

## PROVINCE LA SALETTE MATTIA PROVINCE VOL XI, NO.12

Dear loving Fathers and Brothers in Christ,

This is the season of Christmas; the season of greeting cards, Santa Claus, cakes, the Christmas wreath, stars, decorations, jingle bells, etc. resonate with the observance of Advent and Christmas. The year 2020 left us with a lot of joyful and sorrowful moments, yet we are full of hope in view of what is yet to come. This hope is founded in 'Who' is to come: 'our Lord Jesus Christ'. We prepare ourselves to receive this Child Jesus in our hearts as Mary and Joseph received, along with the Gloria of angels and shepherds' witness.

When I try to see the message of La Salette through the lens of Christmas, what strikes me most is the quality of simplicity. From the Biblical perspective, Jesus, born in Bethlehem, radiates the simplicity of God. The star over Bethlehem radiates this simplicity attracting many, beginning with "simple shepherds" to "simple wise men". It is no longer wealth, power, and beauty that attract, but simplicity does. Simplicity takes precedence over the virtues of the world. Let us move towards the manger and learn this simplicity from Jesus. the scripture records, "but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men" (Phil 2:7). The message of Christmas is that, in the crib, we see that God, who has come to us and is with us. God is here, whatever we are facing individually or in common. God in Jesus has visited us to share our lives, with all our joys and sorrows

Are we able to see this simplicity in La Salette? I would say Yes. Mary at La Salette came to visit us as a peasant woman. The Children explains, "she wore the dress of a woman of that region". It is a form of incarnation, being identified as one among them. Here the messenger embodies the message through her appearance. The children felt so at ease because she was seen as a woman who weeps for her children. The whole nature and content of the message are so simple that it spoke specifically to each receiver. Although she spoke to the children, the Blessed Mother was speaking to each one of us. Listen carefully: are you not hearing those messages as if they were intended to address you?

Religious life founded in simplicity or evangelical vow of poverty has a meaning and a witnessing message. As religious we are challenged to live our life in simplicity. We need to live our consecration daily with humility and simplicity. The simplicity of life, besides being the measure of our poverty, is also a help to preserve and enhance it. It is 'the language of example', the language people today understand and appreciate much better than sweet coated words or bombarding preaching.

I conclude my reflection with the words of Pope Francis addressing the United Nations in 2019:

"These are days in which we raise our eyes to heaven and commend to God those people and situations that are closest to our heart. In this gaze, we acknowledge ourselves to be sons and daughters of one Father, brothers, and sisters. We give thanks for all the goodness present in this world, and for all those who freely give of themselves, those who spend their lives in service to others, those who do not give up but keep trying to build a more humane and just society. We know well that we cannot be

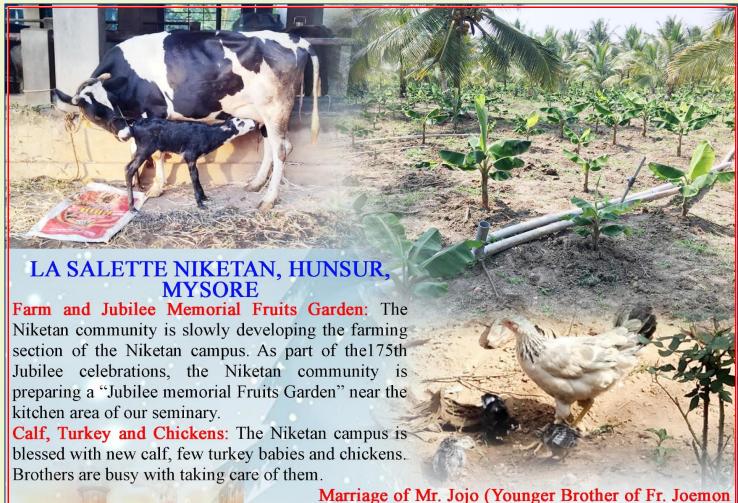
saved alone. ... May Christmas, in its authentic simplicity, remind us that the most important thing in life is love." (Pope Francis, December 20, 2019.)

So, what can be the best gift we can offer when child Jesus visits us? yes, it is the gift of simplicity. Let us pray for this virtue. Our God is the God of simplicity, who is with us always. May we welcome him again with hope. Let the star of Jesus annihilate the darkness that prevailed over the world by the Coronavirus. I wish you all a wonderful and blessed Christmas and kindly extend my greetings to your family members and the people you serve.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Yours in our Blessed Mother, Fr. Sajive Maliakal MS





Marriage of Mr. Jojo (Younger Brother of Fr. Joemon MS): Mr. Jojo, brother of Fr. Joemon got married on 23rd of November and 10 of La Salette priests attended in the marriage ceremony. The community members wished and congratulated the new couple.

Advent Season: The Niketan community, with all its grandeur, began the preparations for Christmas. The "Advent Wreath" was lit by Fr. Sanish Poovathinkal MS. Brothers are looking all around to decorate as part of

New Look for Novitiate Entrance: With the support and prayers of all, the Niketan community could do the beautifi-

cation work at the entrance of the Novitiate House. Thanks to all.

**Postulants on Vacation:** The postulants were at home for one week holidays. They are back to Novitiate house and engaged in day to day life experience.

welcoming Child Jesus.







All Saints Day: It was a beautiful time to honour all the saints whose intercessions are always with us, hence our community celebrated the feast of all Saints with solemn Eucharistic Celebration.

**All Souls Day:** It is the time to pray for all the departed souls and we commemorated all the souls in purgatory during the Holy Mass with the divine office for the dead and included them in every day of our prayers.

Navanal Days: We began our 9 days of Novena to our lady of La Salette at most effectively on 11th of this month with various themes for the reflections. These themes (From the Valley of Tears to the heights of Tears and Light, Irresistible Image of a Mountain, Mountains Paths, The Desert, Flocks in the Mountains, Rocks, Crystals, Scaling the Mountain Alone, To Contemplate from Above and then Come Down) were taken from the geographical context of the apparition of our Lady. This made the community deeply reflect and grow spiritually for the preparation of the grant celebration of Jubilee. Formation Commission Meeting: Fr. Robin. M S, the Chairman of formation Commission, went to wayanad along with Fr. Bibin. M S, to attend the formation Commission meeting with other formators and we all prayed for the success of the meeting.

**Praise be to Jesus Christ**: If we have a recollection of something, we remember it. Monthly recollection is a way or a method for remembrance, memory, impression, recall. As part of our spiritual growth, every fathers had recollection on 28th, led by Fr. Jino. M S and for brothers on 27th, led by Fr. Jesbin M S, and in the evenings with Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament and Confession

Friends are Always Welcome: 11th of this month was a blessing for our community, 3 Sisters from Pala (Kerala) who belong to S M I congregation made a short visit to our community. Their great visit boosted up all the members to have a good contact and healthy relationship.

Let's Pray for the Departed: On November 26th, Grandmother of Scho. Anson Palatty, had gone ahead of us from this world to eternal rest and whole community members remembered and prayed for the repose of her soul in the Eucharistic celebration.





**Examinations:** All our philosophy brothers had their semester examinations and all have made a good effort to pass for the examinations. Soon after examinations, B A classes also started for the philosophy brothers.

**Psychology Classes:** Mrs. Sindhya, a psychologist who is a member of our Laity Association, came to dedicate her time with our theology and philosophy brothers by taking class based on the development of the self and other aspects of psychology.





**Parish Feast:** St. Jude's Church, Panachamoodu, celebrated its patronal fest, which falls on October 28, from October 26th to November 1st. taking into consideration the Covid-19 situation and the implementation of CrPC 144 in Kerala by the state government, the faitful were divided according to the BCC units and were given chance to attend the Holy Mass at the parish church in turns, while the rest resorted to the live telecast from the parish.

On the last day, besides being the main day of feast, celebrations of the 175th Anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of La Salette, the Centenary of Bethany sisters, and the Silver Jubilee of Sr. Stella (who comes to help in the parish from Bethany Convent, Anappara) enriched the occasion. The parishioners thanked both the community for their service in the parish and honoured the community members at the felicitation meeting after the Eucharistic Celebration. Frs. Johny and Prince, and Srs. Stella and Jerlin were present for the celebration from their respective communities.



Lord's Blessing: The whole community celebrated Novena Devotion to Blessed Mother of La Salette from 11th to 19th of the month. It was also blessed moments for us, as we specially spend time before the lord on 20th for the various intentions of the Province. We also helped in couple of parishes for reconciliation for preparing them for Christmas.

For Our Land: We are getting ready with our agriculture land for a great cultivation. We were received help from number of women around us as part of 'Thozhil Urapppu Padhadhy' (a special project of central government) to clean our land. They were so happy to collaborate with us and thanked us for our hospitality during the work.

Thanks be to God: Community joyously celebrated the Birthday of Fr. Prince Chirayath MS on 15th of this month.

**United in Prayer:** We had a special day to pray for the beloved departed ones from our family and community.

## Sappy S Birthday

## **DECEMBER**

05	1987	Birthday	Parakunnel Bibin
13	1976	Birthday	Maliakal Sajive
17	1984	Birthday	Chackiath Jino
21	1986	Birthday	Robin Vayalil

23 1987 Birthday Mavathara Anit





All Soul's Day: All Souls day is a day to remember, specially the departed from our family, community, known and unknown. On 2nd of November, we had a solemn Mass followed by solemn office by our Rector and Superior Rev. Fr. Jenson Chenthrappinny MS.

Adoration: On 6th of November, the community together spent the time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, for the intentions of the province and for whole world. The adoration began at 5 pm and concluded with Eucharistic blessing at 8 pm.

HE is Back: Fr. Mathew is back after staying for a while with his Mother, Niece and Nephew. Now Mr. Emanuel, nephew of Fr. Mathew is stable in his health condition and improving his health.



Hearty Welcome: Community welcomed Fr. Alex Vazheeparambil MS from Germany on 19th of

