



Printed at :  
Xavier Printing Press  
Sri Muktsar Sahib - 152 026  
Ph. : 98143-19163  
e-mail : xavierpressmks@gmail.com



Vol. 3

No. 19

Oct. - Dec. 2019

# The Petals

News Bulletin of Khrist Jyoti Province,  
Punjab-Rajasthan

Vol. 3 No. 19 Oct. - Dec. 2019



**Patroness :**  
St. Little Flower

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Provincial Superior

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**Published from :**  
Jyoti Niwas, Khrist Jyoti Provincial House  
Hanumangarh Jn.  
Rajasthan - 333 512

(For Private Circulation Only)

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## Editorial...

Dear friends, the season of Christmas always reminds us how the Almighty God cares for his children. It's a season pinching us to wake from the drowsiness of our inner lethargy. It's a marvelous season to meditate upon the everlasting love of the Father. Have you ever felt that you are loved? Have you ever felt that you are cared for?

Entrapped with innumerable activities the creatures have forgotten the Creator. Why don't you often recall that you are just pilgrims on this antiquated place? Every year when the fragrance of these tidings pierce into our ears coupled with the tiny touch of a frozen wind, let's experience the warmth of His love. He is near us; he wants to be with us, it's he who leads us...

Yes, we have seen that under the guidance of a star the wise men from

the East reached its destination to which they set. And they returned right away after paying the homage and giving the gifts to the new born. During the eve of Christmas, we too share some gifts with each other to express our concern and love. We give gifts and we receive the same too. What do we do with the gifts that we receive? When you give a gift to someone what is the intention behind it?

As we are preparing ourselves for the great event of the explosion of God's love, I was thinking about what did Joseph and Mary do with the gifts that they have received during the birth of Jesus? The wise men from the East gifted them with gold, frankincense and myrrh. Bible doesn't mention what they have done with that. What do you think? Before reading ahead, pause for a while and think, what might have happened to those gifts?

One can grasp the mystery of God's love only when he finds some time for himself from the hectic way of life. One of the best ways to prepare for Christmas is, just give some space for Him to work in us and work through us. Immediately after the departure of the wise men, the angel asks Joseph to take up the child with its mother and flee to Egypt. If we analyze from the geographical perspective, we can collect this information that it is around 563 kilometers from Bethlehem to Egypt. Joseph takes Mary on a donkey for their journey. Many weeks and months might have taken for them to reach the land of Egypt. It was the place where the Israelites were slaves. When Joseph reaches Egypt, have you imagined how he might have felt? People of his own town didn't give them an inn during the crucial time. If so, what about this unknown land with strange faces?

Only after the death of Herod, that Joseph and Mary returns to Jerusalem from exile. They were away from the relatives and homeland almost for two years. A person on exile especially in an unknown place cannot afford to a stable business! Also being a carpenter, he might have forgotten to take the necessary tools too. How did this man survived there?

Its here we see how God cares for his children. Will He not care for his son? It was the plan of God to send the wise men and offer those costly items during the birth of Jesus. During their plight, Joseph was able to manage with what God has offered him through the wise men. When they come back and at

the age of 12 when they go to Jerusalem temple, we notice that Joseph offers 2 pigeons as the offering. Only the rich people could afford with big ransoms. Only the poorest of the poor offer the pigeons. And Joseph too had two pigeons for the same because he had nothing left with him. During the two years of exile Joseph had to sell the costly items to save the child from the cold and danger. For Joseph, nothing was main concern other than the Lord. We can also care for the other only when the Lord is our concern.

The mighty intervention of God's hand is seen in the life of Jesus from its conception onwards. If we are his children, will He not care for us? God cares for us; God loves us each moment of our lives. But, how do we care for each other? Caring for the other may include many sacrifices. In Mathew 5:45 we read, 'for if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Very often our concern and affection for the other is limited within the circles where you belong to-in every sense whether it is political, social or religious set up. We only care for those who love us, those who please us, and we only care for those are attuned with us etc. let this not happen in your life whatever position you are. It's not the spirit of Christmas. It is written, 'God so loved the world that he gave his only son'. Let the love of God is known to everyone through our lives. Let's really do 'CARE' for everyone... May God bless you...



Editor

Fr. Suneesh Ezholickal CST

## Fraternal Musings

# Merry Christmas

*Happy New Year*



JMJT

## "THE LORD NEEDS IT" (Lk.19 :31)

The above written verse is about the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Jesus asked his disciples to bring a colt that has never been ridden. If anyone asks why it is being taken the answer is the above said verse. "Jesus needs it".

Christmas from the part of God is a cry, "I need you". God needs us to save us, to liberate us and to give us new life. God needs us because He loves us. This love prompted God to send His only begotten Son to the world for the salvation of the fallen humanity. St. John writes "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life" (Jn.3:16).

Christmas is an invitation from God, "I need you". I need you to be a co-worker to recreate the fallen humanity. This was the invitation God extended to Mother Mary. "I need you to bring my Son into this world." Mother Mary gave a positive response to this invitation. She replied: "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word" (Lk.1:38). Mary's this "YES" is Christmas. Every "YES" to God is CHRISTMAS.

God invites each one of us today, "I need you". I need you today to bring my love, compassion and care to the broken world. I need you to give my smile to a person who is sad. I need you to give my healing touch to a sick person. I need you to carry my Word to everyone. I need you to carry me in sacraments to others. God needs us always and in all situations. This is Christmas.

What is my response?  
Am I ready to say 'YES' as Mother Mary...?

Let us say 'YES' to God and carry Jesus in our daily life.

**Then Christmas will not be a celebration which happens once a year but daily experience of life.**

This year we have three ordinations. They are Jesus' Christmas gift to our mission. Dn. Deepak Thoomkuzhy will be ordained on 28.12.2019 by Mar Jacob Thoomkuzhy Archbishop Emeritus of Trichur, at Vilakumadom, Pala Diocese. Dn. Melbin Thekkemalil will be ordained on 29.12.2019 by Mar Raphael Thattil Bishop of Shamshabad at Kuruppampady,

Kothamangalam Diocese. Dn. Akhil Thattaparambil will be ordained on 31.12.2019 by Mar Joseph Pamplany Auxiliary Bishop of Thellichery at Kudianmala, Thellichery Archdiocese.

Let us thank God almighty for these deacons and pray for them. Please remember them in your Holy Mass on their Ordination day. We will have their first Mass at Provincial House on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

**WISH YOU ALL  
HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
BLESSED & JOYFUL 2020**



Othiri snehathode swantham Alukkachan



## Official News



## Official News

October 1	Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, Feast Day Celebration at Little Flower Catholic Church, Hanumangarh Bypass & Arrival of Parents from Kerala	November 3	Death Anniversary of Bro. Arsenius
October 4	Death Anniversary of Fr. Basilius Panat CST	November 13	Death Anniversary of Fr. Felix Nellikunnath
October 13	Annual Retreat Begins at Jyoti Niwas, Hanumangarh	November 23	<b>Silver Jubilee Celebration of Rev. Fr. Provincial &amp; Rev. Fr. Cyriac Kochalunkal CST</b>
October 15	<b>Rev. Fr. Provincial leaves to Europe for the Visit</b>	December 5-6	Monthly Recollection & Christmas Celebration at Provincial House
October 18	Annual Retreat Ends	December 9	Christmas Celebration for the Rev. Sisters
October 21	Arrival of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Group of Parents from Kerala at Bikaner	December 17	Beginning of Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. John Kudilil CST
October 27	Feast of St. Therese at Sri Muktsar Sahib	December 25	Christmas
		December 31	Year Ends



## Power House Samachar

### 1. Celebration of Love

After ten days of Novena, the feast of St Therese, our Heavenly Patroness was celebrated on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Our joy was redoubled as we also celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the first religious Profession of Very Rev George Alukka, the Provincial Superior. The Solemn Syro-Malabar mass was celebrated by Fr George Alukka while Rev Frs Augustine Varakil and Varghese Poovathumoottil concelebrated. The mass was followed by a grant dinner during which the Jubilarian was felicitated. The whole program was an expression of Theresian Fraternity.

### 2. Theresian Journey

It was indeed a Theresian Voyage under the guidance of Fr George Alukka when he preached 5 days Theresian retreat in the Novitiate house. This was greatly instrumental in rejuvenating the Theresian vigor of simplicity, humility and zealour love for the other.

### 3. A Pillgrimage to the Mission

October 2<sup>nd</sup> was a day of Joy for the Powerhouse; The parents of our Fathers, belonging to Khrist Jyoti Province, during their Parents' Meet, arrived here and participated in the Holy Eucharist. We were indeed joyous to spend time with them as they joined us for the breakfast

too. Their visit was greatly inspirational for us, the Novices, to look forward to such a day when our parents are honoured upon our ordination.

### 4. Twin Joy

November 11 was a day of twin joy. The day was blessed with the feast celebration of our Socius, Fr Shijo Kochupurackal and the siver jubilee celebration of Sr Elsa Maria FCC. We had a solemn adoration conducted by the Novices wherein we prayed for the celebrants. After the adoration, the novices performed few entertainment program during the felicitation ceremony in the august presence of fathers and sisters from nearby stations.

### 5. Bishop's Visit

Mar Jose Puthenveettil, the newly erected auxiliary Bishop of Faridabad diocese visited our house and offered mass for us on 26<sup>th</sup> November. He inspired us with his short message on religious life. Having had a solemn lunch together with us, he proceeded to visit other mission stations.

### 6. Anointing with the fire

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you (Acts 1:8)." We began our Charismatic retreat on 3<sup>rd</sup> October in order to boost up our spiritual energy under the guidance of Srs Shanty MSMI & Stany MSMI. We experienced the real presence of the Holy Spirit and the love of our Heavenly

Father. The retreat spanned for a weak and came to an successful end by 8<sup>th</sup> November.

### 7. B.O.P – Birthday of Parish Priest

It was a great thrill to celebrate the birthday of our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Rijo Menacherry on 10<sup>th</sup> December. It was a celebration in anticipation as the real date falls on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The birthday babe was felicitated during the Lunch for which all our Ashram members were present. The novices put up few entertainment program to felicitate the birthday babe.



## SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

"Glory to God in the highest Heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favors," is the first Carol, sung ever in the history by the angels. The song of angles was the manifestation of Heavenly bliss. As we are called to share this heavenly bliss, may I cordially wish you, all the greetings of our Lord's birth. Christmas is the celebration of the incarnation of the second person within the Blessed Trinity in human history.

The word Christmas is derived from the old English word, *Cristesmaesse* or *Cristes-messe*, which roughly means Christ's Mass. The word, *Mass*, is referring to the Sacrifice of Christ on the Cross which means, Christmas is the beginning of the Passion of Christ which had its culmination on Mt Calvary.

The Master of the universe who taught us to take up our own cross and follow him, showed us the same by His kenosis.

Dear Fathers and brothers, this Christmas invokes us to empty ourselves and offer our own lives for the sake of Christ by glancing him on the marginalized and down-trodden ones in our society. The present socio-economic set up of our country is a special chance for us the religious to spread the joy of the manger – the spirituality of simplicity of the Holy Infant Babe, born in the manger amidst the cattle.

During the Christmas season, all the Christian communities engage themselves in the preparation of beautiful cribs, trees, stars etc.

But, how zealous are we in preparing our hearts for the birth of the Lord. Our external preparation can be compared to the bulls and goats, offered by the people of Israel. If our preparation is not aiding us to grow into the deeper meaning of Christmas, then the Lord will say to us, "I'll not accept a bull from your house, or goats from your fold (Ps 50:9)." Therefore, in this Christmas season, let's reflect about the necessity of preparing our hearts for the birth of our Lord.

May the good Lord in the Manger, bless us abundantly.

**Bro Abin (Novice)**  
**Little Flower Novitiate, Abohar**



## THE BLACK HOLE

Being alone in the darkness  
I found the child aside  
Wondering who left Him alone  
How He was slipped or ignored  
The cold poked Him up  
The pain demanded a cry  
But as always He was silent  
Flare ups closed His ears  
Blood for blood silenced Him  
I touched, called and found  
The child lying was dead  
"Wake up child" I cried out  
The massacre is still alive  
Shadow minds are still active  
"Wake up" now to the world  
From this giant black hole  
Am sure... no I alone  
But ... U and I



**Fr Jidhin Kurisinkal CST**

# AJMER NEWS



## Feast at Holy Rosary Church

The Annual Feast at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church Madar was celebrated from 3<sup>rd</sup> October to 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. We had nine days of Novena with Solemn Rosary, Solemn Mass, Adoration, Eucharistic Procession etc. Different Priests from the diocese and our Province lead the Liturgy. The Festal Mass was offered by Rt. Rev. Dr. Pius Thomas D'Souza, the Bishop of Ajmer. Many Priests and Sisters participated in the solemn Concelebrated Festal Mass, Rosary Procession and the Dinner.

## Feast of St. Therese of the Child Jesus

We celebrated the feast of St. Therese on 06<sup>th</sup> October. Very Rev.

Fr. George Alukka was the Main Celebrant of the day. On the same day we celebrated the sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Provincial here.

## Rosary Devotion

The rosary devotion was observed very meaningfully. After ten days of Rosary Devotion at the Church, five statues of Our Lady was blessed and given to each Family Unit. The statues were taken house to house and Rosary was conducted in each house. On the concluding all came to the ITI campus in Rosary Procession and from there to the Church. The concluding Mass was offered by Rt. Rev. Dr. Ignatius Menezes.

# A luva Tidings



## SPEL FEST 2K19

It was an another land mark in the history of L.F. Seminary as we conducted the annual competition. The storm of the competitive spirit had blown over the seminary campus and it awaken the sports mas spirt to compete each other with the power of unity and fraternity. The annual competition lasted for three days. All the brothers were divided into four groups. Various sports, Arts, and Intellectual games were conducted. All the groups competed each other without losing the spirt to make victory over others. The annual competition had ended up by giving hope for the next annual competition.

## LOVE IS REPAID BY LOVE ALONE

The official beginning of the feast was in 4<sup>th</sup> of October. Fr. Varghese pottakal, parish priest of St. Dominic church Aluva hoisted the flag and was the main celebrant of the Holy Mass. There was cultural program in the evening, conducted by mother and child foundation, Thodupuzha.

We celebrated the feast of our holy patroness, St. Therese. The solemn Holy Mass was offered by Fr. Jibin Manikathan CST. Fr. Mathew Kilukkan preached the sermon. After the Mass we had procession to the DM convent, thereafter we had a delicious lunch. There were invited guests from various convents, Ashrams. Our neighbors, benefactors and the friends of the seminary also joined for the festal agape. May the good God shower all the blessings through St. Therese of Child Jesus.

## INTO THE DEEP ...

It was an another remarkable step in the history of our seminary as we organized 'A Workshop on the Spirituality of St. Therese of the Child Jesus'. It was for the first time that we had such an experience of a workshop in which we worked on different topics of our st. Therese as well as the life of our founder. Many things regarding the spirituality of St. Therese, charism of the congregation and the possibilities to spread out the good news of Jesus

Christ were discussed in detail. There was a cultural event of each group on different topics and those groups who won the prize of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> were awarded cash prize. It was a fruitful spirituality class for all of us.

### ON THE SHORE OF ETERNITY

Today was a memorable day for the members of our congregation as we commemorated the remembrance of all the departed souls of C.S.T Congregation.

### RECTOR'S DAY 2K19

We were so much enchanted to celebrate the birthday of our beloved guardian, our inspiration very Rev. Fr. Rector, Saji Nellikunnel. 13<sup>th</sup> of November is a memorable day for the LFS Family. For, it is the day where we colorfully celebrate the birthday of our rector, Fr. Saji Nellikunnel. Birthday celebrations commenced with the solemn Holy Eucharist, offered by Fr. Rector. As part of the celebrations, there was various interesting games. We all greeted him and he shared his joy with us. There was a prayer secession conducted by the second years on the birthday eve. First year philosophers staged an hour cultural program which chilled the mind of everyone and the program which was arranged really doubled the joy of the day. Fr. Rector cut the birthday cake and we all greeted him and presented the birthday gifts to him during the cultural eve.



### News

## Report of The Parents' Visit



The parents and family members of our Province had a golden opportunity to visit our Mission in two batches. The first and second batches visited our Mission from 28<sup>th</sup> September to 11<sup>th</sup> October and from 19<sup>th</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> October respectively. Around ninety five people were there altogether. The first group had the chance to participate in the feast Our Patroness at Hanumangarh and the second group was there for the Feast at Sri Muktsar Sahib. The first group and the second group had an orientation talk by Rev. Fr. Provincial and Rev. Fr. Kumpukkal respectively. Both the groups had the chance to visit many of our stations in Punjab and Rajasthan. They also visited Golden temple and Jalian Wala Bagh at Amritsar, Husainiwala Boarder at Ferozpur, Sam Sandunes at Jaisalmer, Junagarh Fort, Camel and Horse research centre at Bikaner and so on. In a special way they were welcomed by the Parishioners of

Sikhwala with Tilak and Bhangra. All of them enjoyed a lot and danced with them. The village prayer at Sikhwala was an enriching experience for them. At Fazilka they could watch a good cultural program with Giddha and Bhangra by Danewala School and by Our Fathers. All of them were taken up by the beautiful and energetic dances. Fathers took their parents and family members to their own stations for one day. All our Fathers and Sisters at different stations were very hospitable and loving. A big thanks to all of them. Congrats and thanks to the Provincial Council and others for this new step. All our family members who visited our missions were so happy about the work we do here and they are in touch with each other now also. And it was a platform to get acquainted with all. Most of them suggested a follow up gathering at Mudickal next year and all of them had a high appreciation about the program.

## 'Fading The Spirit of Koinonia'

Dear friends,

These are some thoughts that I pinpoint from an article which dealt with the recent happenings in our religious circles especially the dropouts and suicide tendencies. It's not an issue to be discussed before the media but in the internal circles and the people who are responsible must look into it. Each member of the community must have the sense to feel it as a serious problem because we are all part of the same body which is Christ.

The fostering accompaniment of each other may be envisioned in today's time in the religious circles. The further it is brushed under the carpet; we would continue to sense smoke every now and then. Each one needs to think what can I do for my companion or the other who are closer to me? What can, at least the competent authorities do for it?

Even at the old age being a diocesan, why Valliyachan embraced the religious life? Did he find anything special in this way of living? With a few members in hand, why he decided to venture into the missions in North? What do we remember in general when we think about our founder Valliyachan? What was his view of mission? Are we on the same track with Valliyachen? I think it's already time to answer such questions!

The individuals, the communities, the ashrams, the formation houses and the provinces that keep this vision of our founder needs to come out of the comfort zones of individualism to give wings to the dreams of our Valliyachan. Looking at Capuchins people remember a Francis, looking at Jesuits- an Ignatius, looking at CMI - Chavara Kuriakose, and what about St. Therese and Valliyachen? Do people remember them by our lives? If not, we have not yet started living the spirit with which they were...

St. Therese wanted to be a great missionary and a preacher for which she prayed for the priests and our Valliyachen was taken up by her missionary zeal. He wanted his fellow companions to be with the poor, showing them mercy in the places wherever the gospel has not yet reached. Surely, people will remember the 'CST's wherever we are, if we can create many more Mookkannors'.

The history will tell us that there was a need for a Francis to rebuild His church and we have Francis of Assisi. And the present time also demands for such personals and we have Pope Francis. Why we forget these Francis?

Through his writings Pope Francis reminds the religious to be happy always, 'Religious must be people who rejoice always'.

There shouldn't be anything in your life that takes away your happiness. We can grow together, build up and can have an identity only when the individuals come together and work for the common good irrespective of any ashram or province. And these individuals will come together only when the individual care of the individuals are taken care of. So, here are some areas where the individual members need the guidance and care of the concerned superiors.

**Dialogue:** Fostering dialogue between community members especially with the lonely and the young.

**Superior:** The role of superior is not only to scold, control and dictate rather to identify the struggling members, follow closely those seems straying away and enter into a communion with him like Jesus on the road to Emmaus. And I feel it can be said to be named as 'the ongoing formation'.

**Family:** Help every member to have a healthy and adequate relationship with their respective families. This implies sufficient annual holidays every year and participation in family events.

**Formation:** After the structured way of formation which is common in the formation centers, if you can instill the art of reading in your students in formation they will learn by themselves. Educate them instead/or along with the existing curriculum, alternative sciences promoting life, stress management, handling relationships, responsible freedom and personal liberty in place of excessive obedience lectures, community orientation which is not triangular but circle model and finally trust building in the community.

**Friends circle:** As no one is an island, let's not form islands. I am not speaking about particular friendship or particular groups for friendship. Now a day's, it's very common people of the same feather flock together and avoid the rest of the community. It's a danger because only individual benefits will be prioritized here and no one will think of the common good of the community or the society. Right balance in friendships within the community and outside is always bolstering

to a religious/priest who otherwise could end in a lost world where mission and ministry suffers leading to dangerous consequences. Though it's a delicate terrain, a religious needs it more than anyone else.

Regular gatherings, outings, picnics and celebrations are to be observed where all the members find space. Keep the gatherings, recollections, feasts on a day where all can come together. No acts of these sorts must be done for the sake of conducting but for the other's betterment. Religious should give priority to the common decisions rather holding on with the individualism.

Seminars, community meetings that address the common issues like accounting, emotional maturity, leadership skills, to be a good pastor etc. must be conducted and evaluated.

**Our table talks:** Consciously stop talking about other persons of the community and focus on subjects which enhance each other and doing better the ministries of the community. Discussing other persons in a derogatory manner isolates him and the person may take extreme steps.

**Assign appropriate ministries:** though we all are given the same formation of philosophy and theology, all are unique with their individual talents and abilities. It's the duty of the superiors to know the members and make use of their talents wherever and whatever way it's possible. If the individual talents are not cared for, it will be like the talents in the Bible who hid it in the mud and was useful for no one (Mt 25:25).

**And let's once again recall the spirit of Christmas;** He was born poor, born among the poor, stayed with the poor, stood for the poor and He was always with the poor. Why Jesus always sideline with the poor? Our Valliyachen also was with the poor. We too can have the same spirit only when we imbibe it. Today's time demands a religious who can sideline with the poor like Jesus. Can you?...

*Wishing you the grace filled  
memory of a great event...  
Christmas!*

Fr Shan Joseph CST



# Birthday Greetings



## OCTOBER 2019



## NOVEMBER 2019



## DECEMBER 2019



# Feast Day



## OCTOBER



## NOVEMBER



## DECEMBER



# Congratulations & PRAYERFUL WISHES



**Dn. Deepak Thoomkuzhy**

**Ordination Date : 28th Dec., 2019**

Motto : Be humble before God and serve His people.

Vision : To surrender fully to the Lord and serve His People with true joy of love.



**Dn. Melbin Thekkemaliyil**

**Ordination Date : 29th Dec., 2019**

Motto : Be a servant of His flock

Vision : To walk along with Him, to care and Love for His people with a genuine heart.



**Dn. Akhil Thattaparambil CST**

**Ordination Date : 31st Dec., 2019**

Motto : My happiness lies in being with Jesus a child.

Vision : To become a holy and zealous priest and follow Christ by carrying his cross.  
Prayer : Lord make me an instrument of you.





The Petals



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