

# THUCKALAY TIDINGS

FEBRUARY 2022 | VOL. 2 | ISSUE 2

DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



*LENTEN SEASON*

*A Reason to Strengthen Our Faith*



# INSIDE STORY

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Diocese of Thuckalay

## THUCKALAY TIDINGS

February 2022 | Vol. 2 | Issue 2

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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**DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY**  
**BISHOP'S HOUSE**  
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Kanyakumari District, Tamilnadu – 629 175

# Message

**Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,**

Greetings to every one of you.

The present issue of Tidings is special to us as we complete one year journey together. I thank you all for sharing our joy, our involvement, our grief, and of course, our mission. It is the patronage, encouragement and support that we receive from friends, well-wishers, and benefactors from the local and Universal Church that helps to achieve the tasks set out by the Diocese of Thuckalay for the welfare of the Church, its faithful and fellow human beings.

The Syro-Malabar Church enters into the season of Lent on the last day of this month, which takes us through weeks reflecting on the pain and suffering of Jesus. Catholics get this opportunity every year to pray and reflect on the salvation history that unfolds through the passion and death of Jesus. These are events that continue to be spoken and written about because of their everlasting relevance, inspiration, grace, and blessings. It is this passion and death of Jesus that has united us as a single community into One Great Faith.

It is true, dear friends, in our practice of the Catholic Faith, there are many moments of conviction as well as frustrating moments of doubt and anxiety in the mind; there are moments of strength and there are also instances of weakness. We experience both high and low in our lives. When we are high, we praise and thank the Lord; when we experience lowliness and pain, we hold very tight to the Cross of Christ and

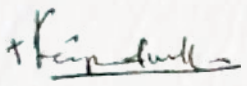
consolation is received, the solution is found, joy returns. I do believe that the Lord invites us to experience this power of the Cross throughout the Lenten season this year, as we have been going through turmoil in our life of Faith with the pandemic as well as a few events around us.

A powerful Creator we believe in has created every individual as unique human being in many aspects and we are entitled to our thoughts and opinions. We all profess a Faith that is one of love, hope and charity. The first Pontiff of the Catholic Church, St. Peter, in 1 Peter 8-9, writes, "Finally, you should all agree among yourselves and be sympathetic; love the brothers, have compassion and be self-effacing. Never repay one wrong with another or one abusive word with another; instead, repay with a blessing. That is what you are called to do so that you inherit a blessing."

The Lenten Season calls on us to come together as a community, kneel before the Cross and seek His will. Let us pronounce one of the greatest and fulfilling confessions of St. Thomas, "My Lord and my God!" and surrender and allow the Spirit to operate and direct our selves, our community and our Church.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, who suffered and underwent the worst of humiliation in life, be our strength in all trying moments and bless each one of us.



  
+ **George Rajendran sdb**  
*Bishop of Thuckalay*





## SYNOD ON SYNODALITY

The Synod on Synodality is a two-year process of listening and dialoguing, which began with a solemn Eucharist in Rome on 10 October 2021. Each diocese was expected to begin the preparations on 17 October 2021. The synodal process would conclude in October 2023.

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: "It is precisely this path of synodality, which God expects of the Church of the third millennium."

This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's renewal proposed by Vatican II, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through her experience which processes can help her to live communion, to achieve participation and to open herself to the mission.

The Diocesan process for discerning the synodality was initiated by sending a circular to all the priests, the religious and the people of God. As a first step, it was decided to have a seminar-cum-workshop for all the priests and religious of our Diocese, which was held in three sittings on 4, 8 and 19 January 2022 for Thuckalay and Thenkasi regions. The Diocesan Synodal Committee, headed by Rev. Fr Thomas Sathianesan, Chancellor organized the seminar. Rev. Fr Maria Rajendran from Kuzhithurai Diocese delivered the first talk on Synodality and Rev. Fr Joshy Kulathumkal of our Diocese presented the 10 nucleus themes on Synodality. After the two input sessions, the participants were divided into various groups and fruitful discussions on the given questions were held.







## MISSION LEAGUE @ PLATINUM – INAUGURATION

Cherupushpam Mission League (CML) is an indigenous pious organization for Catholic children founded at Bharananganam in Kerala by Rev. Fr Joseph Maliparambil and Mr. P C Abraham Pallattukunnel (Kunjettan) under the saintly leadership of Mar James Kalassery, the then Bishop of Changanassery and the same was officially inaugurated by Mar Thomas Tharayil, Bishop of Kottayam on 3 October 1947. CML has St Theresa of Lisieux as its heavenly patroness and St. Thomas, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Alphonsa as its co-patrons. Pope Leo XIII prophesied that the salvation of India is in the hands of her children. Taking the words of the Holy Father as the motto, this pious association is meant for the lay apostolate in the various dioceses of India and many foreign countries.

The CML completes 75 years of its mission. The Platinum Jubilee is celebrated globally in all the Dioceses in the Syro-Malabar Church. The Platinum Jubilee was inaugurated in our Diocese on 2 January 2022. CML representatives, both students and animators from all the Foranes, were present for the program which was held at Padanthalumoodu. Rev. Fr Printo Kurias, Director



of CML, presented the actionplan prepared for our Diocese and called upon everyone to involve whole-heartedly in the celebrations and programs. The young members presented colorful cultural items to mark the occasion to the appreciation of all present.





## FEAST OF DENHA

Denha is the feast of the great revelation of Jesus as the light of the world. Jesus is the real Sun that dawned in the world through Incarnation. During the hidden life of Jesus in Nazareth, the public did not recognize him as the real Sun who illuminates the whole of humanity. He was manifested to the public by God the Father at his baptism. This feast is celebrated with great enthusiasm in the Syro-Malabar Church, exhibiting in many ways that God is the Light.

This great feast of Denha was celebrated on 6 January in all our Parishes. Taking inspiration from practices of the Catholics of northern Kerala, the Parishes observed as Pindiperunnal by decorating plantain trunks with lighted lamps. Special Holy Eucharistic was celebrated to remember the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. It was encouraging to see that it was celebrated even in the Mission Stations with great enthusiasm.





## INAUGURATION OF LITTLE FLOWER SKILL TRAINING INSTITUTE

The Diocese of Thuckalay has been taking special efforts for the empowerment of the people at the local levels and in the entire region, understanding well the socio-economic status of the downtrodden. We entered into another important job-providing activity with the initiative of Rev. Fr Augustin Thalodilin, who has collaborated with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India, set up a Skill Training Institute for Women at Little Flower Forane, Manjalumoodu. The official inauguration of the Centre was held on 5 January 2022. Nearly 80 women, young and old, joined the Centre to be trained in Tailoring, Embroidery, and Nursing. A Director has been appointed to look after the welfare of the Centre. We appreciate the initiative taken by Rev. Fr Augustin to give training and employment to the women of the area.







## SYRO-MALABAR SYNOD

The 30<sup>th</sup> Major Archiepiscopal Synod of the Syro-Malabar Church began at Mt St Thomas, Kakkannad on 6 January 2022. His Beatitude Mar George Cardinal Alencherry, Head of the Syro-Malabar Church, led the Synod. A total of 57 Bishops, including those retired, took part. The Synod began with a recollection preached by Mar Thomas Thurithimattam. The Synodal sessions were held during 6 - 15 January 2022.

The main theme was the evaluation of the implementation of unified Holy Qurbana. There had been very difficult moments during the Synod, however, the hand of God had been felt throughout the deliberations and we do believe that the fruits will be seen as time passes by.



### NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

Please write the following and send SMS



+91 94871 65903:

Name: .....

Place: .....

Intentions: .....

In detail you wish to express,



: [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)







## SOOSAIPURAM PARISH CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE

The two-year Diamond Jubilee celebrations of St Joseph Parish, Soosaipuram came to an end on the evening of 6 January 2022. The day also marked the celebration of the Denha Feast and the conclusion of the year of St Joseph in the Parish. *Agal Vizhakku* was lit on the entire campus. Bishop Mar George Rajendran sdb was the main celebrant at the Holy Mass and the Chief Guest for the cultural program that followed. Rev. Fr Jebanesh, who belongs to this Parish, participated in the day's program. After the solemn Holy Mass, the Bishop distributed rosaries and the images of sleeping Joseph to all heads of the families.

The Holy Mass was followed by a cultural program. Its highlights were a song sung by 60 participants and dance with 60 dancers. The report of Diamond Jubilee's activities and celebrations was presented. The people who are married and settled in other parishes were invited to the program and images of St Joseph were gifted to them. Bishop congratulated the faithful, teachers, leaders, religious and priests for a

befitting celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the establishment of the Parish. Bishop Mar George Rajendran sdb distributed the prizes for the Mega Bible Quiz conducted for the various categories of people and the Special Quiz on Our Blessed Mother Mary. *Kaikarar* (Church Leader), Mr. Rajamani delivered the vote of thanks. The celebrations ended with a sumptuous meal.

It may be recalled that St Joseph's Parish Soosaipuram was established on 4 December 1960 as the third Parish in the Kanyakumari Mission. It was the first Parish that Rev. Fr. Zacharias Kayathara established. The celebration of the Diamond Jubilee began on 19 March 2020 at the Feast of St Joseph. On that occasion, Bishop Mar George Rajendran SDB presided over the Holy Qurbana and released an action plan namely, *Nambikaiyal Puthuvazhvu Peruvom*, (Renewed Life with Hope). The 12 Uraviyum and other pious associations began the celebrations with great enthusiasm. But due to the pandemic, some of the activities were carried out online.

## ONLINE PRIESTS' CONFERENCE

We have been back again with the lockdown clamped with effect from 7 January 2022 by the Government of Tamil Nadu due to the spread of the third wave of Covid-19 and the closing of places of worship on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. To assess and to make alternative plans for the pastoral activities in the Diocese, a special priests' conference was called online on 6 January 2022. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb led a discussion on the pastoral challenges that we have to encounter during the period of lockdown. Our responsibility was cut out to physical welfare, health, spiritual and pastoral

care of the people. After a brainstorming session, we solved that each parish/institution would take into consideration the spread of the epidemic in their respective areas and organize the spiritual activities in their institutions accordingly. It was decided that the parishes would offer the Sunday Holy Mass on one of the weekdays. Knowing the danger involved in coming together in large numbers, we cancelled the Diocese level Bible Fest and asked all Fathers to regularly conduct Catechism classes on weekdays. Now, we thank God that the third wave of the pandemic has not done too much damage and normalcy is returning.



### PARTICIPATE

## in the Mission of the Church

- Join us in promoting vocation to priesthood.
- Come forward, sponsor the education and maintenance of a seminarian.
- Let us join hands and send disciples to the end of the world; we need to make Jesus known through the length and breadth of the world.
- Future of the Church depends on the availability of selfless, committed and pastoral priests.
- Pope Francis said, "No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people. Did not Jesus say: 'By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another' (Jn 13:35)?"
- You can join God's Mission by helping in the preparation for priesthood.
- With a generous heart, please support the formation of Seminarians.
- We assure our prayers for your well-being.
- It takes about Rs. 40,000/- approximately per year for the education and maintenance of a seminarian.
- The Seminarian you sponsor will remain a spiritual child to you and to your family throughout his years of formation and later as a priest and he shall constantly pray for all your intentions.

*Please write / mail to us for any enquiry / details. We shall contact you with all further details for your generous support:*

#### Postal Address:

Bishop's House, P.B. 12, Thuckalay,  
Kanyakumari District,  
Tamilnadu – 629 175, INDIA

#### Contact Mission Procure:

Rev. Fr Robin Jose  
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;  
Email: bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com



# MISSION QUEST 2022

Keeping to the motto **Know the Mission** and to become a **Missionary**, the Syro-Malabar Mission office and Catechetical department of our Church organized a global level online Quiz competition under the title Mission Quest 2022 on 9 January 2022. This Quiz program was organized to deepen our knowledge about the mission of the Church in the context of the Synod on Synodality in Rome. Sample questions had been received by all Dioceses. The Catechism department of the Diocese translated all the questions into Tamil. The final result was announced on 14 January 2022 during the Synod. It was a joyful and proud moment for our Diocese as the first position in the adult category was awarded to Mrs. Geetha from Sacred Heart Forane Church, Padanthalumoodu. In the student category, the third position was awarded to Anna S Raj from St Francis Parish, Mezhacode. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb received the certificates and the cash prizes from the Major Archbishop. The Bishops congratulated and appreciated our Diocese for our active participation and for winning the prizes at the global level. We thank the Catechism department and all the participants and congratulate the winners.



## சீரோ-மலபார் திருதாது நிலையம் மற்றும் மறைதாது ஆணையம்



Syro Malabar  
Major Archbishop's Office  
Mar. G. Thomas, Palakkad



இணைந்து நடத்திய  
வினாடி-வினா போட்டியின்  
வெற்றியாளர்கள் விவரம்

வாழ்த்துக்கள்

### உலகளாவிய சீரோ-மலபார் திருச்சபை அளவில் வெற்றி பெற்றோர்

<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Geetha R</div>  <p style="font-size: small; color: white;">திரு இருதய ஆணையம், படந்தாலுமூடு</p>	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">பெரியவர்கள் பிரதீப மூலம் பரிசு</div> <p style="font-size: small; color: white;">மாணவர் பிரதீப மூன்றாம் பரிசு</p>	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;">Anna S Raj</div>  <p style="font-size: small; color: white;">புனித பிரான்சிஸ் ஆணையம், மேதக்கோடு</p>
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## MCBS - 25 YEARS AT TENKASI MISSION

The Missionary Congregation of Blessed Sacrament (MCBS) Fathers began their educational mission at Sengottai in 1996 with the first missionary being Rev. Fr Thomas Poovathumngal MCBS. With some Syro-Malabar families, a quasi-parish was erected in the Diocese of Thuckalay. In 1999 Rev. Fr Roy Akathemattathil was appointed as the Mission Superior and he was instrumental in starting the *Anbu Illam*, a home for the mentally challenged destitute, near Thenpothai. It was in 2007 that the MCBS Fathers procured land at Vadakarai and

*Anbu Illam* was shifted to Vadakarai. In 2004, MCBS Fathers started St Joseph Matriculation School in Meenakshipuram. In 2013, the Congregation began St Joseph CBSE School in Thenpothai. In the year 2017, the Fathers began a tailoring unit called NILA for the empowerment of women. In 2018 a new school was opened at Surandai. The MCBS Fathers time and again at the request of the Diocese served at St George Parish, Mekkarai. The missionary activities of the MCBS Fathers have been very instrumental in our presence in Sengottai and nearby areas.



The Silver Jubilee celebration was organized on 18 January 2022 at St Joseph Higher Secondary School. The celebration began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb. Rev. Fr Dominic Mundath MCBS, Provincial Superior was present for the celebrations. The newly renovated chapel was blessed. A brief public gathering was held in which all the speakers recalled the blessings of God with gratitude. Gifts and mementos were presented. We thank and congratulate the MCBS Fathers.



## SEMINAR AT THENKASI MISSION

The Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Thenkasi Mission have received a fillip with the one-day seminar on Consolidation of Catholic Faith organized for the Catechism teachers, youth, members of Mission League, and *Kuzhanthai Eeso Iyakkam* on 26 January 2022 at Pastoral Centre, Boarder, Vanchinagar. The Sinai Retreat Centre Kalluvilai took the initiative to organize a day of retreat for the youth and the catechism teachers; the Mission League students were animated by the Diocesan Team for Vocation Promotion; the little children had their animation program organized by the *Kuzhanthai Eeso Iyakkam*. A team of Fathers and Sisters of the Diocese from Kannyakumari took the different sessions for the day's seminar for the various groups. The team witnessed the active participation of the Catholics of the Thenkasi Mission and we can observe a bright future for the Church in the area.







## BLESSING OF ST ALPHONSA CONVENT

The FCC Sisters of Idukki Province started a community at Chinnamanur in Theni Mission on 12 August 2019 to begin missionary work. In the presence of Mar Jose Pulickal, Bishop of Kanjirapally, His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb had blessed the rented house. Later the Sisters had purchased a plot of land nearby and built a Convent which was blessed on 22 January 2022. Rev. Sr Suhuna FCC, Provincial

Superior of Idukki, cut the ribbon and inaugurated the Convent. Mar George Rajendran sdb blessed the chapel and the house during the concelebrated Holy Mass which was solemnized by the presence of Mar Jose Pulickal, Bishop of Kanjirapally. The Diocese is very glad that the Sisters have found for themselves a comfortable home in order to support their *Ad Gentes* Mission and Evangelisation.





## TRAINING ON PSYCHO-SOCIAL PRACTICE FOR ANIMATORS AND VOLUNTEERS

The current COVID 19 outbreak created a deep impact not only in the health scenario and the economic situation but also on the psychosocial well-being of societies across nations, particularly among children. Given this, a training program was conducted by Rev. Fr Thomas Sebastian, Director of KKSSS on Psycho-social care during the third wave outbreak. He emphasized the importance of psycho-social support during the school

closure period and reiterated the significance of COVID-appropriate behaviors during the current health crisis. 50 participants participated and benefited from the program. It was wonderful to see the participants interacting and raising many issues affecting young children in the society. They expressed their worry about the future and the threats the children continue to face.







## THENI MISSION FOUNDATION STONE BLESSED

We are very grateful to the Diocese of Kanjirapally for coming forward to partner with our Diocese to develop the mission district of Theni. The Diocese had appointed Rev. Fr Benny Thattamparambil as the mission incharge. The Diocese had bought a plot of land near the FCC Convent at Chinnamanur. Bishop Mar Jose

Pulickal blessed and laid the foundation stone for the presbytery on 22 January 2022 before the blessing of the FCC Convent. Until now the priest was coming from Kumily for the Holy Mass. This new house will be an added advantage for continuing the *Ad Gentes* Mission in Chinnamannur area.





## PONGAL CELEBRATIONS

The harvesting festival of Tamils, considered a thanksgiving festival for the abundance of the harvest, was celebrated as Educare Pongal to inculcate the traditional values and celebrations of ancient Tamils among school children. The festive celebration was facilitated by Rev. Fr Thomas Sebastian, director of KKSSS. The Chief Guest, Rev. Sr Reeja, CMC elucidated the cultural heritage of Tamils and the importance of preserving agriculture. The young children were very enthusiastic about learning the ancient culture and the present significance of the celebration.



***You can come forward to partner the Educare Sponsorship Program of the Diocese of Thuckalay.***

**You can help a Child for Education at different levels.**

**School Education : 5 - 7 Years**

**College Education : 3 Years**

*For details contact*

**Rev. Fr Abin Poovathumoottil**

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*Kanyakumari District*

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*Email: abypoovathummoottil@gmail.com*

## THALASSERY ARCHDIOCESE AND PALAKKAD DIOCESE GET NEW BISHOPS



The Syro-Malabar synod promoted, with the papal approval, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Pamplanyas the Archbishop of Thalassery to succeed Archbishop George Njaralakatt on his retirement. Similarly, the Synod also appointed the Auxiliary Bishop Peter Kochupurackal as the Bishop of Palakkad to succeed Bishop Jacob Manathodath on his retirement.

### **Archbishop Joseph Pamplany**

Born on 11 December 1969

Ordained on 30 December 1997

Episcopacy as Auxiliary Bishop on 28 November 2017

Elevated as Archbishop on 15 January 2022

### **Bishop Peter Kochupurackal**

Born on 29 May 1964

Ordained on 19 December 1990

Episcopacy as Auxiliary Bishop on 18 June 2020

Elevated as Bishop on 15 January 2022



*The Diocese of Thuckalay congratulates them and  
wishes them God's blessings in their ministry.*





## CELEBRATION OF DON BOSCO FEAST

St John Bosco has dedicated his life to the young and through a unique style of education based on reason, religion, and loving kindness (which he called Preventive System). Don Bosco helped the young to think seriously about their lives, to encounter Christ, to learn about their faith, to receive the sacraments, to accept their companions and to involve themselves in apostolic and professional activities. Two of his primary objectives informing the young were to be good Christians and honest citizens. Among the finest fruits of his pedagogy was the 15-year-old St Dominic Savio.

The feast of Don Bosco was celebrated in the Bishop's House on 31 January 2022. Due to the pandemic, only the inmates from Sangamam and CMC provincial House were invited. The faithful of St Mary's Church joined for the concelebrated Holy Mass at 6.00 pm. During the short gathering, the Sisters presented a meaningful song on Don Bosco and Sr Ariya gave a short talk on Don Bosco. Rev. Sr Vinaya CMC, Provincial Superior, felicitated the gathering. The program concluded with a community meal.





# WELCOME - 2022

All the faithful of the Diocese welcomed the New Year with joy and happiness with Holy Mass being celebrated at midnight and in the morning. Prayers were offered for the good health and joy of all human beings and intercessions were offered for Divine Intervention for the end of the pandemic in the Universe. We all wished each other a bright future and began the year on a joyous note with plenty of hope for the world and Christians in particular. His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb joined the faithful of Thakkalivilai Parish for the joyous celebrations.





# BISHOP WITH PEOPLE IN THE MISSION



His Excellency Mar George Rajendran sdb made a one-day visit to the mission territories of Thirunelveli, Kayathar, Virudunagar, and Madurai on 21 January 2022. He used the opportunity to interact with the missionaries in different mission centers and also interacted with a few families to know of their needs and to encourage them to have strong faith in the providence of God.

# VOCATION AND MISSION

**Rev. Sr Maria FCC**

**A True Call for Ardent Service**

The fragrance of Thuckalay Mission ever includes the tireless service rendered by Sr. Maria FCC, fondly called Mariamma. She was born on 24 April 1936, in the Ikaraparmapil family Changanacherry. When she was two years old, her mother was called for eternal rest. Later child Maria was under the care of her aunt. The disciplined Christian exemplary life of her aunt helped to cultivate the seeds of piety, which helped her in recognizing her vocation to religious life. True to her name, she developed a special devotion to Mother Mary. Maria realized the power of the recital of the Rosary from childhood. Being a brilliant student, her friends loved her very much and admired her memory power and quick learning skills. She completed her Secondary studies at St. Joseph's school Changanacherry and joined for her bachelor's education from St. Berchman's College Changanacherry. After completing her B.Sc. studies with flying colors, she joined NSS College for B.Ed. Course. Besides her routine studies, she worked hard to become a good and model teacher in the future.

She joined St. Peters High School, Kurumpanadam to start her career as a teacher. Teaching for her was not a profession but a vocation. She moved on to teach in St. Joseph's Training School, Vazhappally, St. Berchman's School, and St. Anne's School Chanaganacherry forming thousands of good students



**Birth : April 24, 1936**

**Profession : May 02, 1970**

**Death : September 29, 2019**

to be good humans and to achieve in their academics. The students loved her as they found in Ms. Maria a loving and caring mother. She had started even free tuition services for children from poor families. Her school service was a great inspiration for her colleagues. Mar Thomas Tharayil, Auxiliary Bishop of Chanaganacherry is one among her alumni in the school.

The period of teaching in various schools was also a time for Ms. Maria to reflect on her life in the future. She always kept a special relationship and friendship with sisters of the Clarist Congregation. Their simple and poor way of life inspired Maria to take a final decision to dedicate her life to Jesus. The family also supported her in this firm decision to leave everything behind to join the Franciscan Clarist Convent. She was not alone, rather together with her, there were other two teachers and a student who joined the Convent. Even though the students felt very sad about Maria Teacher leaving, they were eagerly waiting to see her in the religious habit. During the formation period, she was a serious student, concentrating very much on prayer and profound spiritual guidance. She was interested in reading the constitution of the congregation and books of saints. She had always kept with her books of St. Francis and St. Clare. After the primary formation period, she took her first vows on 2 May 1970 and after four years she professed her final commitment to the Lord on 2 May 1974. Rev. Sr







Maurus FCC, the first Superior General of the united FCC Congregation is her aunt.

Besides teaching, she was very kind to everyone in the convents where she worked. Her dedication to every service entrusted to her was an underlying factor of the life of our dear Mariamma. Although she served the congregation in different positions, she had always carried a humble and service-minded personality. Until 1998, she served the Changanacherry Province as a hostel warden, novice mistress, provincial councilor, Provincial Superior, and so on. As a novice mistress, she had special care for the novices participating in their joys and sorrows. Even the families of the novices had kept a good relationship with Mariamma and they still remember her fondly with gratitude for her timely interventions and prayers during their trial periods.

The missionary zeal of Mariamma brought her to the newly formed mission Diocese of Thuckalay in 1998. She came forward for the progress of economically and socially backward people, who were living in very pathetic situations. She fought against the social injustice of caste discrimination. Mariamma did not hesitate to stretch her hands for asking aid from people for these poor. Chenamkode, Bengiri and Mezhakode are some of the houses started by Mariamma.

The life of Mariamma was an exemplary one for her fellow sisters. Her smiling face and sweet-talking had melted many times, serious issues and rivalries. She enhanced the documentation process in many parishes and convents in both Chanagancherry and Thuckalay provinces. Her loyalty to her religious superiors was another important specialty of her personality. She had kept a motherly concern and love

for priests and bishops. Many priests and bishops remember her with gratitude for this spiritual maternal care. Her hospitality towards people inspired many to keep a good relationship with her and those convents she served in. She had a particular concern for the poor and never missed offering food for the needy. The teaching experience and the capacity of communication helped her to be a good catechist and to give formation to children and other catechism teachers. She was also regular in visiting families and counseling services. As a result of these visits, she could have saved many families, who were at the edge of division.

"The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." The final words of our Jesus Christ to his disciples expose the life of many religions. Though Mariamma had some health issues from her childhood, she believed that the Lord was taking her through little sufferings to make her stronger for His Kingdom. "The Spirit of the Lord is on me because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Lc.4, 18). She became seriously ill in 2015 after being diagnosed with cancer on her right leg. Due to a stroke in 2016, she was physically paralyzed. But she was strong in spirit and continued her service for others through her fervent prayers.

The Lord received her to her heavenly bliss on 29 September 2019. The final hours of her earthly life were accompanied by the prayers of many priests, sisters, and laypeople. The funeral took place on the feast of St. Little Flower, on 1 October 2019 at Azhakiyamandapam Provincial House. Mariamma continues to inspire every missionary.



**THUCKALAY**  
MISSION  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



## *Congratulations* **TO THE NEW SABS PROVINCE**

### **St. Chantal Province Thuckalay, Tamilnadu**

We appreciate the hard work of the pioneering missionaries and all the present members of the Sisters of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SABS) for achieving a new Province.

We assure our prayers for the success of their mission and wish them the very best to keep the missionary spirit ever alive.

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