



February 2019

No. 60

News Bulletin Diocese of Sultanpet

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Bishop Speaks...

Dear Rev. Father, Brothers, Sisters and Lay Faithful,



Cosmic Light and Glory!

Teilhard de Chardin, sj, a French Jesuit priest (1881-1955), experiencing the inhumanity of the First World War, developed the concept of 'cosmic Christ' who, through his incarnation, is intimately involved in the universe: "The image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation" (Col 1:15), dwelt among us (Jn 1:14) to bring forth the perfect unity of God and humankind, that is, sacred and secular (*Building the Earth*, 1937). Further scriptural foundation for this concept is that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega (Rev 1:18) and in whom we live and move and have our being, (Acts 17:28) and in whom the whole creation is under pain to attain its perfection (Rom 8: 22). This cosmic mission of Jesus is already foretold by Simeon when Jesus, for the first time, was in the Temple (Lk 2: 29-32).

Jesus in the Temple

The Candle Mass which we celebrate on 2nd February might reveal that the parents of Jesus are fulfilling the prophecy of Malachi (3:1). Though Mary, being the mother of God (*Theotokos*) and the just man Joseph, are in no need of the customary ritual purification (Lev 12:6), they did not set themselves above the Law (cf. Exod 13:1,11; Num 18:15-16). This is in parallelism with Jesus at the river Jordan: Although he is not in need of receiving the baptism of repentance by John the Baptist, in order to show his humanness Jesus asked for that baptism (Mt 3:15-16). Apart from this Jewish background the interest of Luke to 'bring' Jesus to the Temple is to reveal the cosmic nature of Jesus Christ. In his '*Nunc Dimitis*' Simeon proclaims that this Child Jesus will be the 'Light to the Gentile and Glory to Israel' (Lk 2:32). Indeed this echoes the OT prophetic background (cf. Ps 98: 3; Isa 42:5-6; 43:13; 49: 6; 52:9-10; 49). The 'Light and Glory' here refer not only to the person of Christ, but also to his mission to the world: he saves and thus uplifts not only the Jews and Gentiles, but in the Lucan narrative it means the whole universe. The effect of the universalism of Jesus' incarnation permeates the whole creation which is contaminated by the first man's sin (cf. Rom 8:21-22; Acts 28:28).

Holiness of Evolution!

In this respect we shall understand that the whole life of the universe configures in Jesus Christ. He is the Omega Point, in whom and to whom all evolution is moving. This point of convergence will reach perfection in the *Parousia*, the perfect realisation of the Kingdom of God, when Jesus the Christ returns to earth in all His glory, bringing forth the perfect unity of the divine and the purified creature: "I make all things new" (Rev 21:5). This is evident from the angel's proclamation to the Shepherds and to the Magi from the East (cf. Lk 2: 11-14; Mt 2: 1-12) that Jesus configures not only the despised sinners (shepherds) but also the gentile Magi. This gives us hope that the live-presence of Jesus our Lord will heal us, both good and wicked, and also the devastating cosmic world. All the atrocities of human wickedness that are lashed out in the global society, and thereby, the 'unnatural' calamities, will one day be fully in the presence and power of God (*'holiness of evolution'*). This leads us to the next prophecy of Simeon in the Temple (Lk 2:34).

Second Annunciation!

Pope St. John Paul would call Simeon's words to Mary in 'Nunc Dimitis' (Lk 2:34) a second annunciation (*Redemptoris Mater*, 16) 'for they tell her of the actual historical situation in which the Son is to accomplish his mission, namely, in misunderstanding and sorrow (*'a sword will pierce your heart'*). While this announcement on the one hand confirms her faith in the accomplishment of the divine promises of salvation, on the other hand it also reveals to her that she will have to live her obedience of faith in suffering, at the side of the suffering Saviour (*RM*). The glory of being the Mother God demanded of her to bear the Cross of Christ from the moment of her annunciation. As Mary is the first disciple of Christ, the cost of discipleship is, first, lived/revealed to us by her. She is honoured as the Mother of the Church because she 'brings forth' faith-living children to God through her life of discipleship par excellence and through her constant intercessory favours. Likewise, if we like to enjoy the light of Jesus in the harsh darkness of daily-realities we are to boldly follow in the footsteps of the 'way of the Cross.'

Light and Glory!

Jesus, being the light of the World (Jn 8:12; 9:5), gives glory to the created world by saving it from the clutches of Evil, and thus gives glory to God the Father (cf. Jn 17:4, 12). In Jesus there is no discrimination of humans and the other cosmic beings. He also demands of us to be the light of the world (Mt 5:14), giving hope to the despised, animation to the ignorant, encouragement to the just-sufferers and warning to the unjust; another side of the coin is that we should eliminate any thought of discrimination in society on account of caste, creed, nation or language (cf. Rom 10:12; Gal 3:28; Col 3:11). When all human beings configure in Christ Jesus, all are in the same boat of God's love and mercy. Jesus, being in the hands of Simeon, tells us that the worthiness of discipleship, therefore, demands taking up the challenges of 'anti-Christ/Christian' evil forces of Self and society and invites us to give greater glory to God by our acts of justice and mercy.

Communio India

Please go through the write up on the *Communio India* and as we agreed, please take the collection in the first week of February 2019 for this.



+ Antony Samy Peter Abir
Bishop of Sultanpet

Bishop's Appointments

Date	Time	Programme	Place
1		CCBI Bible Commission Meeting	Bangalore
2	3.00 pm	SMSSS Flood Relief Program	Sorapara
3	8.00 am	Feast Mass	Shornur
4	8.30 am	Feast Mass	Pudupalayam
5	11.30 am	Feast Mass	Kunnukad
9	5.00 pm	School Day	Kanjikode
10	7.00 am	Feast Mass	Malampuzha
	9.00 am	Feast Mass	Chullimadai
	3.45 pm	Feast Mass	Nenmara
11	5.00 pm	Feast Mass	Sinnathurai (Trivandrum)
12		Meeting with the Archbishop	Trivandrum
13-14		Feast Masses, Punalur Diocese	Punalur
15-17		KRLCBC & KRLCC Meetings	Punalur
18	2.00 pm	Priest's Recollection	Bishop's House
	5.00 pm	5th Anniversary of the Diocese & Consecration	Cathedral, Sultanpet
23-24		New Bishop's Consecration	Tuticorin
26	8.30 am	Feast Mass	Kularayanpalyam

From Vicar General Desk

CCBI Chairman for Bible

Our Bishop: Most Rev. Dr. Antonysamy Peter Abir, in the CCBI Plenary Assembly held in January, is elected the Chairman for the CCBI Commission for Bible. We congratulate him and wish him all the best.

Release of a New Book

His Eminence Oswald Gracias, CCBI President, released the book: **My Encounter with Christ**, written by our Bishop on 10 January 2019. The First copies received by His Excellency Most Rev. Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, Archbishop George Antonysamy and Archbishop Anil Cuoto. We wish our bishop for this effort to animate the priests and religious through this book which is biblical, pastoral, spiritual and social.



Bishop Karikasserry in our Cathedral



Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Karikasserry, Bishop of Kottapuram celebrated the Feast Mass of St. Sebastian at the Cathedral on Saturday 19 January 2019. The Bishop was given a grand welcome from the main road and our Bishop gave the welcome address. Bishop Karikasserry presided over the solemn high Mass with many priests in the Cathedral.

Recollection for Priests

Please note: The senate meeting and the recollection for the priests will be held on **Monday 18 February 2019 at 2 pm** in the Bishop's House.

Consecration Anniversary Mass

Our Bishop is celebrating his consecration anniversary on 16th February; however we shall have the Eucharistic celebration of both the 5th Anniversary of the Diocese and the Consecration of our Bishop at the Cathedral on **18th Feb at 5 pm**. All the priests, religious and lay faithful are invited to join the Mass at 5 pm on that day in the Cathedral. We offer our wishes and prayers for our bishop.

New Church at Ottapalam

There was no parish church since fifty years of the erection of the parish at Ottapalam which was looked after by the Diocese of Calicut; the liturgical functions were held at the convent chapel of the Sisters of the Apostolic Carmel. With much effort we built a new Church dedicated to Infant Jesus adjacent to the presbytery there. We appreciate Rev. Fr. Manuel Muthumakuzhy, TOR, for his strenuous effort in collecting financial assistance from various sources and for working hard to complete the church. We appreciate his dedicated service in this parish. This new church was blessed and opened by our Bishop on 6 January 2019.



Evangelization Award



In the recent Plenary Assembly of CCBI held at Mahabalipuram on 10 January 2019 Sr. L. Josephine Vimala, d/o Mr. Lourdusamy (Kottilpara), of Kanakankalam parish, was given a special award for her enthusiastic and committed work of evangelization for the last few years. The award was given by His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, President of CCBI and our bishop was present for this award-giving function. We congratulate her for her service and wish her God's blessings for her continued mission.

Rev. Msgr. A. S. Madalaimuthu,
Vicar General

From the Procurator's Desk

Some Reminders to Rev. Parish Priests:

- Please collect Holy Child Hood and Communio India collections in February.
- Submit all Special Collections including mission Sunday collection (2018), Mass Intentions (2018), Audit Fee and Annual Contribution to procure office.
- Again remind you that open a joint account (Procurator and Parish Priest). The necessary documents are ready in the procure office. Please come and collect it.

Medical Help

We distributed medical help of Rs.5000/- each to parishioners of Attapallam, Kanakankalam and Sayathurai in the month of January 2019.

Education Fund

Opening Balance	20,27,398.00	Vandazi	3,000.00	Chittur	10,000.00
Attapallam	10,000.00	Pampupara	6,000.00	Kanjikode	7,000.00
Bank interest	5,055.00	Palakkad	25,000.00	Vadakkencherry	5,000.00
Athicode	5,000.00	Eruthenpathy	10,000.00	Closing Balance	21,13,453.00

Vocation Commission

Seminarians Meet with our Bishop

Our students studying in various Seminaries for our Diocese of Sultanpet had a meeting with our Bishop in the Bishop's House on 28 December 2018 and they shared with the Bishop their experience of their seminary formation. Bishop encouraged them to be fervent in their vocation and formation to be an effective and good pastor in the future. Fr.Sagayanathan (studying in Rome) who tries to collect some sponsors for the formation of the seminarians also took part in this meeting. After lunch they went to visit Rev. Fr. K. P. Vincent, our Senior Priest in his residence at Melarcode, Vadakencherry. He was so excited to see our students and the students were so excited to meet such an elderly Priest.



*Rev. Fr. Lorraine L.,
Financial Administrator*

SMSSS News

Christmas Crib Competition

The Kolping unit of the Diocese conducted the competition for Christmas Crib in the diocesan level. The following parishes/substations were awarded on Sunday 6 January 2019 with three prizes: 1st prize: Kulamadaichellai, 2nd prize: Athupathy and the 3rd prize: Palaniarpalayam. SMSSS appreciates all the parishes which participated in this competition.

SMSSS Pongal Celebration



SMSSS celebrated feasts of Pongal on 15 January 2019 at Menonpara, Palaniarpalayam and Walayar along with staff members, youth kolping groups and women kolping groups. They conducted different cultural activities associated with Pongal includes wearing traditional dresses, preparing Pongal dish in clay pot, etc. Children from Menonpara tuition centre went to Malampuzha Dam and there they conducted special programmes for children. SMSSS gave the social message relating to the importance of agriculture and its relevance in today's world through

celebrating Pongal feast.

*Rev. Fr. Prince Robert,
Director, SMSSS*

BIRTH DAY

6th Fr. Louis Maria Pappu
17th Fr. Philip MSFS

27th Fr. G. Antony OCD
28th Fr. Irudayaraj CPPS

SNL wish you a Happy Birth Day

ORDINATION DAY

2nd Fr. SahayaVendan, CSC

SNL wish you a Happy Ordination Day