

Ref. No. Priest| 24|2014

Dated 24 May 2014

Dear Fathers,

We are in the month of May - a month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. Although the month is coming to an end, a brief on Mary is not out of place. As you all know, Marian devotions form one of the major pillars of our Catholic Spirituality. Magisterium of the Church on Mary has been a major force that shaped our understanding of Our Lady over the centuries. Marian Theology is developed by theologians on the basis not only of Scripture and Tradition but also of the *sensus fidei* of the faithful as a whole, “from the bishops to the last of the faithful,” and Papal documents have recorded those developments, defining Marian dogmas, spreading doctrines and encouraging devotions within the Catholic Church.

Before the twentieth century, Popes promulgated Marian veneration and beliefs by authorizing new Marian feast days, prayers, initiatives, and special privileges. Since Pope Leo XIII, Popes promulgated Mariology also with Papal Bulls, Encyclicals and Apostolic Letters with two dogmas, namely, Immaculate Conception and Assumption in order to promote Marian devotions in the Church.

In his 1965 encyclical, *Mense Maio*, Pope Paul VI identified the month of May as an opportune time to incorporate special prayers for peace into traditional May devotions.

Catholics offer Mary special honour in May: pilgrimages, visits to churches dedicated to her, little sacrifices in her honour, periods of study and well-finished work offered up to her, and a more attentive recitation of the rosary. The last devotion on May 31 is often followed by a solemn procession, during which a statue of the Virgin Mary or a portrait is carried back into the church. Some May devotions may take place outside in a forest or a dedicated special place.

There is no firm structure as to the content of May devotion. It usually includes the singing of Marian anthems, readings from scriptures, and a sermon. Although prayers likely include the recitation of the Hail Mary, the rosary itself is not usually a part of this particular devotion.

However, the most important Marian devotion that needs to be inculcated in our Catholic families is the regular recitation of the holy Rosary around the statue of Our Blessed Mother. Pope Pius XII in his encyclical *Ingruentium Malorum* writes: “The custom of the family recitation of the Holy Rosary is a most efficacious means. What a sweet sight - most pleasing to God - when, at eventide, the Christian home resounds with the frequent repetition of praises in honour of the High Queen of Heaven! Then

the Rosary, recited in the family, assembled before the image of the Virgin, in an admirable union of hearts, the parents and their children, who come back from their daily work. It unites them piously with those absent and those dead. It links all more tightly in a sweet bond of love, with the most Holy Virgin, who, like a loving mother, in the circle of her children, will be there bestowing upon them an abundance of the gifts of concord and family peace.” In this Year of the Family, this devotion takes on an added significance.

### **NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE**

Many events that took place in the month of April and the first two weeks of May are reported in the *Iraiarul* of May 2014. I want personally thank all the Fathers, Brothers and Sisters who were involved in the various animation and organization of these events.

### **ORDINATIONS 2014**

We rejoice and thank God for the gift of two new Priests to our Diocese: Fr Sebi who was ordained on 28 April 2014 in his own Parish Church at Nellimattam, Kothamangalam and Fr Linslal who too was ordained on the same day at Vazhathoppu, Idduki. We welcome these two Fathers whole heartedly to the Presbyterium of the Diocese of Thuckalay and pray for the effectiveness of their priestly ministries. I want to thank all the Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and Faithful who took part in their Priestly Ordinations in Kerala.

### **VBS TRAINING AND CLASSES**

As per the suggestion given by the Fathers, this year the VBS training for teachers was held on 2-3 May at Aseer Auditorim, Kalluvilai. It was organized by the Catechetical department and carried out by a team of Fathers and Brothers of the Diocese. I was happy that many of the Fathers took part in the training programme. They appreciated the quality of the programme, which was better than those conducted in the past years. I want thank the Fathers and Brothers who sacrificed their time and energy to take up this mission of the Diocese seriously. My special thanks goes to Fr Josy and Fr Justin!

I visited some Parishes during the VBS classes and I witnessed the enriching programmes prepared by the Parish for the children. The involvement of Parish Priests, Sisters, Brothers and Parishioners was praiseworthy. I am sure such programmes will give ample opportunities for our children and Christian community to learn Christian Faith and feel close to the Parish and Diocese. Thanks to every one for your personal involvement.

### **ST ALPHONSA COLLEGE**

We are going ahead with the admission of students to St Alphonsa College so that we can begin the classes this year itself. As I had mentioned to you the inauguration of the academic year will be held on 6 June 2014 at 10 am in Soosaipuram. It is an important project of the Diocese. Your personal presence with some representatives from your Parishes will be highly appreciated.

I request your wholehearted involvement in the College Project. Kindly talk about it and gather as much as good will and favour from the people for the project. We shall begin the construction of college building at the earliest and we need much money. The proposed Parish-wise collection should be carried out with utmost care and seriousness. Although a Parish level Finance Committee is there, the Parish Priest is the final authority in the Parish to carry out this collection drive. As per the instruction given by the Finance committee, the Parish level Finance Committee should submit the list of families according to their financial status by the end of May. I hope it has been completed in your Parish.

### **MARUTHEMPARAI MISSION**

We have a new Mission Station at Maruthemparai. Fr Thomas Thuckalay and Mr Mariadas began the work some years back with the help of late Fr Philip Kodianthara. With the help Ms Ann r McCullough through Don Bosco Missions, New Rochelle, we built a small hall where we intend to begin a training programme for the local people. The building was blessed on 10 May. Our people from nearby Parishes took part in the celebration along with the Parish Priests of Arukani and Patukani. I am grateful to Fr Jose Muttathupadam for overseeing the construction. Special thanks goes to Fr Joemon for his support.

### **GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

The golden Jubilee celebration of St Vincent de Paul Society was held on 18 May 2014 at Padanthalumoodu Parish. All the members of the Society along with many representatives from the various Parishes were present for the programme. The celebration began at 9.30 am with the Eucharistic celebration. It was followed by a Bible procession to the auditorium. A public meeting was also held during which all the guests and special invitees highlighted the ministry of the Vincent de Paul Society in the Diocese and remembered the founding fathers with gratitude and love. I want to thank the President and all the Chief Organisers of this event. Special thanks to you dear Fathers for being present personally and encouraging the faithful to attend the programme.

### **PASTORAL COUNCIL**

The Fourth Pastoral Council's third sitting was held on 2 May 2014. Due to bad weather some members could not take part. All the eight committees were given opportunity to present the report of their activities. We also had a brief discussion on each of these reports. The main agenda of the meeting included the assessment of the ongoing ministries in the Diocese, further planning for the Year of the Family in the Diocese, carrying forward the work of evangelization and exploring the possibilities of starting new Mission Stations. All the members whole heartedly took part in the discussion and sharing. I have attached a brief report of the meeting and its decisions. I request you to implement the same in your respective parishes.

### **PRIESTS' CONFERENCE**

Hereafter the Diocesan level Priests' Conference will be held on Tuesdays as given in the Pastoral Calendar from 9.30 am to 4.00 pm. We will not have the vigil prayer on

the previous day. The Forane level Priests' Conference will take place as usual on Tuesdays. Kindly note the programme of the Forane level Priests' Conference

- Arrival (at the prescribed time)
- Recollection talk (by one of the Fathers from the Forane)
- Adoration and Confession
- Meeting
- Meal or Tea

### **FCC PRAYER CENTRE**

The Sanjo Province of FCC Congregation has begun a Prayer Centre at Plankali near their Provincial House. It functions on every first Saturday of the month from 9 am to 4 pm. The day's programme includes Prayer, Worship and Bible Classes. Kindly give this information to all the faithful in your respective Parishes and advise the needy persons to take advantage of this opportunity. But kindly keep in mind the *Vanthuparungal* retreat programme held on every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays at Palukal.

### **ST ALPHONSA SHRINE COMPLETES 25 YEARS**

I would like to bring to the attention of everyone the discussion that we had regarding the Silver Jubilee celebrations of St Alphonsa Shrine during our last Priests' Conference. This is a Diocesan level celebration and all of us are expected to give maximum support for the success of all the events that we have planned. We have already formed a Jubilee Committee headed by Fr. Jose Muttathupadam our VG. Kindly create awareness among our faithful and take them on different occasions to St Alphonsa for prayer and other spiritual animation. The following are the tentative programmes:

- 26 July - Diocesan Youth Pilgrimage to St Alphonsa Shrine
- 3 August - St Alphonsa Feast day Celebrations
- 21 September - Silver Jubilee Celebration, Public Meeting

In our coming Forane level Priests' Conference this should be discussed and decisions be made.

### **MAJOR SEMINARY BROTHERS**

The Brothers from the Major Seminaries were in the Diocese for their summer holidays from 6 April to 16 May. Rev. Fr Tom Kummumpuram, the Rector along with the Vicar General organized the summer ministry for the Brothers. Initially the Brothers underwent HRD training. Later, they went for Easter ministries in the Parishes. They also helped in the VBS training programme and classes. The Brothers expressed their happiness and satisfaction over the enriching experiences they received in the Diocese. I wish to thank Fr Rector and our VG for organizing their programme and to all the Fathers who accommodated them in their Parishes for the various programmes. A special word of thanks goes to all the Brothers for using their talents and capabilities in the Diocese.

### **MINOR SEMINARY**

Minor Seminary formation for the Brothers is going on according to the norms of the Syro-Malabar Church. Last year, we had only 22 brothers and of these two Brothers are going to Ujain for philosophy. This year we have 8 new Brothers in first year.

Rev. Fr Joseph Aruviyil is coming back to the Seminary as Spiritual Father. I want thank the Seminary community for taking up some additional responsibilities in the absence of Fr Rector during these days as he is appointed Principal of St Alphonsa College. The new academic year will begin on June 5, 2014

### VOCATION CAMP

This year the Vocation Camp was held from 4 May to 8 May in the Minor Seminary. There were 13 students who took part in the camp. Out of these, only 6 students are from the Diocese. Rev. Fr Dency was the camp chief. Rev. Deacons assisted him during the camp. Looking at the number of boys who attended the camp from the Diocese, I feel that all of us did not work hard for promoting vocations in the Diocese. Kindly spot promising boys and sent them occasionally to the Minor Seminary for come and see experience.

### BLESSING OF ST JOSEPH HOSTEL, PANPOLI

As we know the Dorothean Sisters are present in the Sengottai Mission helping the MCBS Father in their *Anbu Illam*, a home for the aged and abandoned people. Now the Sisters have opened a hostel for girls at Panpoli near St Joseph School. The blessing of the building and chapel was held on 24 May at 3.30 pm. Our VG, all the Fathers and Sisters from Sengottai region were present on the occasion. We welcome the Sisters!

### TRANSFERS & ASSIGNMENTS 2014

I have made some transfers this year and some changes in portfolios. I wish to thank the Fathers for accepting wholehearted the transfers in a spirit of faith and love for the Diocese. I also thank the Fathers who have accepted to shoulder some additional responsibilities. All the Fathers are expected to take up the given responsibilities by 24 May. If there is any inconvenience, do let me know. I have attached the transfer list with this circular for your ready reference.

Among Fathers, I am sending Fr Dency to pursue his MBA studies from DBIM, Guwahati, Assam and Fr. Jimmy to do licentiate studies in Family Counselling from CANA, Changanacherry. He will be coming back to the Parish on weekends. I thank them for accepting this plan for the good of the Diocese.

Rev. Fr. Antony Chirakal VC is now in charge of coordinating the Bible convention/Retreat in the diocese. Those parishes who wish to have his service can approach him. Likewise Fr. Felix Arulnathan SDB can be also a resource person for various groups and departments in the diocese. You are free to approach him for any assistance.

### INFORMATION

1. I am leaving for the United States for mission appeal on 9 June 2014 and will return on 7 August. Kindly keep me in your prayers. In my absence our VG will see to the normal running of the Diocese. All the permissions and information should be addressed to the VG during these months.
2. The Jubilee Celebrations our Fathers and Sisters working in the Diocese, will be held on 15 August at Soosaipuram.

3. From 2015 onwards all our Parishes and Institutions will have to do the internal auditing. This is to keep our accounts and other public collection of funds intact before the Government. Kindly begin to keep the accounts by preserving the bills and vouchers. Remember to be regular with your accounting.
4. We need to promote Matha TV in our Diocese more. It is a humble request from the Tamil Nadu Bishops' Conference. Please encourage sponsors from every Parish. Kindly cooperate with Fr Thomas Thuckalay in this regard.
5. It is a felt need to have cemetery in all the Parishes and for this purpose a Committee was constituted under the leadership of Fr Christudas and Fr Mathew Mulangaserry. The Committee has prepared the rules and regulations regarding constructing cemeteries and have circulated to all of you. Kindly go through the text and if you have any serious comments to make you may do so in the next Forane level Priests' Conference to be held on 10 June.
6. The newly translated text on the Sacraments is in circulation. Kindly use them in the Parishes and if you find any mistakes, kindly inform Fr. Justin.
7. Kindly continue to insist on the programmes to be implemented for the Year of the Family. Please insist on the need to have regular family prayer in every Catholic home.
8. We are working on new website for the Diocese. Kindly cooperate with Fr Justin in giving the required information from your respective Parishes.
9. The Sisters will continue the Home Mission in Athencode Parish from 9 June onwards. We wish the Parish Priest and the faithful all the best and God's blessing.
10. I was told that everyone registered their names for the Star Health Insurance except two Fathers. I want to thank all of you for cooperating with our Finance Officer in this regard.
11. The CMC Sisters celebrated the centenary death anniversary of their co-founder Fr. Leopold Beccaro on 30 April at CMC Kanyakumari. Sisters from Changanaserry Province too joined in the celebrations.
12. FCC Sanjo province had their Synaxis from 12-15 May in order to review their ministry and discussed on the topics: Mission and the Year of the Family.
13. In order to coordinate all the Schools in the Diocese for looking after the needs of the differently abled children, an association is formed under the name of AIDACT. The President of this association is Rev. Sr Rosiline SABS, Principal, Shanti Nilayam and the Coordinator is Rev. Fr Saji Elambaserry sdb.

### REST IN PEACE

1. Mrs Rosamma Chandy, Mother of Sr. Litty Maria SABS passed away on May 12 at the age of 82. We express our heart-felt condolences to Sr Litty and her family
2. Rev. Sr Anila SABS, the sister of late Fr Philip Kodianthara passed away on May 19 due to heart attack. Our sincere condolences to the bereaved family.

### CONSTRUCTIONS

1. The construction of the first floor of Pulari Matriculation School is in progress
2. The construction of the first floor of Christurajapuum school is in progress
3. Christurajapuram Parish is building a new Church
4. The construction of the second floor of APJM School is completed

5. Renovation work at Sacred Heart School is going on
6. A new CMC Convent, Kalyal building is nearing completion
7. SABS, Soosaipuram chapel is under construction
8. S.H School, Kazhuvanthittai has now a new secondary block
9. The SJSM Sisters have begun the construction of a new Convent at Anayadi
10. We are planning to begin the construction of a presbytery at Anayadi

### CLASS 12 & 10 RESULTS

| No. | SCHOOL                    | APPEARED | CLEARD | FAILED | H.MARK | RANK  |
|-----|---------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---|
| 1   | S.H. School               | 122      | 122    | Nil    | 1164   | Nil   |
| 2   | APJM, School              | 34       | 34     | Nil    | 1101   | Nil   |
| 3   | Mukkoottukal              | 85       | 84     | 1      | 1048   | Nil   |
| 4   | CMC Kanyakumari           | 55       | 53     | 2      | 1097   | Nil   |
| 5   | St. Alphonsa<br>Nagarcoil | 207      | 207    | Nil    | 1186   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>District |
| 6   | CMI Kalial                | 195      | 191    | 4      | 1096   |   |
| 7   | MCBS Sengottai            | 70       | 66     | 4      | 1146   |   |

### SSLC RESULTS 2014

| No. | SCHOOLS                    | APPEARED | CLEARD | FAILED | H.MARK | STATE RANK  |
|-----|----------------------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|---|
| 1   | S.H.<br>Padanthalumoodu    | 115      | 115    | Nil    | 491    | 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Malayalam  |
| 2   | APJM, Soosaipuram          | 46       | 46     | Nil    | 490    | Nil   |
| 3   | Mukkoottukal               | 99       | 99     | Nil    | 458    | Nil   |
| 4   | CMC Kanyakumari            | 78       | 78     | Nil    | 495    | Nil   |
| 5   | St. Alphonsa,<br>Nagarcoil | 164      | 164    | Nil    | 498    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3students<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> -2students<br>Dist. 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 2<br>students |
| 6   | CMI Plankalai              | 86       | 82     | 4      | 483    | Nil   |
| 7   | CMI Kalial                 | 144      | 144    | Nil    | 480    | Nil   |
| 8   | MCBS Sengottai             | 82       | 81     | 1      | 489    | Nil   |
| 9   | Holy Family Arukani        | 43       | 43     | Nil    | 483    | Nil   |
| 10  | Varuthattu                 | 87       | 87     | Nil    | 485    | Nil   |
| 11  | St. James, Mankarai        | 112      | 112    | Nil    | 477    | Nil   |
| 12  | CMC Kulachal               | 16       | 16     | Nil    | 492    | Nil   |
| 13  | CMC Muzhukode              | 35       | 35     | Nil    | 493    | Nil   |
| 14  | FCC Kattathurai            | 33       | 33     | Nil    | 490    | Nil   |
| 15  | CMI Netta                  | 35       | 35     | Nil    | 482    | Nil   |

We congratulate all the successful students in our Institutions. I thank and appreciate all the Correspondents, Principals, Headmistresses and teachers for their hard work and dedication.

### COMING PROGRAMMES

- 7 June - Departments' Heads meeting at 2.30 pm in the Bishop's House
- 7 June - Catechism students' annual day celebration
- 10 June - Forane level Priests' Conference

## WELCOME AND THANK YOU

The following Fathers have joined our Diocese for pastoral ministry:

1. Fr Antony Vazhuthara MST
2. Fr Felix Arulnathan SDB
3. Fr Jose Edattukaran MST
4. Fr Antony Chirakal VC
5. Fr Siji Puthenpurakal (MDY)

We welcome them whole heartedly to the Diocese and wish them God's blessings in their ministry.

Likewise the following Fathers are returning to their respective diocese/congregation after serving many years in the Diocese:

1. Fr Sujesh Muttathukunnel (MDY) worked 4 years
2. Fr Varghese Padijaril OSB worked 13 years
3. Fr John Puthumana VC worked 14 years

The Diocese is indebted to them and to their superiors of their selfless service in the Diocese. I wish them God's choicest blessings for their new ministries.

## CONCLUSION

The season of Easter is coming to a close. Soon we shall celebrate the Solemnities of Ascension and Pentecost that will conclude the season. I do hope that during this holy season you had ample opportunities to carry out your pastoral ministries bringing spiritual solace to the spiritually hungry people of our region. We need to form ourselves into good shepherds after the Divine Shepherd, who said: "I know my own and my own know me."

Thank you,

Yours affectionately,

+ George Rajendran sdb  
Bishop of Thuckalay