

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

LA SALETTE MATHA PROVINCE

VOL X, NO.12



Dear Fathers and my dear brothers,

We have just begun a new year in our faith life and are living the journey of Advent in preparation for the feast of Christmas. This is a significant time to be lived with great seriousness, as it helps us once again to renew ourselves and prepare a 'room' in our lives for welcoming the Saviour of the world.

There is a beautiful painting of Mary, mother of Jesus in a catholic church in Berlin. This particular art is done by a German soldier in the year 1942. It projects Mary carrying child Jesus in her arms. Under the image it is written: "Light - Life - Love". These three words converse obviously the message of Christmas.

At Christmas, God enters into the lives of humanity. God is not afraid to go into the depths of human need and poverty. He takes care of people's needs providing them light, life, and love.

Light: The word of God points out that, the true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world through the person of Jesus (Ref: John 1:9). Dietrich Bonhoeffer says: "With Christmas, the light of peace breaks into our world and ignites the eyes with the lights of joy." This thought indicates to Jesus and his mission as the Son of God. He gives people warmth, comfort, hope and peace. Jesus, the word made flesh, throws light into various problems of our life. He is the true light which lightens our life.

Life: During Advent we sing, "The Lord of glory comes...he brings salvation and glory". Man wants to live. He longs for a fulfilled life. At the birth of Jesus, the angel proclaimed; "For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Luke 2:11). With the birth of Jesus a life in abundance becomes possible for us. Jesus says about himself: "I am the way and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). In Jesus Christ we have an orientation for our way of life. He is the real way through which we make our heavenly journey.

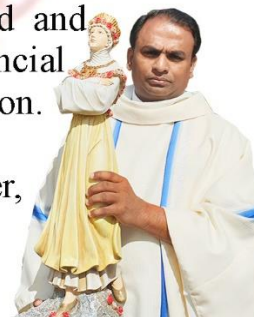
Love: At the face of mischief and the strife of the world, God comes with his boundless love. He wants to convey that, he is there for us. He will take us by the hand and lead us in our life. Christmas is a love letter of God to humanity. God is love and that love has become flesh - in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus reminds us that, "As the Father loved me, so I loved you. Remain in my love!" (John.15:9). He continues to remind that, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31).

One of the great theologians of our century, Karl Rahner, sums up the Christmas message as God's love to us: "When we say, it is Christmas, then we say God has his last, his profound and his most beautiful word in his incarnate Word of the World expressed, a word that cannot be undone, because this is his final act, because it is God himself in the World. This Word means, "I love you, you world and you man"

Light, life and love are the gifts of God on Christmas for us. I thank you all for the witness you give as Salettiner in your life and ministry. As you prepare to welcome Christ and give him a 'room' in your lives, I pray that, Christ may reign in your hearts and may you experience his Peace.

I send my sincere greetings and wish to each one of you. Have a blessed and peace-filled Christmas! I request your prayers for me and for the Provincial Administration as we perform our ministry of leadership in serving the Congregation.

Yours in Our Blessed Mother,
Fr. Sajive Maliakal MS





LA SALETTE BHAVAN, PARAKKADAVU

Birthday Celebration: Bhavan Community celebrated the birthday of Fr Kuriakose Chennelil, MS on the 1st of November with lots of cultural programs by the brothers.

Sentoff: La Salette Bhavan community wished a fruitful diaconate ministry to Rev. Deacon Lithin Palackal, MS who left for Calicut Diocese for his deacon ministry on the 19th of November. We thank him for his sincere service to La Salette Bhavan community.

Welcome: La Salette Bhavan Community welcomed Fr James who came back to La Salette Bhavan after his fruitful ministry in Pulluvila Parish, Trivandrum. We are also blessed with the presence of Frs. Bibin Parakunnel who is doing his Italian language studies and Fr Jeneesh Mundithottiyil who is doing his German Language studies. They stayed with us in the month of Novmeber.

Recollection Day: We had our monthly recollection day on the 24th of November. Fr Bibin guided the recollection day.

Rector's Day: La Salette Bhavan Community celebrated Rector's day on the 30th of November. We had Basketball match and different programs.



LA SALETTE MISSION CENTRE, PUNALOOR

Frateranal Visits: Frs. Dileesh, Anil, Jeneesh, and Jesbin made a short visit to our mission. They did spent time with people here and also to visit nearby places.





LA SALETTE ASHRAM, WAYANAD

Celebration: On 1st of November we the ashram community joyfully celebrated the birthday of dear Fr. Joemon. The presence of the invitees from the nearby religious communities added more colour for the celebrations.

Major and Minor Orders: The Minor orders of Bros. Joyal, Binu, Anson, Tinto and Nikhil and the Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Lithin Palackal M.S were officiated by Rt. Rev. Dr. Jose Porunnedam, the Bishop of Mananthavady on 12th of November at La Salette Ashram.

Retreat: The widow's retreat was conducted here in Ashram from 27th to 30th of November. There were around 70 participants for this.



LA SALTTE MARIAN CENTRE, ANAPPARA

Visitors: Frs. Dileesh, Jeneesh, and Anil paid a visit to our Anappara community and we together had a tour to Jadaayu Rock, Chadayamangalam.

Cluster Meeting: Community organised a trip as part of our cluster gathering to the place of Blessed Deva Sahayam Pilla.

Celebrations: We celebrated the birthday of Prince on the 15th and of Fr. Rojan on the 28th. We also joyfully celebrated the Ordination Anniversary of Fr. Joby Muttathil on 25th of this month.





LA SALETTE NILAYAM, ANDHRA PRADESH

Birthday Celebration: On the 1st of November, our community together with parishioners of St. Joseph RCM celebrated the birthday of dear Fr. Jince and wished him good health and long life.

All Souls Day: On 2nd of November, we had a special mass for all the departed souls at our Parish.

Annual Retreat: All the community members had an annual retreat from 4-8 of November. Deacon Benjamin attended Deacon's retreat at the Sehion retreat center, Attapady, Kerala. While the rest of the community members had it at Wayanad, Kerala with the community members.

Blessed Visit: We were happy to have the parents of Fr. Jince with us for a few days, and an added joy we were lucky to be part of their 34th wedding anniversary celebrations on the 17th of November.

Day Out with Catechism Children: On the 17th of November, after Sunday mass we took our catechism teachers and children for a day out to a nearby water theme park. It was a great time with them and they really enjoyed the trip.

Feast of Christ the King and Holy Baptisms: On the feast of Christ the King, 16 of our parishioners from Christu Raja Sub-station, Munigudli received Holy Baptism. Thanks to Rev. Benjamin for preparing them to receive the sacrament of initiation.

Visit of a Missionary: Rev. Fr. Dileesh MS, our missionary to Tanzania, visited our house. On this auspicious occasion we officially inaugurated the year of vocation in our community and Parish as well.

We heartily thank him for his availability and dedication to celebrate Holy Eucharist in Telugu language.





LA SALETTE VIDYANILAYAM, ANDHRA PRADESH

Birthday Celebration: La Salette Vidyaniyam staff and students were so happy to celebrate the birthday of our dear Director Fr. Jince MS. On 1st of November, we arranged cultural programs and wished him long life and good health. Adding to the joy, the staff and students were provided a delicious meal and in return staff and students filled their beloved father with lots of gifts and flowers.

Children's Day Celebrations: on 14th of November, the school celebrated children's day. The day-long program was inaugurated by Rev.Fr. Alex MS and in his message encouraged the children to be better persons. At the end of the day the winners of different competitions were awarded with prizes.

National Level Science Competition: Students from our school participated in the National Science Competition and their project-work earned our school merit certificates and medals.



LA SALETTE SADHAN, BENGALURU

Visitors: We were blessed with number of visitors this month; few of our community members, former La Salettes, our family members and friends, etc,

Annual Retreat: Fathers and Dn. Anoop attended the community annual retreat in Wayanad.

Back in Home: Third year philosophy brothers are back in the house after their one week of vacation.

Classes: B.A classes started for the philosophy brothers and brothers are in full swing in studies.

Diaconate Ordination and Minor Orders: Bros. Adarsh, Jophin, Ajin and Joel attended the diaconate and minor orders in Wayanad.

For the Departed Souls: Bro. Adrarsh and scholastics visited the home of Fr. Robin to pay homage to his departed grandfather. Community also prayed for the mother of Dn. Anoop on her first death anniversary.

Best Wishes: Community gave a farewell to Fr. Thooyanathan and wished him all the blessings for his new appointment in Archdiocese of Madurai. We also wished all the best to our new Tanzanian missionary, Fr. Sajith.

Advent Mood: Community is getting ready for Christmas through the various preparations. A huge star is ready and making of crib and other physical and spiritual preparations are progressing.





LA SALETTE VIDYA NIKETAN, MYSORE

Kannada Rajyotsava: The birth of Karnataka state (Rajyotsava) on November 1st was commemorated meaningfully in our school, and our tableau in the Taluk level celebration was highly appreciated.

Children's Day: On November 5th, LSVN celebrated children's day with the different events like indoor and outdoor programs. All teachers participated in different programs. We provided lunch for the children from the school.



Visit of Sisters: Sr. Philo, the General Councilor from Rome, and Sr. Prabha, the Provincial Superior of St. Joseph Sisters of Champerty, visited our school and they were felicitated by the management and children.

Workshop for Teachers: Workshop for teachers on effective class management was conducted by Miss. Harshitha, the CEO of one of the publishers.

Seminar for Parents: One day seminar was conducted for the Tenth and PU students' parents by Dr. Aswini, clinical psychologist and teaching faculty of Maharani College, Mysore.

Constitution Day: on November 26th, LSVN witnessed the commemoration of Constitution Day and all the students took oath to have allegiance to the same.

One more Feather to the Crown of La Salette Pre University College: LS PUC took part in the Taluk level competitions conducted by the board. We secured first prizes in essay writing, collage making and skit. Thereupon, we represented Hunsur Taluk in the district level and we secured second prizes in all the three events and were selected for State level competitions that will be organized in January. Hats off to our winners.



DECEMBER

- 05 1987 Birthday Parakunnel Bibin
- 05 1985 Ordination Kollannoor Andrews
- 13 1976 Birthday Maliakal Sajive
- 17 1984 Birthday Chackiath Jino
- 21 1986 Birthday Robin Vayalil
- 23 1987 Birthday Mavathara Anit
- 27 2017 Ordination Kallakudiyan Sajith
- 28 2017 Ordination Veluthedathuparambil Jobins
- 29 1987 Ordination Manjaly Mathew





LA SALETTE NIKETAN, MYSORE

All Souls Day: The Niketan community had "Raza Qurbana" liturgy as part of the commemoration of all saints day. It was a new experience for some of our seminarians and domestic workers.

Visits of Fathers: The Indian La Salette pioneer missionary Fr. Dileesh had a short visit to Niketan community. During his stay at Niketan community, he shared his experiences to our novices and minor seminarians. His stay in the seminary was an inspiring and motivating moments for seminarians.

Fr. Sajith had come to take classes for the novices. He also led the monthly recollection for the month of November. The Niketan community was graced with his one week stay. The community wished him all the best for the new ministry in Tanzania.

Diaconate and Minor Orders

Schol. Lithin received the Major order of Diaconate and Scholastics Tinto, Nikhil, Joyal, George, and Anson received the other Minor Orders from Mar. Jose Porunnedom on 12th of November, 2019 in La Salette Ashram, Wayanad

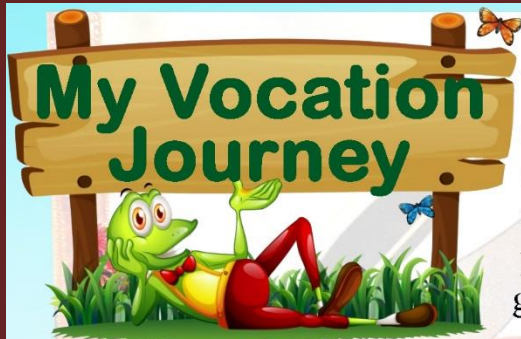


Bro. Jophin Thakkolkaran

I am hailing from St. John the Baptist Church Moonnumury, Diocese of Irinjalakuda, Thrissur. My father is Johnson and mother is Philomina. My sister Jophina is doing her degree studies. I was not known to religious vocations and from childhood dreamed to be a diocesan priest. I used to pray to God for me to be a Diocesan priest, and finally joined in the Irinjalakuda diocesan seminary. However I needed to take a medical break for six months from the formation. This was God given opportunity for me to reflect more on my life and on my vocation.

I met with Fr. Jenson one day in the parish and he asked me on my willingness to join La Salette. The name 'La Salette' was not known to me and could not give a right answer to him at that time. I was fallen in to confusion and interceded through Blessed Mother for a right decision. Finally I realized my call in La Salette and joined with our community in June 2015. I completed three years of my minor seminary formation from La Salette Niketan, Mysore. At present doing my 2nd year Philosophy studies in La Salette Sadhan, Bangalore. When I look back to my life and my vocation journey, there was number of challenges, hardships and moments of failures. However in all these, I could witness the miraculous hands of our Lord and our Blessed Mother to lift me up.





Rev. Fr. Jacob Vettathu MS

When I am asked to write a few lines about my vocation, I am so happy to respond as I am joyfully thanking God for my Silver Jubilee of my Ordination to priesthood as well as 60 years of God's gift of life.



I was born on June 01, 1960 in the parish of Saint Mary's Church Arakulam, as the 4th child among 8 siblings. Both my parents had siblings as well as cousins who were priests and nuns; my parish too had so many priests and nuns serving very actively in different parts of India and the world, and they used to come and share to us, catechism students, about their life and mission; my primary school studies done in the parish school staffed by many Sacred Heart Sisters; my own two elder sisters being Franciscan Nuns etc., nurtured God's small seed of vocation sprouting within me. The earliest I can remember is when my grade one teacher, a Sacred Heart Nun, had asked in the class who among us would like to become a priest, I showed my hand. And that desire continued throughout my school years. Even if my high school years were in a Government Public school, the only school in my area, it also occasioned to interact more with batchmates and teachers of other religions and to see the goodness of God manifested in them.

My father was very active in the Parish and School community. My own little way I too actively participated in the parish pious and missionary organizations like Sodality, Mission League etc. My mother used to tell us a lot of stories about great saints and missionaries, and there were biographies of St Alphonsa, St Theresa of Child Jesus, St Dominic Savio, St. Francis Xavier, St Francis Assisi, St Maria Goretti, Father Damian etc, in my house for us to read.

Immediately after completing my high school in 1975, I expressed to my parents and then to my parish priest about my desire to become a missionary priest, and joined the Missionary Society of Saint Thomas (MST). I was with them for 8 years: 3 years of minor seminary, 3 years of philosophy, one year each before and after Philosophy in Ujjain mission diocese in the state of Madhya Pradesh. After that, being discouraged to continue with MST by their superiors, I say God's plan, I continued in Ujjain diocese as a teacher in their schools while searching new openings to continue my vocation. That took 4 years meanwhile completed my BA with First Rank and halfway MA.

In 1987, I joined the La Salette Congregation in the Philippine Province. That formation took 8 more years: 4 years of Theology, in between one year of Postulancy, one year of Novitiate, one year of Regency and one year of Diaconate. And I was ordained on February 10, 1995, and that was 20 years after I joined seminary. I recall OT Jacob who, in his 20 years of perseverance in Laban's house, had 2 wives. In my 20 years of seminary life, I started with MST and continued with MS. But God was working for me in these years.

I served 4 years as a priest in the Philippines, then 9 years in India with varied ministries and experiences as Rector for the minor seminarians in Hunsur, then Parish Priest in Neyyattinkara diocese and then in Kannur diocese, and then Vocation Promoter. In 2008, I volunteered to go to Argentina Mission which was a very significant milestone and very challenging decision in my life. But those were the rich and memorable experiences as a religious missionary priest in my life. After 5 years in Argentina, then one year in Andhra Mission, and now I am serving 6 years in California Mission of the La Salette Congregation.

When I was ordained my caption was, "I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:20), but today I say, "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you," (Jas 4:8) as in the afternoon of my life.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

