives us wisdom to accept our limitations and be renewed. Let us meditate on the life of Jesus, let us meditate on His Word incessantly and pray for God's wisdom. Let's learn to fear Him and obey His commandments. As we obey His Word, Christ becomes our foundation, a rock upon which we can build our lives securely and never be shaken.



RULE OF LIFE – A LIFE GIVING BREATH

We all live in a world, constantly changing with a blink of an eye, for the good as well as for the worst. We wonder at our technology which has gone a very long way in making life more convenient for each and every one of us. Innovative methods make us to be faster, easier and more comfortable. There are many applicable concepts, practical philosophies and powerful theories which capture us and our mind is ever ready to store any amount of data. Amidst this reality, we the religious in no way exceptional but often can become susceptible to this illusion. Forgetting our identity, we too are caught up, fascinated and ruled over by newness and artistic adversaries. Thus we lead a life of emptiness often times. Even the nature has taken time to nurture itself to reach the equilibrium during the past 20 months of incubation, to bring back its vitality, originality and productivity.



*Sr. Amali
Vadugerpatt*

We, the chosen people need to resume ourselves from this interruption. Being in the year of **Rule of Life**, it is a right for us to renew ourselves in order to accomplish the vision and mission of the Congregation. **Rule of Life** is a great asset that we have in our Congregation. Thanks to the team who direct us by their reflective and rejuvenative thoughts at the right moment. It's a life- breath of my life as a SCC. Because...



- It **inspires** me
- It **empowers** me
- And it **directs** me.

It Inspires me To participate in the mystery of Jesus dead and risen in His mission in the world for the salvation of all

It Inspires me - My ultimate life Inspiration is our Charism.

To participate in the mystery of Jesus dead and risen in His mission in the world for the salvation of all

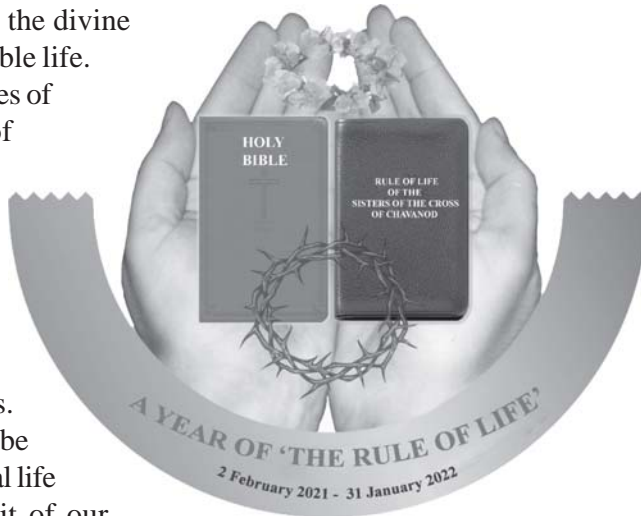
I receive a sense of purpose whenever I read our Charism. It pokes, prods and invigorate me to live an authentic life like our Mother Claudine. Dying and rising is a part of life. It transcends my weakness and makes me to experience the power of weakness which is revealed in the Cross. Life is progressed as I love to live the untrodden path.

It Empowers me - Empowered life gives room for everyone. Thus, our Mother Foundress has given us a unique mission.

To reveal to all the merciful love of the Father and the liberating power of the paschal mystery

Being connected to the soul (Self), to the divine and to the people, makes us to live a credible life. We need to compose our life with the values of the Kingdom like compassion, spirit of forgiveness and endurance. The liberating power is felt within me, when I live consciously the will of God.

It Directs me - ROL – guides, controls, organises and stimulates me from chaos to order, from obscure to understanding and from aimless to focus. ROL is not to be lived perfectly but to be lived faithfully fostering towards an integral life of faith. Being enlightened by the spirit of our congregation and with a passionate mission consciousness, let us re-orient our life radically to serve the Lord who is poor, humiliated and rejected. Let us be genuine to live our commitment and be worthy of our vocation as sisters of the cross by living the vision of our Mother Foundress.



Make the good God known and loved.



YOU'RE OFFLINE - CHECK YOUR CONNECTION

We pay keen attention on our mobile phones or laptops to instructions such as “you’re offline,” “reload again,” “check your connection,” “get a notification when you’re back online and try again,” etc. We eagerly try to reconnect. But when our connectivity with God is interrupted, we do not take time to reconnect even though our conscience gives prompt indications to reconnect. We continue to remain offline with God for quite a long time.



*Sr. Arockia Mary Soosaimanickam
Novitiate*

Each one has his or her own reasons not to listen to the voice of one’s conscience. But complacency in our spiritual life is the common evil that is present in all of us. We do not endure our initial vigour and dynamism in our spiritual efforts. We usually set the bar too low. So, there is a spirit of contentment and self-satisfaction. We are too satisfied with a very few performances, achievements, success mission and minimum hour of praying. Going beyond is beyond our imagination. Prayer ought to connect us to God. But we remain disconnected despite sitting for long hours of prayers. Our spiritual spring begins to drain out and finally dries up because we remain disconnected with God who is our fountain.

This is the reason why Prophet Jeremiah warned his people: “For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water” (Jer 2:13). When we get distracted in our day-dreams and thus disconnected with God, our spiritual cisterns get cracked. Water in a cracked cistern naturally gets drained out. The fountain is the source and gushes out plenty of water. God is the fountain of our spiritual life. As long as we are connected with God, our spiritual vitality and dynamism will persist.

In every form of life, we see that there are good, mediocre and awful persons. In religious life we do see some who are outstanding in their spiritual life. Others are doing well in their life. But they seem to be satisfied with their regular spiritual life, daily chores, achievements, success and mission. They become complacent. Pope Francis says, “Complacency is seductive; it tells us that there is no point in trying to change things, that there is nothing we can do, because this





is the way things have always been and yet we manage to survive” (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, ‘Rejoice and Be Glad’ no. 137). We tend to become mediocre.

We cannot remain complacent. If we are good, we ought to become better. The rich young man in the Gospel (Mt 19: 16-22) was doing good. But he felt that he was being called for something more; he was not content with his being good by faithfully observing the commandments. Hence, he took a bold step and approached Jesus with the question, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” Despite all his good intentions, the young man walked away sad from Jesus because he was not ready to give up his attachment. He was not yet ready for more. Jesus asked the young man to take a tough step. But he walked away from Jesus, grieving.

Often, we expect that God’s will should comply with our will. But it does not work that way. We too ask questions to God but we do not like to receive His answers. God desires that we cooperate with His plans. To cooperate with God and to follow Jesus, we need to shake off any shackles that constrain us. Jesus is the “pearl of great value,” the “hidden treasure”. But if our mind is set on the other like, wealth, persons, place or things, then we will not be able to find and follow Jesus.

If one were to open up a new store or start a new business, that person have to really work very hard to bring it up, get customers and keep them coming back to them through reliable and courteous service and even better service than others. Otherwise, who would come to that store? One can imagine the strenuous efforts that sportspersons make to achieve their goal. We can survive but cannot live in the absence of spiritual energy and vibe. If we don’t pray, we won’t stay!

Hence, resonating with Pope Francis, “Let us allow the Lord to rouse us from our torpor, to free us from our inertia. Let us rethink our usual way of doing things; let us open our eyes and ears, and above all our heart, so as not to be complacent about things as they are, but unsettled by the living and effective word of the risen Lord” (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, no. 137). We should decide to reconnect to God, others and oneself in order to experience the promises of God. It can help us to be alert and vigilant to the promptings of the Spirit, which reminds us saying, “You’re offline”, so kindly “Check your connection.”

When our mobile phone stops functioning, we rush it to the repair shop. We do not complain about its malfunction to the company or the network tower since others’ phones function correctly. Similarly, when our connection with God is snapped, we need not blame about the disconnection to our neighbours and surroundings but rush back to God to reconnect as soon as we listen to the inner voice.

Pope Francis has profound hope in the Religious to uplift the people. He believes that religious people, though sinners, are awakened and alert prophets. Religious life is not static but dynamic. Let us be “concerned about initiating processes rather than occupying spaces” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 223). By remaining constantly connected and by having deepened our relationship with God through Jesus in prayer, we can indeed become authentic, inspiring and resourceful religious to build the kingdom of love, freedom and justice.

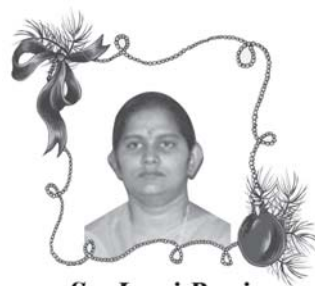




INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW PROVINCIAL

“This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it”

The 10th of August 2021, made us glad as we had the double celebration in our Cantonment community: our Mother Foundress day and the Installation of our New Provincial. It was with immense joy that we prepared ourselves for this joyous day. As this Province event was very held in our campus, we put our hearts together in unity to make this day, a memorable one. We also rejoiced at the presence of many sisters of our Province, as we missed the joy of meeting them due to the pandemic situation.



***Sr. Jansi Rani
Cantonment***

The day of celebration began with the thanksgiving prayer service for the outgoing team. We thanked the good God, for leading late Sr. Jyothi Selvaraj and her team of sisters, Sr. Saveri Savarimuthu, Sr. Niranjana Anthonisamy, Sr. Lourdes Arockiasamy, Sr. Diana Matthew, Sr. Regi Chinnappan and Sr. Vimala Singarayar, for the past 4 years. We prayed especially for the repose of the soul of Sr. Jyothi Selvaraj and implored God's abundant blessings on her team.

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever”

We welcomed our new Province Animator Sr. Lourdu Adaikalasamy and her team of sisters, Sr. Sarguna Gnanapragasam, Sr. Lilly Mary David, Sr. Premila Joseph Rajamanikam, Sr. Jeyarani Periyamayagam, Sr. Smitha Jose and Sr. Babiola David Maria Raj, with boundless joy and gratitude as they responded to the call of God, to lead us closer to Him. They were accompanied by St. Joseph in a symbolic manner as this year is declared as the year of St. Joseph and Mother Claudine our Mother Foundress. We expressed our love and assured them of our co-operative support by placing sandal paste and kumkum, pinning up the favours and by garlanding them. They were led to the Altar of God, by different forms of dance, which depicted the Indian Culture. As they offered themselves in the form of various energies of the world, we prayed God to be with them, to bless them abundantly and to fill them with numerous graces. Fr. Ignacimuthu, the Provincial of South – East India Province (MSFS), was the main celebrant of this August occasion. Fr. Akilan, The Provincial of Salesians (Trichy) and Fr. Sagaya Raj, the Parish Priest of St. Mary's Cathedral also graced this occasion. The whole gathering implored God's bountiful blessings on our sisters. After the Holy Mass, we enjoyed spending time with the sisters and had the fellowship meal. This day of celebration, filled everyone with joy and brought a spirit of togetherness. Life is what we celebrate, all of it and even its end.



ALL GLORY BELONGS TO GOD

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever”.

We are extremely honoured and feel privileged to celebrate 100 years of establishment of Holy Cross Industrial School at Golden Rock.

MEMOIRS OF HOLY CROSS INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

Illuminating the life of indigent young girls of South India at Cantonment and later at Golden Rock was fashioned in a mysterious way. In 1916 a great desire dear to the heart of Reverend Mother Veronica Pollien was to procure an effective help for the widows, a delicate and difficult work. Rev. Sr. Anastasie Cofey, the then Mother superior showed great enthusiasm to gather helpless young widows who had learnt a little or nothing at all in and around Tiruchirappalli and admitted to special needle-work classes. They were trained to earn their living honourably by the work of their hands. Thus ‘Holy Cross Convent Industrial School’ was established at Cantonment in 1920.

The School became so populate because of its rapid progress and many more candidates wanted to join the school and improve their lives.

The strength of the school was kept on increasing every year but the space became insufficient to accommodate many. So the admission was forced to be reserved for those who apply first and the desirous girls who applied later were refused. Upon seeing the plight of the situation, the Inspector advised the Sisters for the extension of the building. So there was a felt need to look for an alternative place to accommodate all the students.

According to Rev. Sr. Anastasie, the most suitable place she could ever think of was none other than Golden Rock. She expressed her opinion to the Regional Superior who approved her plan and instructed her to put her idea into action. After making regular and frequent visits to Golden Rock, she found a triangular piece of land.

At the beginning the panchama girls were taught needle work, cutting out, dress making, embroidery and laundry and cooking. Very soon the girls became expert in hand crafts that Rev. Fr. Bonhonre



*Sr. Arul Jothi
Golden Rock*





SJ, the then Superior of the District wished the school to be recognized by the Government and hence helped the Sisters to send an application to the Inspector of Industrial Schools. He in turn paid a visit to the school in March 1923 and was very much satisfied with the school and appreciated the good and steady work of the girls. In July 1924, the Director of Industries and Commerce issued the order of the school recognition.

On 1st July 1947, a Technical Teacher Training section of ten-month certificate course (TTC) was opened to teach Needle Work and Embroidery and was recognized by the Government in 1947 itself.

OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE

We are grateful to our sisters, those who worked tirelessly and selflessly for the glory of God, the good of the people and for the growth of our province.

Rev. Sr. Anastasie was the first Correspondent and Rev. Sr. Marie Frances was the first Headmistress of the Industrial School. Reverend Sisters, Marie Lucia Nathan, Theodoise Pullokaran, Vincent, Marie Lea, Flora Chinnasamy, Cecily Gnanapragasam, Mary Angeline Issac, Maria Saroja Daisy and Rev. Sr. Amala Daisy Rani Soosai, were the giant pillars who devoted themselves completely to give birth and life to Holy Cross Industrial School.

Rev. Sr. Amala Daisy Rani Soosai is here for the past 25 years, rendering her service to the development of the school. We are happy to continue the mission of our dear Mother Claudine Echernier in giving life



to the young girls and married women. Many TCC students were employed in Government Schools and they also have their own tailoring shops.

The Industrial School successfully completed its centenary year in 2020. It is a heritage to humility, persistence and love for the poor, uprightness of its origin. It stately stands for hard work, creativity, innovation and exploring newness not only today but for the years to come.

Hail, Holy Cross Industrial School!

Hail, Holy Cross sisters and their noble service for women!



IS IT YOU LORD?

My experience of Covid-19 in May, this year was sudden and incomprehensible with all its high and low emotional experiences that I faced. Deep down within, I remained calm and thanks to the inner voice that assured me that, “The Cross of Christ traces for us a way of growth.” I often wondered what might be this way of growth in my life! During my retreat on the Rule of Life from 11th to 16th Nov 2021, the Lord enlightened me to look deep into my life to discover God’s dealings within me in the recent past. To my great surprise I discovered that covid-19 was in a mysterious way a revelation of God’s immense love for me. I felt overjoyed at this realization that God loves me so much that He chose Covid-19 to reveal how much He loves me.



*Sr. Francine Sebastian
Ashirvad*

I began my retreat with great expectation realizing that God is the Agent and I am only a recipient. I begged God to help me discover His great love hidden in my daily life. I am the clay and He is the Potter who is ever active in my life shaping me according to His great plan-**ROL -1**: “Caught up in the great plan of God...” This phrase gripped all my attention. I grew eager day by day to savor the great plan of my Father who loves me immensely. This thought filled my times of prayer with gratitude and joy. Uniting myself in His suffering, death and resurrection, I tried to listen to what my crucified Savior tells me about my participation in His paschal mystery. **ROL-5**: Allowing those words to challenge me and guide me in the realization of my mission in this life.

Becoming a joyful witness does not mean doing great things but it lies in discovering that the dying and rising of my Savior be reflected in my own daily events of life. I realized that God was working His own project in my life during those days of Covid-19. In my utter weakness and draining of life, my Savior was busy saving me, claiming me as His own. Thanks to the good care given by my sisters in the community, I regained slowly my health and strength. I am what I am today and thanks to those loving hearts that prayed and cared for me. May God bless them with His own abundance.

Lord bless me that I ever remain a joyful witness,
To your wonders in my life.
Today I consecrate myself to you,
Today I abandon myself to you,
Today I wish to live and die for love of you.
This is my mission for you today O Lord!



WRITINGS OF MOTHER CLAUDINE ECHERNIER

1. "O my God, how you edify me by the way you lead the Congregation and me in particular." *Writings of Mother Claudine, Pg. 3*
2. "... though it is true that I am a little distracted, yet my confidence in God makes me feel perfectly calm." **WMCE, Pg. 3**
3. "I wish that my heart bedecked with flowers of all kinds of virtues." **WMCE, Pg. 4**
4. "When I behold the folly of the world which clings so much to life, I feel a kind of indignation." **WMCE, Pg. 4**
5. "May the will of God be done, provided it is for His greater glory and for our salvation as we trust in His goodness." **WMCE, Pg. 5**
6. "I am always calm; the good God will be satisfied with our good will." **WMCE, Pg. 6**
7. "If some give way to sadness, I do whatever I can to cheer up and encourage...". **WMCE, Pg. 6**
8. "... it is a sign of great grace when the good God gives us an occasion to suffer something for His name." **WMCE, Pg. 6**
9. "I am firmly resolved to die rather than committing the slightest voluntary and deliberate fault." **WMCE, Pg. 8**
10. "I make a comparison with the dust of the earth... it is to realize better the littleness of the gift I make to Him." **WMCE, Pg. 8**
11. "What I think keeps my conscience in peace is the thought that I have spent a large part of my life in service..." **WMCE, Pg. 24**

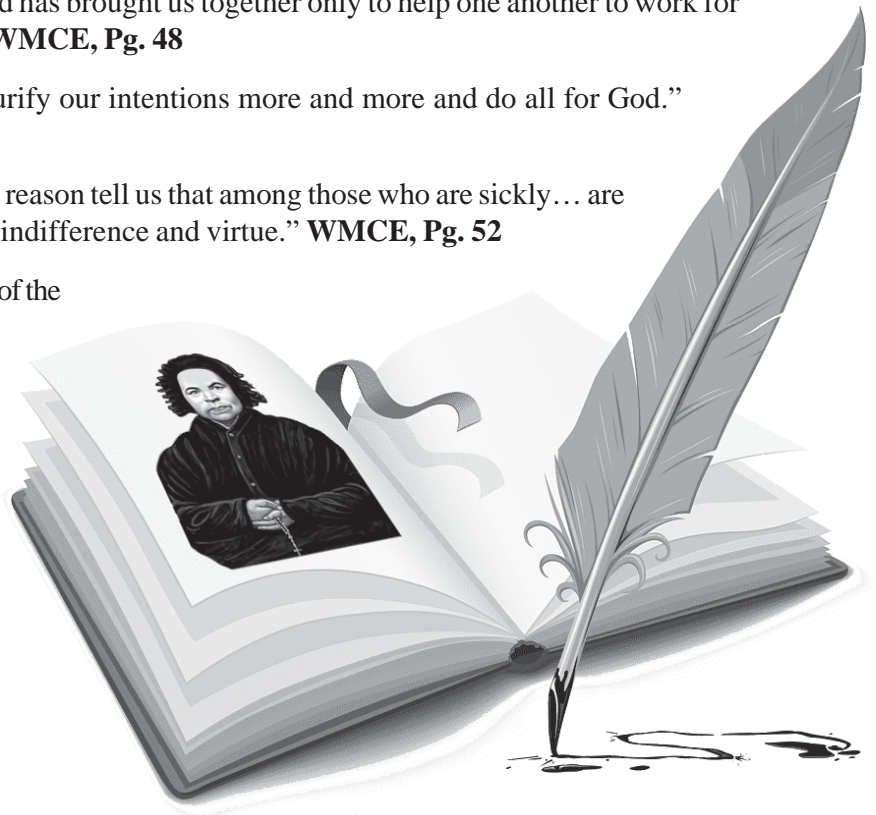


*Sr. Julie Varadharajan
Yercaud*





12. "I have been and am only a poor servant who can do nothing but obey." **WMCE, Pg. 24**
13. "We should not undertake things that would lead to extravagant expenses..." **WMCE, Pg. 28**
14. "... we should maintain a simple, poor and modest way of life". **WMCE, Pg. 28**
15. "We should be always content with what is just necessary in order to observe the spirit of our Holy Rules." **WMCE, Pg. 28**
16. "Experience must make us grow wiser..." **WMCE, Pg. 33**
17. "Our vocation is partly to console the poor and the sick." **WMCE, Pg. 38**
18. "The evil is that we did not understand the necessity of renouncing ourselves and dying to ourselves well, to allow Jesus Christ live in our hearts." **WMCE, Pg. 42**
19. "... the good God has united us to live in unity and charity." **WMCE, Pg. 47**
20. "... we are so much determined to do the will of God and we find in it such great happiness..." **WMCE, Pg. 47**
21. "The poor Daughters of the Cross have no ambitions but for heaven." **WMCE, Pg. 48**
22. "... the good God has brought us together only to help one another to work for our Salvation." **WMCE, Pg. 48**
23. "... we might purify our intentions more and more and do all for God." **WMCE, Pg. 49**
24. "Experience and reason tell us that among those who are sickly... are so due to lack of indifference and virtue." **WMCE, Pg. 52**
25. "A true Daughter of the Cross should be more concerned about the Rule than her health and even her life." **WMCE, Pg. 53**



A NEW LEARNING FOR A NEW LIVING!

Have you ever realized the fact that we live in a beautiful world? Have you ever taken time to enjoy the beauty of nature in silence? Have you experienced the love and goodness of the creator who made this beautiful universe just for you and for me? If not, we are here to invite you to appreciate the beauty of nature and sing the mercies and praises of the Lord who adorned this universe in such a wonderful way.

We the Four First Year Novices from IPN-Trichy, are eager to share with you about the class on Indian spirituality from 21st to 30th October at Kodaikanal by Fr. Maria Anthony from Sivagangai Diocese. The Four First Year Novices from IPN – Madurai also joined us. We were overwhelmed with the joy of being blessed with the place of Kodaikanal where we found God in the stillness of our hearts. We allowed ourselves to be taught by the nature in order to enter into the silence and solitude. We felt that entering into silence and stillness is like entering into the womb of God. The class on Indian spirituality helped us to know the purpose of life and to introspect ourselves.

The value of life does not depend on the place we occupy. It depends upon the way we occupy that place. We were fortunate to see lakes, forest and mountains covered with silence and beauty. Enjoying the cool weather, the singing of the birds, Sun and Rain made us all to encounter the Divine. We were surrounded by the spiritual silence and the sacred harmony. The mountains full of trees and the chill air touching our bodies made us to feel the touch of God. The Bible verse, “be still and know that I am God” Ps 46: 10 paved the way for us to experience God in stillness and silence.

God’s voice is so subtle that we need silence and stillness to hear it. Silence helped us to hear the voice of God. The Bhagavad Gita says, self-realization is felt in the silence of the soul. Of course, the silence helped us to have a self-journey and identify the elements in our lives to be changed. Since, we exposed ourselves to silence, we discovered the truth of our own life. We have experienced two kinds of silence: the silence of fullness and the silence of emptiness. We filled our lives with the graces of God and emptied ourselves from all the negative aspects.

The resource person Fr. Maria Anthony often used the quote in his



*Chouramma Choudi, Kiran Barla,
Nilima Hajoary, Rose Mary Gunja
First Year Novices, IPN, Trichy*





teaching “To live is to transcend”. He explained this saying by conducting different kinds of meditations. Meditation was a tool to connect ourselves with the Spirit by observing the series of breath we take. Our breath and the Spirit are interconnected. On the day of Pentecost, Jesus breathed on disciples and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit”. Therefore, being in touch with the breath, we can experience God’s presence in every moment of our life.

The resource person also taught us to observe and become aware of the sensations of our body without reacting to it. By observing the sensations in silence we can avoid reacting to the people and to the negative circumstances and hence we could be proactive. We have learnt as to how to be patient, resilient and to tolerate the inconveniences within and outside.

We were enlightened by the three days of class on how to find real happiness in our life. Everyone wants to be happy in this world. We think wealth, money, name and fame will give us happiness and we spend a lot of time and energy in acquiring it. But it gives us only a momentary happiness. As it is said, ‘happiness is always an inside job’, we were motivated to remain happy in our lives.

Our life is the combination of Body, Mind, Heart and Spirit.

Body desires pleasant and comfortable life

Mind wants to be creative and unique

Heart needs love and acceptance

Spirit wishes to be united with God

Most of the time we pay attention to only one level alone. We were made awaken to give equal attention to all these levels in order to find the treasure of happiness.

When we think of Angels, Heaven and Saints, we tend to look at the sky and try to figure them out in the cloud. At times we too felt that we were angels in the cloud at times amidst heavy mist in the atmosphere. All these experiences, the persons around and the place stimulated within us an interest to learn about spiritual life.

The main take-away for us from this experience are the following : Being happy in our life, experiencing the Divine in silence, remaining proactive to the negative remarks and incidents, dropping the undue expectations, seeing and finding God in everything, seeking to change oneself and not others, getting healed from past wounds and memories, contemplating on God, being in reflective state, being faithful to the spiritual exercises, rejoicing in the good of others, embedding positive resolutions and affirmations time to time, building our character with the Gospel values, liberating our thoughts and experiences, transforming our plans and wishes into the will of God.

We remain ever grateful to Fr. Maria Anthony the resource person, Sr. Lourdu Adaikalasamy, the Province animator of Trichy, Sr. Fatima Kattar, the Province animator of Madurai, Sisters at Kodaikanal community, the Novitiate Communities and the Novice Mistresses Sr. Arockia Mary Soosaimanickam and Sr. Madona Mary Cyril for helping us and paving the ways to have this new learning for a new living.

We wish each one of you a Merry Christmas and a grace filled New Year 2022!



THE SIMPLE SOULS IN THE SALVATION HISTORY

‘Simplicity Is the Nature of Great Souls’. YES! Simple people are born from God. They want to imitate their personal God of simplicity in their lives by choosing simple lifestyle.

They are spiritual, human, holy, and faithful to God. Simple people are always transparent to God’s plans. God too make use of them. Their simplicity is spread all around. They are loved by people for their simplicity. They attract other people to become a simple soul, heart and mind, where God wants to dwell and reside always. Here, we have some simple Souls of salvation history who have played vital role in the Birth of Jesus Christ: St. Joseph, Mother Mary & Baby Jesus. Let us reflect upon their simplicity for the enhancement of our lives.



*Sr. Dennis Stanislaus
Oddanchatram*

S - SIMPLE

I - IMITATE

M - MERCIFUL

P - PURITY

L - LOYALTY

E - EMPTINESS

SIMPLE: The Holy family was able to be very simple by their very nature of lives. God the Almighty chose these three simple souls to carry out the plan of God. Since they were very simple, God was easy to intervene in their lives and called them to live for higher purposes. Let us make ourselves simple, so that God may intervene in our lives and use us for His Greater Plans & higher purposes.

IMITATE: Since the Holy Family was simple, it was easy for them to imitate the heavenly virtues like Godliness, humility, Simplicity, Love, peace and forgiveness. Let us imitate the Holy Family in living out the heavenly virtues in the daily life of our communities.

MERCIFUL: When the Holy family was ready to fulfill the will of the Father, He was merciful to grant them the necessary graces and blessings in carrying out the plan of God. The Holy family depended on God for everything and so He did not leave them alone in their difficulties and want. His holy presence guided the Holy Family. So, let us be merciful towards each other for our heavenly Father is merciful.

PURITY: The simple souls of the salvation history were always pure at heart, mind and soul. That is why, God made Mother Mary to bear Jesus Christ in her womb and called St. Joseph to be a foster father of Jesus. And finally God humbled Jesus Christ to be become Son of God on earth for our sake. It is the purity of intentions and the availability for God, that made the Holy family blessed. Let us become pure in our thoughts, words and deeds, so that God too can make his home in our hearts.





LOYALTY: The Holy Family was loyal to the plan of God. Loyalty was hallmark of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Since they obeyed their loyal son, God made them to be loyal to their call & vocation. Let us remember that, 'When there is simplicity, there is always loyalty'.

EMPTINESS: Since the Holy Family made themselves empty before God, He was able to fill them with his abundant graces and blessing. When we are empty before God, He is ever ready to fill us with it is kindness, peace, calmness and serenity. When we allow God to take complete control over us, we need not worry about anything. let us empty ourselves in this Christmas, so that new born divine Child may fill us with the grace of being SIMPLE.

"Lord make us simple, that we may become messengers of God,
Lord make us to do simple deeds, that we may become angels of God,
Lord make us to live simple lives, that we may become Joyful witnesses of Christ".



PRECIOUS LESSONS FROM JESUS

Your love, O Lord, is precious!
It is everlasting and fresh.
Your love O Lord is marvellous!
I am moved to love all in return.

Your life, O Lord, is a mystery!
It is a life of abundance
Your life, O Lord, is challenging!
I wish to imitate you in all my life.

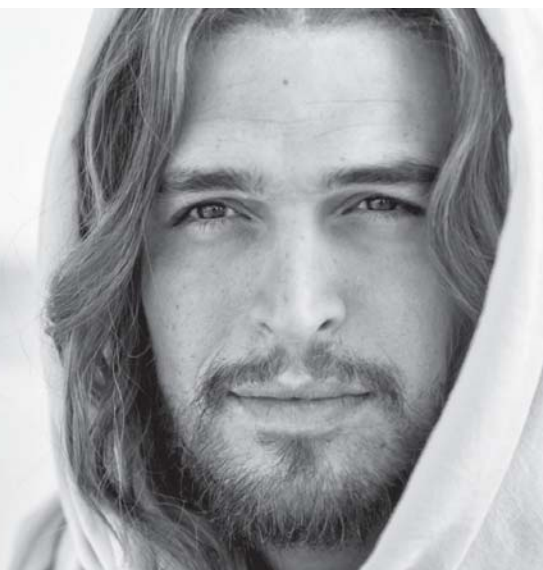


*Chouramma Choudi,
First Year Novice, IPN - Trichy*

Your Cross, O Lord, is love!
It shows your genuine love for me.
Your Cross, O Lord, is victory!
I am boosted up to hope against hope.

Your works, O Lord, are wonderful!
It gives life in abundance.
Your works are parables in actions!
I am inspired to walk the talk.

Your sufferings, O Lord, is your ways!
It teaches me to suffer for the right cause.
Your sufferings unfold your love for me!
I am drawn to you, by your love.



NEWS CAPSULE - HOLY CROSS MATRIC. HR. SEC. SCHOOL SATHUVACHARI, VELLORE



National Cadet Corps

Unity and Discipline can make students better citizens of tomorrow. With herculean effort, our school is proud to inaugurate the NCC in our school on 28.09.2021. Our school is the first private school in Vellore to offer NCC to our students. The Chief Guest LT COL Sanjay Sharma, commanding officer, LT COL S.K. Sundaram, ADM Officer and Mr. K. Raja, NCC Chief Officer, Government Boys Hr. Secondary School, Katpadi, encouraged all the students with their invigorating speech. We are really happy that the twenty years long dream has become

a reality in our school. We hope that the students will benefit from the training and learn to cherish good morals and human values.

Samooga Neethi Naal

Social justice promotes fairness and equity across many aspects of society. The birth of Thanthai Periyar was celebrated as Samooga Neethi Naal on 17.09.2021 in our school. A special Program was organized to pay tribute to him. was sent to all the students.



Competition on 2nd October 2021

A competition was organized by Tamil Development Department on October 2nd on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi by the educational authorities of Vellore District. The various events organized aimed to inculcate the values of leadership, Simplicity, Integrity in students. 63 students from 14 different schools in Vellore

district participated in the competition. It was a proud moment when our student Rajasri. S of Std X won the third prize with cash award of Rs. 2000/-

Maram Nadum Vizha

Gandhi Jayanthi is an event celebrated to mark the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi. On this memorable day, our **Let's go green club** with the support of the management, organized tree planting event. The green thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi give us a new vision to be in harmony with nature. A student was dressed up like Mahatma Gandhi and made the event colourful.



Bharathiyar 100th Death Anniversary

Rich tribute was paid to the great poet Subramania Bharathi on his 100th death anniversary. Our school Students participated in a programme highlighting Bharathiyar's literary creations like, song, dance, speech and poem. During the pandemic, our students observed the 'Standard operating procedure' (SOP) vigilantly throughout the program. The program was video graphed and sent to all the students.



Inauguration of NSS in Our School

The National Service Scheme was inaugurated for the first time in our school by Our Chief Educational Officer, Respected Thiru. Munusamy on 27.10.2021. The other dignitaries present on the occasion include Respected Thiru. Sampath, District Educational Officer, Respected Thiru. Soundar Raj, DEO in trainee and Thiru. S. Arputharaj, NSS District liaison officer. They added pride to our school by their presence and they motivated the students to serve others by their inspirational thoughts. On the same day 52 students voluntarily enrolled their names in NSS to serve others for a better community and to lead their lives with dignity.



IMPORTANT EVENTS OF VADUGARPET COMMUNITY 2021

(JUNE TO OCTOBER)

MOTHER FOUNDRESS DAY: 10.08.2021

The sisters took initiative to highlight the life of Mother Claudine during the morning prayer. We had a Eucharistic Celebration in our Chapel graced by our Parish priest, who inspired us by his sermon highlighting the mission of our Mother Foundress. In the evening, Sr. Daisy our Community Animator, along with the Community Members distributed 25 Kgs. of rice bag to the poor women of the locality.



VISIT BY PROVINCIALATE COMMUNITY: 02.09.2021

The visit of our New Provincial Sr. Lourdu Adaikalasamy along with the presence of Provincialate Community, on 2nd September brought great joy and blessings to our Community. We welcomed her wholeheartedly in her maiden visit to our Community as the New Province animator.





AROCKIA MADHA FEAST, VADUGARPET: 09.09.2021

The 348th year Annual Feast of our Lady of Arockia Madha started with the flag hoisting in a grand manner. In spite of Covid-19, a good number of people participated in all the days of the Novenas. All the sisters of the community actively involved in the preparation of liturgy and other services. Few sisters from different communities visited and received the blessings of Arockia Madha. The grand Feast Day Celebrations ended successfully.



HOLY CROSS FEAST: 14.09.2021

The preparations for the feast Day Celebration began with the Novena. On the day of the Feast, we had an inspiring prayer service in the chapel in the morning that had the theme of imbibing the spirit of generosity to live according to the signs of the time and to respond creatively to the call of God. The day of September 14th began with the prayer service, signifying the fullness of redemption that we belong to Christ. Cross is indeed a treasure, for in it and through it and for it, all the riches of salvation is stored away and restored to us. It was a day of joy and sweet memories of all those who share the special warmth and cheer. our family feast moulded our lives with convictions and noble thoughts natured in us the virtues of simplicity and affection. We are challenged with our present ministry in the globalized world with conflicting situations. The main focus during our feast day





celebration was the call of our foundress to become the visible signs of God who is present in our ministry. In order to share the joy of the feast day celebrations, we invited the teachers of our schools, the people of the locality, inmates of our hostel, convent and lay associates for a short prayer service, followed by a tea party. They shared their experience of the Cross in their life as a sure sign of Gods life giving sacrifice. We were refreshed, renewed and rejuvenated by their sharing.

In our celebrations, we highlighted the theme, **“The Cross has made me flawless”** which also included the following sub-themes: restored fellowship, new heart and spirit, power to live righteously surrendering to Jesus all our sorrows, regrets, rejection, fear, curse, wounds etc. In the evening, we had the Holy Eucharistic Celebration in the Parish Church with the theme, the ‘Cross as the symbol of Love, Joy, Peace’. Many Local Parishners attended the Eucharistic celebration. The People expressed their joy and seemed to have understood the power and glory of God hidden in the Cross as a sign of slvation. The Cross which was placed on the mountain attracted the attention of people, children, young and old who in turn paid their homage to the Cross. The Parish Priest appreciated our service in the parish and in the school and the yeomen service rendered to the young girls of all localities. At the end of the celebration, the cakes were distributed to everyone.



CAMPUS ROSARY: 29.10.2021

We had a Campus Rosary with the hostel students in the evening at 05.00 P.M. Fr. Thangasamy, our Parish Priest blessed all the children and spoke to them lovingly. Students were very happy. It was a joyful and prayerful experience to see all the students prayerfully reciting the Rosary and praying to our Blessed mother Mary.



HOLY CROSS CONVENT - PERAMBUR

A day of thanksgiving and Jubilation was held at our community in Perambur, Chennai when we celebrated the Silver Jubilee of Sr. Vinnarasi Kulanthaisamy on 26th June 2021. It was a simple Eucharistic celebration, with the Parish Priest Fr. Deva Joe, SDB being the main celebrant along with 4 other priests and the family members of the Jubilarian being present. The well prepared Liturgy with an introduction, intentions and offertory, highlighted the call, and the life of service of the jubilarian. But above all, it highlighted God's selection of her, His faithfulness and His mercy towards her which had been the anchor for her religious life.



On 26th July, we as a community went on a pilgrimage to Divine Mercy Church, Kelambakkam Chennai, constructed by MSFS Fathers, a marvelous piece of architecture indeed. The time spent in prayer and fellowship there enriched us.



10th August, we spent time with our domestic staff as a mark of our appreciation for the services that they render to us. This was a great sign of a source and encouragement for them.

The life of our Mother Foundress, her virtues and the sharing about the spirit of our Congregation, made them eager to know more about our life and mission.



A CHRISTMAS ALPHABET

A for **Angel** Gabriel, who announced the birth of Jesus to Mary.

B for the **Bells** that proclaimed the birth of Christ.

C for the **Candle** that represents the star of Bethlehem and the light of the world.

D for the month of **December** that welcomes the Baby Jesus every year.

E for **Emmanuel** which means “God is with us”.

F for **Faith** by which God gives us the assurance of His coming.

G for **Glory** which calls us to give glory to God at every moment of our lives.

H for knowing that God’s name is **Holy**.

I for **Incarnation**, an act of God that took flesh in Jesus Christ.

J for **Joy** to the world, a message that was proclaimed by the angels at the birth of Christ.

K for baby Jesus Christ the **King**, to whom the three magi paid homage.

L for **Love**, for Christmas is all about loving and sharing.

M for the **Manger** in which Jesus was born.

N for **Nativity**, celebrating the gift of Jesus to humanity.

O for **Ornament** which represents the gift of life that Christ the God child brought to earth.

P for **Peace**, which calls us to become peace makers on earth.

Q for **Quality**, an invitation to spend quality time to welcome Jesus.

R for **Rejoice**, a condition to celebrate the birth of Christ with gladness and joy in our lives.

S for the **Star** that led the wise men to Baby Jesus.

T for the **Tree** and the triangular shape representing the Trinitarian God.

U for **Unity** with which the Christians come together to celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

V for **Visitor**, a time to welcome the heavenly visitor amidst us as one family.

W for Christmas **Wreath** that represents the circle of eternal life.

X for **X-mas**, a day to remember for eternity, the day on which baby Jesus came into our world taking the human form.

Y for **yule log**, with which we surround the Christmas eve.

Z for being **zestful**, a lifelong rule to be enthusiastic and active as God’s people.



*Sr. Preeta Belcy
Fort*



THE MAN WITH A MISSION THIRST : SERVANT OF GOD FR. PETER MERMIER

‘A missionary is one who has time only for others’

Introduction: From privilege to poverty, the life of a Salesian and a Crossian founder the servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier is an inspiration for many.

Environment: Vovray, a village of peasants with some craftsmen and shop-keepers.

His Family: Father- Francois, a landowner of good standing. His first biographer, Fr. Gaiddon tells us that his family cultivated a big farm on the slope of the Vuache, in the parish of Chaumont, in the district of Frangy. He adds: “due to their wealth or due to their position, his parents were listed among the notable people of the locality”.

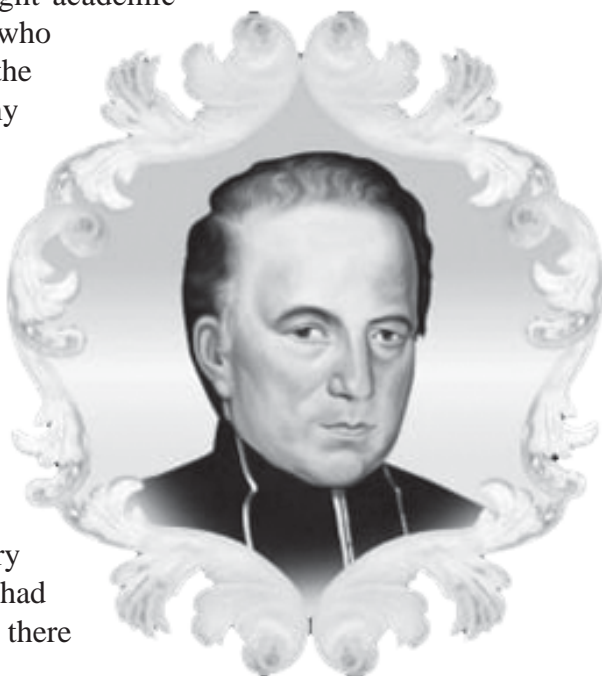
His Mother: Antoinette Bastian, studied in the boarding school of the Visitation Monastery, Annecy. Here she received an excellent Salesian education where cordiality, good manners, true and lively devotion as well as all the qualities of spirit and heart were imparted.

His Home: The family home was a shelter for the priests who were hounded by the revolutionaries. Mrs. Antoinette Bastian made her home a school for the neighbourhood where she herself taught academic subjects and catechism. It was his mother who initiated in the child an orientation towards the priesthood. Later, he was to testify: “I owe my vocation to the holiness of my mother”.

His Priesthood: Peter Mermier was ordained a priest on 21 March 1813. Thirty years later he wrote in his diary: “On 21st September 1942, the feast of St. Matthew the Apostle, I had the happiness and consolation of celebrating the Sacred Mysteries in the chapel of the major Seminary of Chambéry, at the spot where the precious remains of Fr. Guillet, my, former superior and director of the Seminary rests. It is there that God of all goodness had offered and granted me so many graces; it is there



*Sr. Jasmine Amalraj
Fort*





that he gave me such wise and good masters, and the most fervent and exemplary seminarists as friends”.

The Parish Priest: At the parish, Fr. Mermier was ‘an indefatigable worker’. After his work, he would spend part of his nights continuing his study of theology and preparing his instructions. This led his Parish priest to jokingly admonish him, ‘I will not allow you to burn all the candles of the Presbytery’. Fr. DESJACQUES who found in Mermier a chosen auxiliary and treated him as a friend and a son. As for Mermier, he found in his Parish Priest a prudent pastor who knew how to adapt piety and zeal to the concrete realities of life.

As a Teacher: In February 1816, he was appointed as a Professor at the College of Melan. He combined kindness with firmness and offered the tenderness of a mother to the little ones. The firmness of his character permitted Fr. Mermier to substitute a good healthy familiarity which opens hearts and creates trust in the place of fear which keeps the child at a distance.

His Prayer Life: Fr. Mermier’s life as a zealous priest had its strong roots in his strong prayerful life and his constant act of submission to the will of God. He was rooted in prayer and lived in communion with Jesus. He realized that prayer is the soul of the apostolate of a missionary. He firmly believed that with the presence of Jesus in us, we can be effectively present to the people. This motive was behind every one of his apostolic action. The sanctity of Fr. Mermier is revealed in all his activities.

As a Founder: As a man of profound faith, his heart longed for spreading the good news of Jesus in places where Christ was still unknown. He was imbued with the idea of doing more for the spiritual welfare of the Church, especially in the foreign mission. This yearning of his heart intensified as years went by. Yet, he also realized the limitations that a single person alone may not be able to materialize his dream of evangelization of a country. Therefore, Fr. Mermier shared his heart’s desire with some of his fellow priests of the same diocese and he promoted interest in the minds of those priests about the missions. Knowing Fr. Mermier as a holy man, a few diocesan priests expressed their desire to join him in his missionary venture. Encouraged by the support of his priest friends, he had the aspiration to begin a congregation.

So he founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales with a charism to look after the parish mission, foreign mission and the education of the youth. His missionary zeal impelled him to ask the Holy Father for a mission abroad and eventually accepted a vast mission territory in India when the Congregation was in its infancy stage with just eleven professed members. As regards education, he opines that one has to be a mother to the pupil by one’s tenderness and a father by one’s prudence. He accepted the management of the college of Avian in 1856 and the college of Melan in 1857. In Chavanod, he came into contact with Claudine Echernier who wanted to live a humble recollected life devoted to the apostolate of the poor in 1837. This resulted in the founding of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross





of Chavanod for the education of the needy girls. They had to work in the poorest and lowliest circles in the country.

His Death: His last years were a time of purification and edification. He fell seriously sick in Pougny and was taken to La Feuillette. His eye-sight and thinking capacity weakened. As he became little better, he took up a pilgrimage to Our Lady of La Salette in July 1859. He suffered a fierce attack on June 6, 1860 and became fully blind. Meanwhile the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars approved the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales as a congregation with simple vows. On 10 August 1862 Fr. Peter Marie Mermier had a fall, which caused a double fracture of his right leg. He left for his heavenly abode on 30 September 1862.

Conclusion: Fr. Mermier was not a man of eloquence but of conviction. His eloquence was the voice of the soul; he had no other eloquence but that of simplicity, lucidity and conviction that attracted a great number of listeners to his instructions. In his personal notes he describes his study of the geography of Malta Brun during the spare time he had in Rome: *“Although this sort of work seems a little irrelevant to my ministry, apart from the knowledge it gives me, I make use of it to inflame my zeal towards so many unfortunate countries buried in darkness and ignorance, in misery and in sin. It has convinced me more than ever of the need to have missionaries who are filled with the spirit of God, who pray, who study, who mortify themselves, who love their brethren and also the women religious who love the Lord and his holy Cross”*. May all of us the daughters of the Fr. Peter Mermier imbibe his virtues and qualities in our lives.



A Birth Place of Peter Mermier (Chaumont, Savoie, France)



NATIVITY – A SIGN OF GOD’S REDEEMING ACT

The selection of Mary to be the Mother of God is a clear proof that God exalts the humble and the lowly. The rich and the powerful are not the real mighty ones in the sight of God. Like Mother Mary, we all have to allow ourselves to be transformed for the divine milieu, a new world order in accordance with the divine will. We trust in the wonderful promises of salvation which will be materialized in accepting the birth and the life of Jesus.

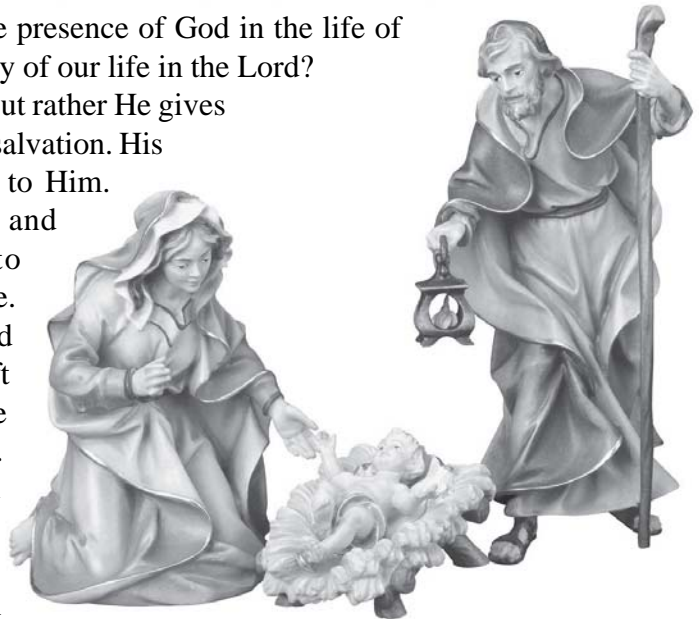
His birth stood as the sign of His future sacrifice on the cross starting with the manger, the place of the sacrificing floor. His death was on the sacrificing wood of the Cross. We have to surrender our reason to the will of God. We should prefer to be nothing before the plan of God, so that God might fill us. The coming of the Messiah is the sign of a new life. We all share in that new life when we receive Him in to our hearts, when we allow Him to remove our blindness, deafness and the coldness within our hearts.

Do we really seek and appreciate the presence of God in the life of others? Can we really discover the joy of our life in the Lord? God does not wish anyone to perish but rather He gives Himself calling us to conversion and salvation. His constant invitation is to come back to Him. Repentance is for the redemption and restoration. God’s invitation to repentance is a sign of His great love. God respects the human freedom and waits for our self-offering. Our self-gift to God is the real token to receive the self-gift of God to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus is concerned about every need of our mind and every thirst of our spirit, because He loves us so much and because He has redeemed us with His blood.

Our gratitude goes to God for His wonderful intervention in the history of the human kind. We need to spend time to recall God’s intervention in our lives too. May the infant Jesus who will be born soon, help us to make of our life, a benediction of gratitude and praise for his marvels.



*Sr. Jaculin Pitchai
Amaithinilayam*



WISH YOU ALLA MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!



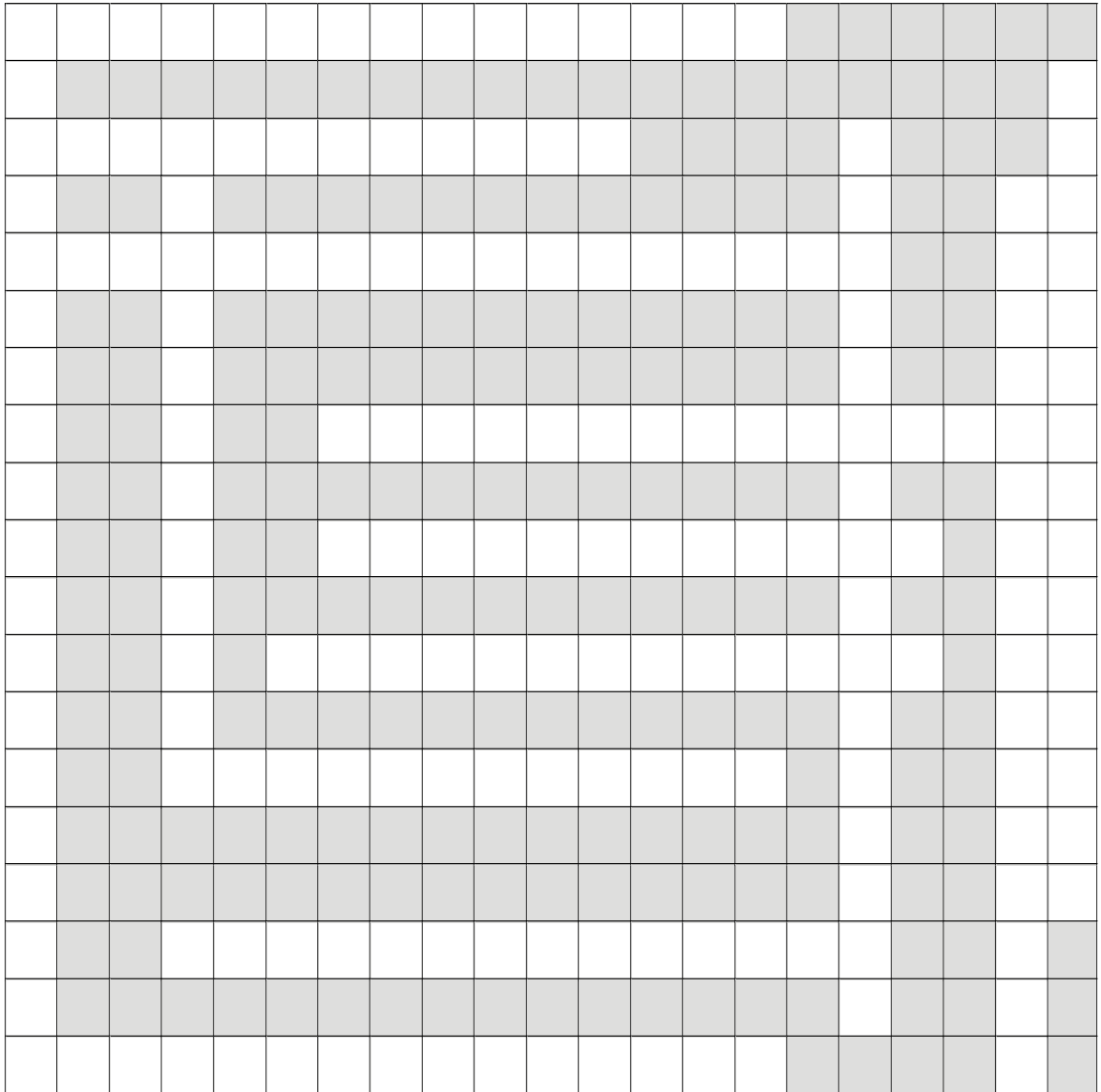


Sr. Lourdes Arockiasamy
Amaithinilayam

[illegible]



OUR SUPERIORS GENERAL



❖ Febronie Vuagnat ❖ Francoise Grandchamp ❖ Pushpam Irudhyam
 ❖ Adele Mermier ❖ Claudine Echernier ❖ Christiane Morand
 ❖ Louise Petitjean ❖ Louise Moynat ❖ Yvonne Lavorel ❖ Eugene D'Souza
 ❖ Celine Dumoulin ❖ Elizabeth Miranda ❖ Constance Metral





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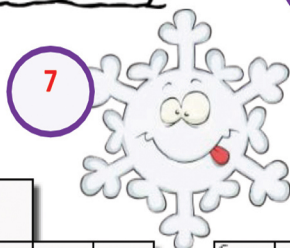
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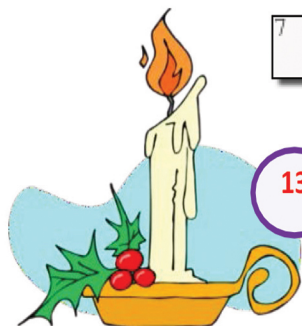
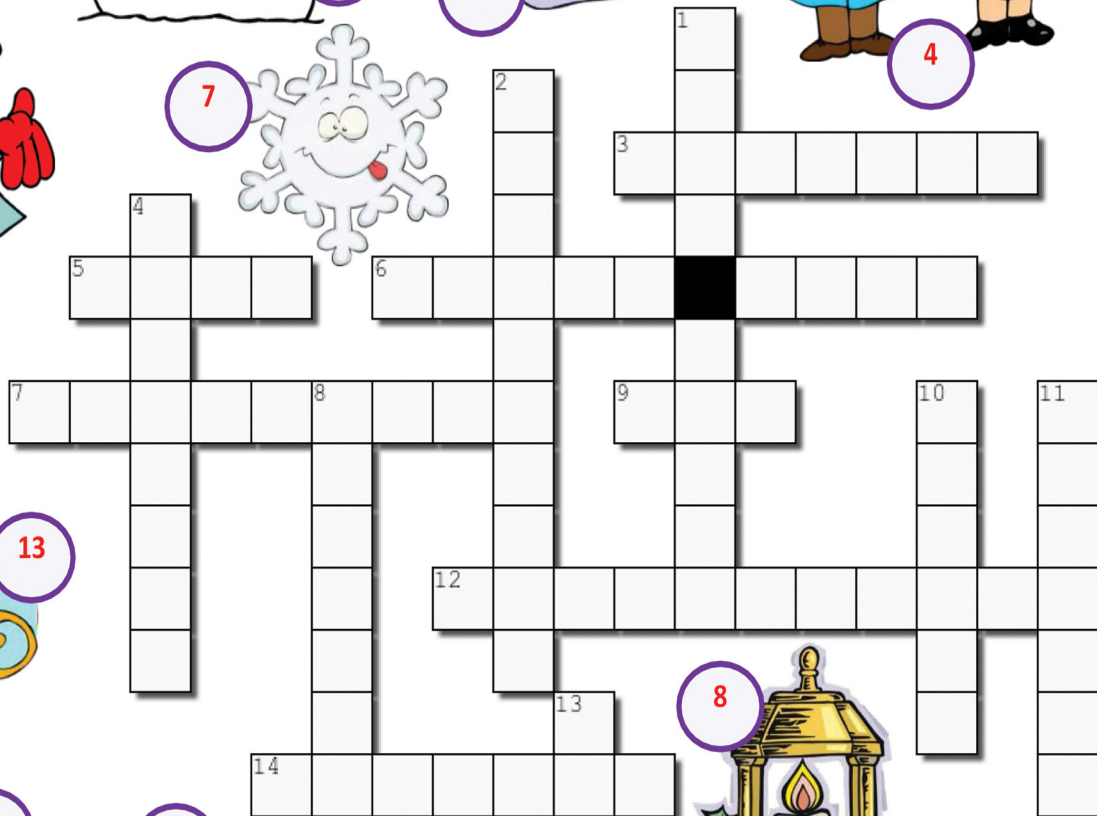
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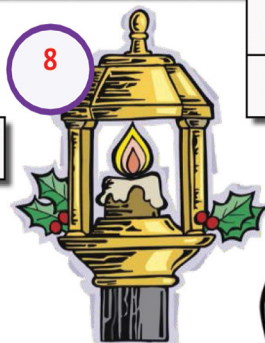
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11



15



3



“Every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything.” Heb 3:4

The New Holy Cross Spirituality Centre, Yercaud, Salem.

