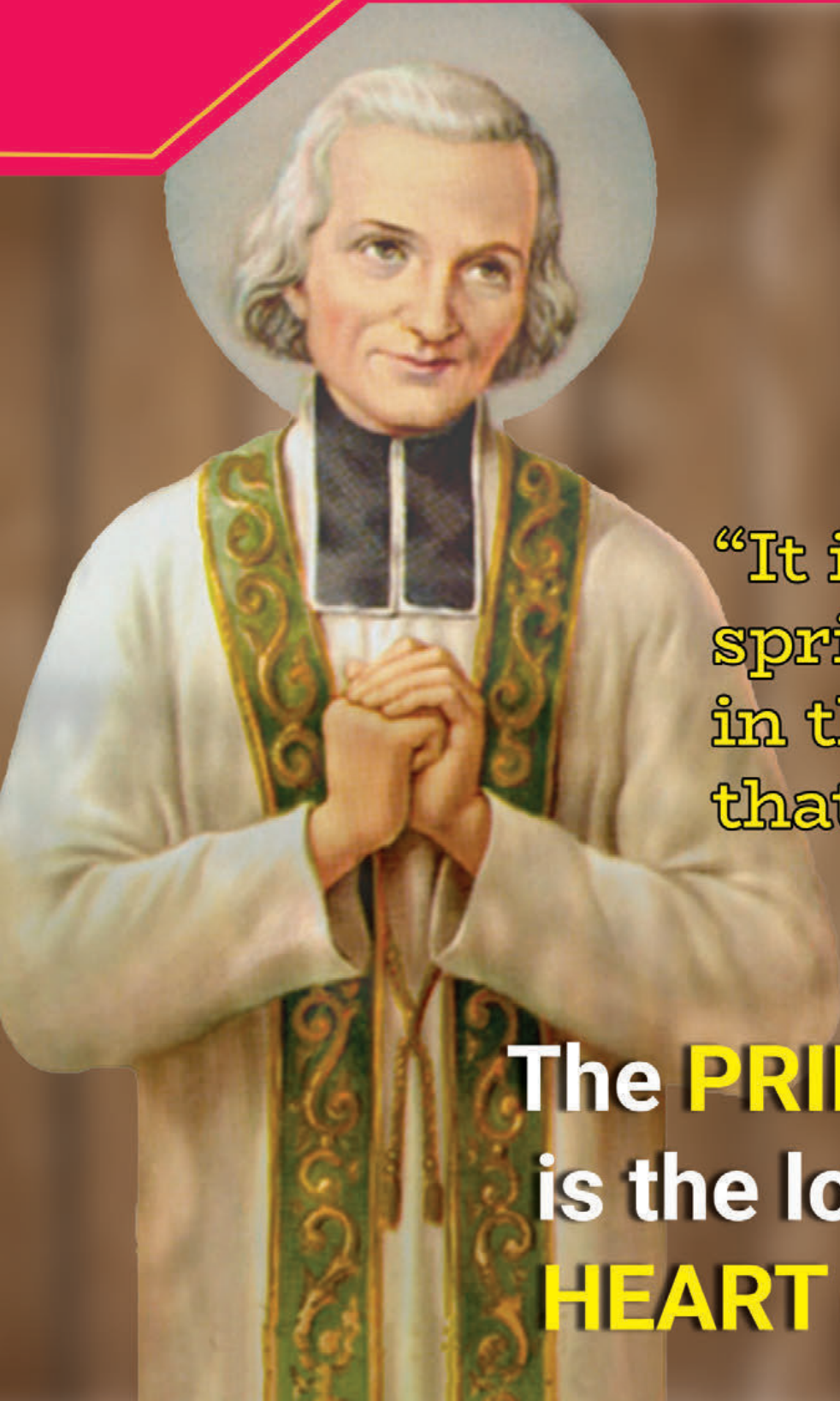


THUCKALAY TIDINGS

AUGUST 2023 | VOL. 3 | ISSUE 8
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



“It is always
springtime
in the heart
that loves God”

The **PRIESTHOOD**
is the love of the
HEART of **JESUS**



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THUCKALAY TIDINGS

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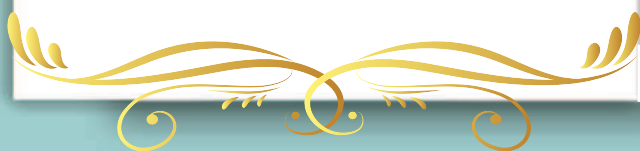
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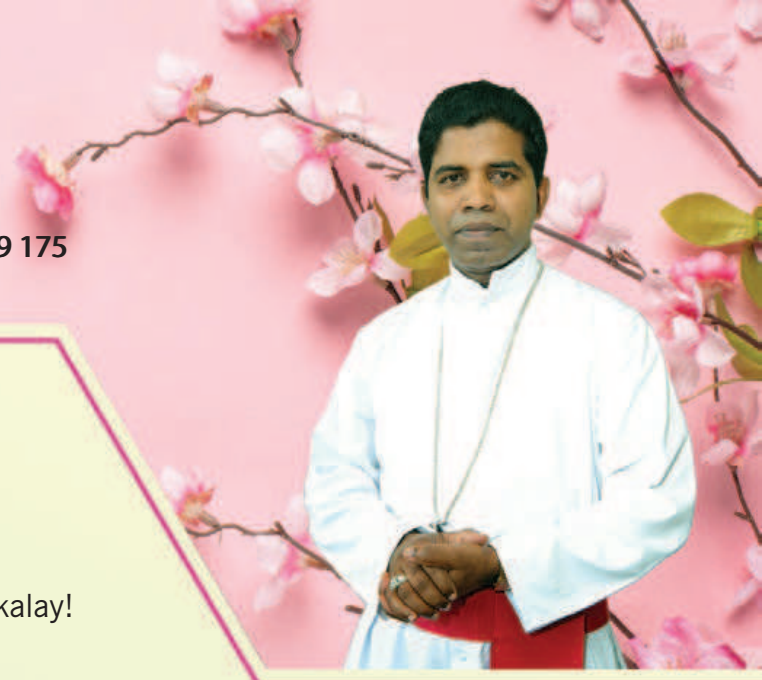
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DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY
BISHOP'S HOUSE
P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.
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Message

Dear friends and Benefactors,
Greetings and best wishes from the Diocese of Thuckalay!

On 4 August, we celebrated the feast of St John Mary Vianney, the patron of all parish priests and diocesan priests. He has a lot to teach us, so let us reflect briefly upon his life. Vianney accepted his obligation to holiness at an early age, and it took complete possession of him. Every word he uttered was spoken out of the world of religiousness. He brought to a conclusion an achievement which it would be hard for anyone to imitate.

Vianney's mother was a woman of great piety, and she led him into the way of religion at an early age. "I owe a debt to my mother," he said, and added, "virtues go easily from mothers into the hearts of their children, who willingly do what they see being done." He was a good-natured boy, with blue eyes and brown hair. In spite of his lively disposition, he admitted much later on in life that "when I was young, I did not know evil. I was first acquainted with it in the confessional, from the mouths of sinners."

As all of are well aware, it was only after much toil and trouble that Vianney was admitted to the priesthood. At the age of 20, he was having great difficulty in his studies for the priesthood.

In his assignment as parish priest of Ars, Vianney achieved something which many priests would like to have done, but which is scarcely granted to any. Not over night, but little by little, the tiny hamlet underwent a change. The people of Ars were unable to remain aloof for long from the grace which radiated from the remarkable personality of their pastor. In his early sermons, Vianney thundered against the prevalent vices of the village of Ars: blasphemies, cursing, profanation of Sundays, dances and gatherings at taverns, immodest songs and conversations. "The tavern," he would say, "is the devil's own shop, the school where hell retails its dogmas, the market where souls are bartered, the place where families are broken up, where health is undermined, where quarrels are started and murders committed."

Vianney would never consider Ars converted until all of the 200 villagers were living up to the ten commandments of God, the six precepts of the Church and the fulfilment of their duties in life. Complete enforcement of the third commandment took him eight long years. "You labour, but what you earn proves the ruin of your soul and your body. If we ask those who work on Sunday, 'What have you been doing?' they might answer: 'I have been selling my soul to the devil and crucifying our Lord... I am doomed to hell...' When I behold people driving carts on Sunday, it seems to me I see them carting their souls to Hell." It took Vianney ten whole years to renew Ars, but the community changed so noticeably and to such an extent that it was observed even by outsiders. There was no more working on Sundays, the church was filled more and more every year, and drunkenness fell off.

On 4 August 1859, Vianney gave up his soul to God. He had been parish priest of Ars for 41 years. In 1925, he was canonized and placed in the index of the Saints. Today over 500,000 people visit every year this simple farming town where they come to see the incorrupt body of one of the greatest saints in the history of the Church. The life of Vianney is the story of a humble and holy man who barely succeeded in becoming a priest, but who converted thousands of sinners. May he inspire each one of us as we live out our family life. St Maria Vianney saw God in every person he met and treated him with respect and kindness. May all of us have the same attitude of this great saint of Ars!

I am praying for you and for your intentions
Yours in Christ



+ **George Rajendran sdb**
Bishop of Thuckalay

VIANNEY DAY Celebrations at Minor Seminary

On 4th August, 2023, Seminary celebrated its Vianney Day with great zeal and enthusiasm. With the Holy Mass at 06.00am by our New priests, we began the celebration. Adoration for the special occasion started at 09.00am and it was for an hour. Next to adoration, we had a tea break for 15 minutes and by 10.15am, a volleyball friendly match between 'Fathers team' & 'Brothers team' inaugurated by Our VG, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparambil, was also conducted. Fathers' Team won the match and the prizes were distributed by our Vicar General.

Thereafter, there was a cultural programme, started by 12.15pm in which variety entertainments were held. The cultural programme started with a prayer song and Fr, Rector welcomed the gathering. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparambil, VG of the Thuckalay Diocese, gave Presidential Address. The variety entertainments included Dance, Group song & Sin Chair(Skit) performed by the Seminarians. A Magic show performed by Fr. Jomy, was a special programme. The Programme ended with the Syro- Malabar Anthem.



New Spiritual Father for Minor Seminary

Fr. Chacko Puthiyaparambil, from the Archeparchy of Changanerry, had appointed as the spiritual Director of the Seminary. We, the Diocesan family, extend our sincerest wishes to Fr. Chacko Puthiyaparambil, as he assumes this important role, and we pray for God's blessings to the entire team.



You can support the missionary activities by sponsoring a Seminarian in his formation:

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

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Contact Mission Procure:
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Pilgrimage on foot to St Alphonsa Shrine

As part of the celebration of the feast of St Alphonsa, every year we organize *Nadai Payanam* to St Alphonsa Shrine, Nagercoil under the guidance of SMYM of the Eparchy. This year it was held on 22 July 2023 at 6:30 am. It started from the Bishop's House, Thuckalay. In the morning everyone was served breakfast at Bishop's House. Rev Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Protosyncellus started the event by offering prayers and blessings. There was another group of youth and faithful who took the Colachal road to Nagercoil. On reaching the Shrine, Fr. Sajan Nettapongu conducted the Navanal, followed by the Holy *Qurbana* celebrated by Eparchial SMYM Director, Rev. Fr. Joseph Santhosh. Then everyone was served lunch. Around 450 youth and faithful took part in this pious journey.





Alphonsa feast day celebrations

The celebration of the feast of St Alphonsa began at St Alphonsa's Shrine, Nagercoil on 21 July 2023. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil hoisted the flag. It was heartening to see thousands of faithful coming to the shrine during the ten days of celebrations in order to pray and to receive blessings from God through the intercession of St Alphonsa. On 28 July 2023, Most Rev. Peter Remigius, Bishop

Emeritus of the Diocese of Kottar, visited the shrine and celebrated the Holy *Qurbana*. Over three thousand faithful from different rites took part in it. On 30 July 2022, the last day of the feast, the faithful, the religious and the priests from all our parishes reached the shrine by 9.30 am. Solemn concelebrated Holy *Qurbana* followed. Mar John Nellikunnel, Bishop of the Eparchy of Idukki was the main celebrant for the Holy *Qurbana*.



Consecration & Diamond Jubilee Celebration *of* St. Thomas Church, Palugal



St. Thomas Church, Palugal was established in 1961 by the grate zealous missionary Rev. Fr. Zacharias Kaithara. The first baptism was administered on 09 June 1962, igniting the flame of faith among the people. Rev. Fr. Jacob Aiyamathra was appointed as the Parish Priest of Palugal on 24 May 2016. With a vision to construct a new place of worship, on 16 December 2016, the foundation stone was laid for the construction of a new Church. However, unforeseen challenges brought about by the Covid Pandemic prolonged the construction, leading to a six-year journey filled with perseverance. The consecration ceremony commenced at 09.30 am, graced by the presence of bishops, including His Excellency Thomas Mar Eusebius, Bishop of the Eparchy of Parassala, who blessed the new 'Kodimaram'. Additionally, His Excellency Mar Thomas Tharayil, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archeparchy of Changanacherry, blessed



the new 'Kalkurisu' and the church bell. I presided over the Solemn Holy Qurbana, and during which Mar Thomas Tharayil delivered a profound and inspiring homily. The consecration ceremony reached its conclusion at 12.30 pm, followed by a joyous agape meal. On 09 July 2023, Sunday at 09.00 am, the Parish joyfully celebrated its Diamond Jubilee. Following the Eucharistic celebration, a public meeting was held, graced by His Excellency Antony Mar Silvanos, the Cuiria Bishop of Syro Malankara Major Archiepiscopal Church. A special appreciation goes to Fr. Jacob Aiyamathra, who tirelessly dedicated six years to building a beautiful Church and fostering a vibrant community, deeply rooted in the faith of St. Thomas, the apostle.





A Time to Celebrate the Gift of Age

The Diocesan Health Commission of the Eparchy of Thuckalay and Pulari social service Society, Tenkasi, for the wellbeing of the elderly population celebrated the Grandparents Day on July 23 and 26 respectively and provided various forms of support to the elderly. The campaign to offer meals to 45 fragile and downtrodden golden agers in the conurbations of Marthandam, Kuliturai, and Vettumani and also in villages such as Branour Border, and Kotakkurai, the countryside of Tenkasi, was a heartwarming joy. Providing nutritious meals and financial aid to elderly people for medical assistance, is a crucial step in ensuring their health and well-being. This support can alleviate the burden of medical expenses and ensure they receive the necessary care.

Fr. Mahesh, the director of the Pulari Social Service Society, delivered the keynote address and honored the elderly. The Pulari team organized cultural fest along with agape meal. About 60 grandparents from villages such as Branour Border, and Kotakkurai attended and honored the occasion.

Such activities of kindness can bring immense comfort and happiness to the elderly patients, and their gratitude is a testament to the impact of these actions. Acts of kindness and support like these can make a significant difference in the lives of the elderly, who often need more care and attention.





Catechism Annual day celebrations

The annual day celebration of the Catechetical department of the Eparchy took place on 16th July 2023 at 2.00 pm at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai. The event was presided over by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, the Protosyncellus. Rev. Fr. Gerald graced the occasion as the chief guest. The catechism students presented various colorful programmes. During the meeting,

winners of the Bible quiz and scholarship exams were awarded. Additionally, the top three best Sunday School trophies were given in three categories. Congratulations to Fr. Abilash Xavier, Director, and Fr. Jacob Ayyamathara, Joint Director and Team for their excellent organization of the event.



Inauguration of the Tailoring and Tuition centres at Cumbum



On July 6, 2023, two new tailoring centres were inaugurated in Cumbum. The first centre at Lower Camp was opened at 3:00 pm by Rev. Fr. Joseph Vellamattam, the Vicar General of the Eparchy of Kanjirappally. Also present were Fr. Thomas Poovathanikkunel, the Forane Vicar of Kumili Parish, and Fr. Benny Thattampampil, the mission coordinator of Theni missions. The second tailoring centre at Kakkan Colony was inaugurated at 5:30 pm on the same day. At present there are three tailoring centres at Cumbum. Later, at 6:00 pm, a free tuition centre also had opened at Kakkan Colony by the same. This is the second tuition centre established in Cumbum. These initiatives were made possible through the tireless efforts of the Rev. Sisters serving at Cumbum mission - Sr. Merin Jose SH and Sr. Elsy SH.

Mother Theresa Palliative care and Hospice

Mother Teresa Palliative Care, Vayalinkarai undertook relief works for the welfare of the patients and providing comfort and support to their family in the month of August 2023. The sisters paid visits to about 35 families where there are bedridden or terminally ill patients enquiring about their health and wellbeing, counseling them and distributing essentials to them.





KKSSS Medical camp at Marappady & Bengiri

In collaboration with Maria Siddha Medical College, Attoor, KKSSS organized medical camps at Marappady on 21 July 2023 and at Bengiri on 28 July 2023, respectively. The camps provided medical assistance to the local communities, benefitting more than 180 people in total.





Educare Class and Parents Meet

A special educare class was conducted on 29 July 2023 at KKSSS, Kalluvilai. The class aimed to educate and engage educare students, and 47 students actively participated, gaining valuable knowledge and skills. The parents expressed their satisfaction, noting that the programme had positively impacted their

children after the ten-day residential camp organised in the month of May. The events were successful in achieving their objectives, and the positive feedback from participants and parents reflects the effectiveness and importance of such initiatives.



Ayurveda Medical Camp at Kayathar

On July 15, 2023, the FCC Sisters of Germana Anpu Illam conducted a free Ayurvedic Medical Camp in Rajapudukkudi village, Kayathar. The camp's inauguration was led by Fr. Jomon Mangalamadam, the missionary at Kayathar mission. Joining hands with the Rev. Sisters, three skilled doctors and four dedicated staff members from Kanyakumari district generously assisted the camp, providing valuable care to the villagers. In a heartening outcome, nearly 250 patients received free medicines and check-ups during the camp, enhancing the well-being of the community.



New Central Executive Members for SMYM

SMYM Central executive election was held on Sunday, July 16, 2023 at 2.00 pm at Kalluvilai SMYM office. The event, which started with the evocation of Holy Spirit, was conducted by Eparchial Director Rev.Fr Joseph Santosh, who gave classes on leadership. The central


executives are Manoj - President, Anjana - Deputy President, Jesila Mary - Vice President, Akhil 7 - Secretary, Abisha - Joint-Secretary and Ajith - Treasurer. Twenty-three forane Executive members participated in programme.



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

Central Executive Meeting

SMYM Central executive meeting was held on Sunday, July 23, 2023 at 12 o'clock in the afternoon at St. Paul's Church, Thettiyode. Diocesan Director Rev Fr Joseph Santhosh presided. The upcoming events were discussed. The members of the new Central Executive and the Padanthalumoodu Forane executives are participating in this meeting.





Special day of Prayer for Manipur

In solidarity with Manipur's people, our Eparchy observed a special day of prayer on 02 July 2023 in all our parishes and institutions. The prayer service included an introduction on the need for the gathering, a rosary procession with candle lights, prayer of the faithful, a pledge for peace, concluding prayer, and final blessing. Thanks to all Parish Priests for organizing this service so well.



VOCATION AND MISSION

A Mission with a Special Vision

Sr. Silvi FCC

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end: they are new every morning" (Lam 3:22-23).

I am so pleased to share my life with the readers of Tidings Magazine. I must anticipate the truth that my life does not include any extra ordinality, apart from my defects and limitations. But I must thank God for the great blessings which He has showered upon me all these years, with the help of many people. Among these instruments, I can't pen up without mentioning my own parents Mathew and Aleyamma. The most important value which they inherited to me was the personal relationship with Jesus. Evening prayer in our family was an unwritten law. The recitation of prayers on knees was another important factor. While we were children, sometimes we have the tendency to be seated, but we were never permitted to do so. These practices helped me a lot even today to keep my personal relationship with my loving Jesus and to raise up from my falls.

On 9th of May 1965, I was born as the first child in my family. I have two sisters and one brother. During my childhood, it was my duty to be the second mother to them, especially my mother was sick. It imparted in me a motherly heart towards everyone and even today I keep it as a precious treasure which God gave me to practice. Even today my sisters and brother keep this motherly relation with me. Later I could have extended it to the big family of my FCC congregation.

After my schooling, in 1983 I joined in the Franciscan Clarist congregation to dedicate my life to Jesus. There may be an interesting question; why Franciscan convent? It is true that there was an FCC convent in my parish and I had always kept a warm relationship with the sisters there. But



my real inspiration was the heroic religious life of St. Alphonsa. I wanted only to join in the same congregation of St. Alphonsa. From my childhood I was fond of reading books, especially those life of saints. But the life story of St. Alphonsa was unique, special and I felt like the same saint was speaking to me. When I joined in the convent, my only desire was to become a saint like St. Alphonsa. I did my formation from 1983 to 1986 and during these years I could have kept many relationships with holy sisters of my congregation. My formators were very kind towards us. After the formation, I did my profession in 1986 and it marked the second important event in my life after the first communion.

To be very frank, my journey which I started in 1986 till now gave me different moments of joys and sorrows but I could have always experienced a mysterious hand helping me to keep myself faithful to the call of God. During these years, one of the best things that God has kept me was the vineyard to which I was invited to serve the poor and the needy. It is the diocese of Thuckalay. As days pass by, my joy overflows with big gratitude to my God. I served the diocese in different fields

like Sunday school teacher, Head mistress, youth animator, Mathrujyothis animator, Superior, provincial councilor, social worker, V-guard, v-star manager etc. The force was the same in every field and that force was God alone. Even at the times of difficulties, I chose always to remain before the blessed Sacrament and to cry. But those tears turn then to tears of joy.

I was always helped by my fellow sisters, priests and parishioners to be very active in my religious life. And I believe that this communion and religious obedience are the two pillars of the faithfulness of every religious. It also helped me to realize my childhood dreams to live amidst of the poor and to live for them. Diocese of Thuckalay, being a mission diocese, was the best place for me to nurture myself adapting to the life of a poor. As I was enjoying my religious life, I could have considered even the agonies of life as gifts from God, to prepare the ternal life in paradise. When I was diagnosed tumor and during the course of treatment, I was only praying not to decrease my faith in God. I offer these physical pains and difficulties for the greater glory of God and for the conversion of many souls.

If you are considering a religious vocation, realize, with joy, that some of the aspects of religious life are most likely already within you, whether or not



you end up entering a religious Congregation. Perhaps it is the desire for a God-centered life, for a strong faith community, for prayer, for a chance to make a positive difference in our world, for support in saying “no” to some of the things society says we need in order to be happy and at peace. Don’t be afraid to ask yourself the question, “Is this the best fit for me? Is this where God is attracting me?” And don’t avoid exploring the questions and fears that might come with that. You will most likely grow deeper in self-knowledge and knowledge of God along the way.

Don’t be overly anxious about ambiguity and don’t be afraid to take your time. Pay attention to what attracts you and what you resist, and find a spiritual director or mentor(s) with whom you can share, free of pressure. Try to remember what has been most important and life-giving for you all your life. The answer probably won’t be, “I’ve wanted to be a Sister since I was five,” though for someone I suppose it could be. It’s more likely to be your hopes, dreams, gifts, and most energized memories that will lead the way. Cultivate your relationship with the Sisters that you know, or will get to know through your search. The way they live their vocation on ordinary days will point the way.





THUCKALAY
MISSION
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

*“Mary Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
and guide us
on the way
that leads to Heaven.”*



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