

VOL XII, NO.03

lasaletteindia.org lsmatha@gmail.com



Dear loving Fathers and Brothers in Christ.

"We wonder why the Gospel makes so little mention of St. Joseph. But did it not say everything when it taught us that he was the husband of Mary?"

--Blessed William Joseph Chaminade

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis declared this "The Year of St. Joseph" through December 8th, 2021. The Holy Father also published an apostolic letter about Jesus' beloved foster-father entitled "Patris Corde" (or "With a Father's Heart").

Traditionally the month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. It is in this month we reflect the life and spirituality of St. Joseph. "The Year of St. Joseph" invites us specially to follow this saint closely in responding to the call of God.

There are no recorded words of St. Joseph in the entire Bible. There are words in the Old Testament for the great patriarch that we can apply to St. Joseph. But in the New Testament there are no recorded words for St. Joseph. He's always there, though, as a silent presence. In fact, even his death is wrapped in silence. When Gospel said, Joseph was the "husband of Mary" (Mathew 1:16), it says clearly what he was as a person, and who was committed to God and his plans. This enables us to learn from St. Joseph to order our ways of life in following Jesus.

The Gospels tell us that Joseph was a "just" man. That means that he was faithful. He was faithful to God and said yes to God's plan for him to be Mary's husband and Jesus' foster father. He was faithful to Mary, caring for her while they waited for her baby to be born. He was faithful to Jesus, protecting him from all possible dangers.

John Paul II in his apostolic exhortation "The Guardian of the Redeemer" calls Joseph the just man. What does that mean? It means that he was a holy man. A righteous man. A man of honesty, integrity, and virtue. St. Joseph is the greatest and holiest saint after the Blessed Mother herself. In fact, some of the Doctors of the Church said that there was no grace ever given to any of the Saints (except Mary) that was not given to St. Joseph as well.

I used to think what could be the place of St. Joseph in all event of La Salette. Is any of Mary's words, presence, or her gestures would have an influence of St. Joseph her husband. One immediate thought that strikes me is the words of Mary regarding Sunday observance. "Six days have I given you to labor, the seventh I have kept for myself, and they will not give it to me.

Blessed Mother was insisting on rest and of the sanctification of the Sunday, the day which God has reserved to himself. As a Jewish woman she grew up by fulfilling the obligation of Sabbath a day reserved to God alone. Her husband Joseph, being "a just man" in every sense also observed Sabbath in its real spirit. A carpenter who earned livelihood for Jesus and Mary, Joseph committed himself in every sense for God. His commitment to God helped him to commit himself wholeheartedly to Jesus and Mary.

The lessons learned from St. Joseph is an inspiration for all who seek the way of the Lord. He stands as an icon who challenges us in our love towards God and man.

Let me conclude my letter with a prayer addressed to St. Joseph by Pope Francis.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son;

in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,

and defend us from every evil. Amen

Yours in our Blessed Mother, Fr. Sajive Maliakal MS









Ash Monday: On 15th of February, Monday, our community began the Lenten season. Fr. Mathew celebrated Mass and put the sign of the cross on the forehead of the public. The day kept aside for prayer and fasting. New Place: The Ashram community accompanied Fr. Lithin to his newly appointed ministry at St. John's Parish Church, Mandalam. Fathers had a warm welcome by the parish Priest and the parishioners. House Visit: Ashram community visited the family of Fr. Alex and spend time with his parents.

Representation: Fr. Mathew and Fr. Anit represented the ashram

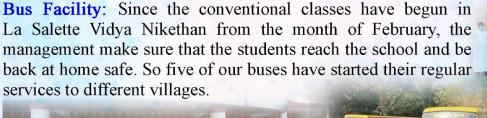
community for the ceremony of laying foundation stone for our new mission in Chemperi. Hearty Welcome: Ashram community gladly welcomed two of our postulants Br. Albin Baby and

Br. George Kutty for their community experience.



## LA SALETTE VIDYA NIKETAN, HUNSUR, MYSORE

Conventional Classes: Regular classes from 6th to 10th have begun in La Salette Vidya Nikethan from February 2021. Almost 99% of the students attend the classes without fail.





### LA SALETTE VIDYA NILAYAM, THORREDU, A.P.

Innovative Minds at Work: Abhishek, student of La Salette Vidhya Nilayam participated in a divisional level Science exhibition and achieved second price. He is preparing to participate for the District level competition to exhibit his

Back to Study: After the Sankranti holidays, the students from the 1st

creative idea of protecting the paddy cultivation from cyclone.





tus of Diocese of Dalton Gang, Jarkhand made a short visit along with

Death Anniversary: On February 20th, community joined in prayer for the departed soul of Deacon Binish, MS.

Novena: The community celebrated nine days of Novena to Our Lady of La Salette and sought her intercession from 11th to 19th of February.

Bishop's Visit: Most Rev. Gabriel Kujur, Bishop Emeri-

Fr. Rayappa TOR, batch mate of Fr. Anil. Visit: Scholastic Suresh made a visit to Nilayam community and joined for the Birthday celebration of Fr. Anil and for the Ash Wednesday Ceremony

Tapas Kalam: On Ash Wednesday, we had solemn liturgical celebrations in the parish. Around hundred people have taken 'Diksha'; a traditional way of observing the Lenten observances through prayer, penance and mortification. They will be wearing only white dress all throughout the



### LA SALETTE NIKETAN, HUNSUR, **MYSORE**

B'thday: The Niketan community celebrated the Birthday of Dn. Anoop. We had dinner out as part of the celebration.

Ordination Anniversary: The Niketan community celebrated the first ordination anniversary of Fr. Benjamin. We had few programs as part of the celebrations.

Visit to Bangalore: The Niketan community had a trip to Bangalore to visit Fr. Robin Vallattu MS. We expressed our prayer support and wished him speedy recovery.

Postulants in Wayanad: Postulants are gone to Wayanad Ashram community as part of the Postulancy program. They will be staying two weeks with Ashram community.



APRIL

MARCH 1978

1975

1983

26

26

30

Ordination

Birthday

Birthday

**Birthday** 

Valummel Alex

Paravil Roy

# Don't Miss

#### MONTHLY INTENTION

Let us pray for the Intentions of our Mission in Tanzania

The Foundation Stone Laying of our Community House in Chemperi was done by His Grace Mar George Njaralakat, the Archbishop of Tellichery on Thursday, 18th February at 04.00 pm

