

Ref. No. Priests|GR|9|2013

21May, 2013

My Dear Fathers,

Love and greetings from Bishop's House. The Higher Secondary results were announced on 9th May 2013 and we are happy to note that all our schools in the diocese have done very well. I congratulate all the correspondents, principals, teachers and students of our schools for working hard and successfully completing this examination. Let me share with you the results in a nutshell:

| Sl. No | SCHOOL | APPEARED | PASSED | FIRST CLASS | POSITION DISTRICT | HIGHEST MARK |
|--------|--------------------------------|----------|--------|-------------|---|--------------|
| 1 | St. Alphonsa School | 203 | 203 | 203 | 1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd | 1181 |
| 2 | APJM, Soosaipuram | 25 | 25 | 25 | NIL | 1130 |
| 3 | S.H School, Padanthalumoodu | 97 | 95 | 88 | NIL | 1126 |
| 4 | St. Mary's Kaliyal | 176 | 167 | 105 | NIL | 1027 |
| 5 | Carmel school, Kanyakumari | 40 | 37 | 28 | NIL | 1051 |
| 6 | Holy Family, Mukkootukal | 79 | 76 | 41 | NIL | 1051 |
| 7 | St. Joseph, Shenkottai | 30 | 30 | 17 | NIL | 1064 |

FORANE LEVEL PRIEST CONFERENCE

The priest conference for the month of April was organized Forane wise. It was well attended and appreciated by all the fathers. All were able to take part in it actively bringing the concerns of the parishes and institutions. The personal sharing of their experiences in the pastoral ministry was informative and we were able to know the problems and difficulties one encounters in his mission. All the fathers were encouraged to acknowledge the presence of Forane Vicar who will call for regular meetings when it is needed and also will present a general report of the Forane activities in the Priest Conference.

ONE DAY SEMINAR FOR KAIKKARS AND ACCOUNTANTS

The much awaited seminar for the Kaikkars and Accountants of our parishes was held on 4th May 2013 at Sangamam. All together 50 members took advantage of this day-long program. The day was packed with useful and practical sessions on the role and responsibilities of Kaikkars. All the members appreciated the program and actively took part in the group discussions. Many of them did not have the clear knowledge of their position; they expressed the hope that the diocese will organize such a program annually. May I remind the fathers to conduct the election of Kaikkars in the month of April so as to enable them to take part in the seminar organized for them in May. I wish to thank Rev. Fr. Mathew Thekkekkutt and Rev. Fr. Christudas for organizing the program and being the resource persons for the seminar.

OVERNIGHT CAMPS

Forane level overnight camp for boys and a daylong seminar for girls of classes 10 and 12 were organized. This was to orient boys and girls towards their future life and study. The chief intention was to recognize vocation to priesthood and religious life. Unfortunately all the parishes did not send the candidates. I would like to thank all the fathers who have generously sponsored food and also made sufficient arrangements for the camp. Special thanks to Rev. Fr. Dency, Fr. Mijo, Rev. Brothers and Rev. Fr. Benedict Analin for organizing such a program.

VOCATION CAMP

The annual vocation camp for boys was held from 15-20, May 2013 at Sangamam. There were 17 boys from Kerala and from our diocese. The Vocation camp for Girls was held on 21st May 2013 at Sangamam. There were 28 girls from various parishes attended the camp. At the end of the camp, sisters from various religious congregations were asked to present their congregation along with their charism. We pray that a good many of our boys and girls from our diocese will join us to become priests and religious. It was a very good turnout and I am grateful to all of you for promoting vocation to priesthood and religious life. I see that there is a sufficient amount of awareness among the parents and children regarding the need for vocation. I am sure this should continue in our parishes and centers. Let's cultivate vocations, spot the alter boys from the lower classes on wards and prepare them. By next year, each parish should contribute at least one candidate for priesthood and religious life. Thank you dear fathers for taking pain in promoting vocations.

MINOR SEMINARY

As you know Rev. Fr. James Aikkaramattam, the Rector took leave of the seminary on 17th May and Rev. Fr. Tom Kunnumpuram will take charge as the new Rector of the same on 28th May. We wish him all the best and God's blessing. We have 19 minor seminary students belonging to 2nd, 3rd and 4th year. These days they are taking part in the spoken English program conducted by British English academy, Nagercoil. The first year students will join on 3rd June 2013. We have done a small renovation work in the dormitory of the brothers. Rev. Bro. Ritto is appointed as the full time assistant to the brothers. The academic year for the seminary begins on 5th June, at 10.00 am in the Minor seminary, I request as many fathers as possible to attend the inaugural program especially fathers belong to Manjalumoodu Forane. I wish to thank all the seminary staff for their dedication and hard work in order to form the seminarians according to the directives of the church.

MY SHILLONG VISIT

I visited Shillong and Guwahati from 8th to 13th May 2013. It was an opportunity to thank all the Salesian confreres and people. I addressed the students and staff of St. Anthony's Higher Secondary school, Shillong where I was Principal and Rector for some time. I could also meet most of the Salesians of Silchar province together as they were having the provincial chapter on those days. I shared with them the news and views of our diocese, and all your regards. They send you their greetings. In Assam, I visited my friends and superiors like: Guwahati, Sirajuli, Bongaigaon and Kokrachar. Thanks very much dear fathers for your prayers and support when I was away from the diocese.

BROTHERS IN FORMATION

As you all know all the brothers who are doing Philosophy and Theology were in the diocese during the summer vacation. They all attended the ordination ceremony and First masses of our new priests, took part in the work camp, helped out in conducting the VBS in the parishes. Some of them were involved in conducting the over night camps and also the Vocation camp. Thank you for accommodating them in your parish and taking care of them. My special thanks to all the brothers for spending their valuable time with us in the diocese and serving the people of God. May I wish everyone all the best and God's blessing as they are going to continue their philosophical and theological studies.

THEOLOGY STUDENTS AND REGENCY

We have this year only two brothers for theology. Bro. Shijo and Bro. Vinu, they will be leaving for Vadavathoor seminary for their theological studies. Bro. Jebanesh Lazer completed his philosophical studies and will continue his regency in the diocese. We wish all the brothers God's blessing and they are going to begin their new stage of formation.

THANK YOU FRs. MATHEW THEKKEKUTT & THOMAS THEKKEYIL

I express my heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Mathew Thekkekutt for being the Syngelus for nearly five months besides his regular responsibility as the vicar of Manjalumoodu. I am sure all of us experienced his sincerity and a sense of commitment in his work. I could rely on him for everything which he accomplished with love and care. I also thank Rev. Fr. Thomas Thekkeyil for serving as the director of Sangamam for a short period besides the heavy responsibility as the Director of KKSSS and the procurator of the Diocese. Thank you dear fathers and wishing you all the best in your new apostolates.

COMING PROGRAMMES IN THE DIOCESE

Kindly take note of the following programmes to be organised in the Diocese in the coming days:

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|-----------------------|---|--|
| 17-19 May | - | Marriage preparation course at KKSSS |
| 5 th June | - | Academic year begins for the seminary |
| 8 th June | - | Pastoral council at Sangamam |
| 11 th June | - | Forane level priest conference at Vayalinkarai (Padanthalumoodu & Nithravilai) |
| 12 th June | - | Inter diocesan meeting at Changanacherry |
| 13 th June | - | Forane level priest conference at Palappallam (Soosaipuram & Thuckalay) |
| 15 th June | - | Forane level priest conference at Karode (Arukani and Manjalumoodu) |
| 15 th June | - | Sisters' tri-monthly recollection at Sangamam |
| 22 nd June | - | Sisters' tri-monthly recollection at Sangamam |

CONCLUSION

Dear Fathers, we are already in the month of May, which is dear to every Catholic. It is definitely a beautiful month in which we manifest our devotion to Mary our mother in a special way. It is also a graceful time of receiving showers of blessings from our heavenly Mother. Just like the blooming lilies of the season which beautify our gardens and refresh the air with the sweet fragrance, the presence of our blessed Mother beautifies our parish communities, removing every element of evil, and spreading the fragrance of her maternal love, peace, serenity, and harmony. Our Lord wanted every priest's heart to be a home of Mother Mary, where she is the mother, guide and help. Let us give her the rightful place and honour her with profound love and devotion especially on her feast on 31st May.

Yours faithfully,

+George Rajendran sdb
Bishop of Thuckalay

