

DIOCESE OF SALEM



JUNE- 2017

BISHOP'S CALENDAR – JUNE 2017

DATE	PROGRAMME	PLACE	TIME
02	Receiving Cardinal John Ribat, Papua New Guinea	Sendarapatti	05.00 p.m.
04	Feast Mass	Varaganeri	06.00 p.m.
05	Clergy Monthly Recollection & Silver Jubilee celebrations with two priests	Bishop's House, Salem	09.30 a.m.
05	Meeting of the Officials of Salem Diocesan Tribunal	Bishop's House	02.00 p.m.
05	Meeting of the Salem Diocesan Council of Priests	Bishop's House, Salem	02.30 p.m.
07	Mass, Holy Angels Mat. School	Alagapuram	11.00 a.m.
07	General Body Meeting of LRRC Society	Bishop's House, Salem	03.30 p.m.
08	TNBC Communication Secretaries meeting	Chennai	
09-10	Visit to St. Anne's Generalate	Chennai	
11	Feast Mass, St. Antony's Church	Mettur Dam	05.30 p.m.
13	Confirmation	Johnsonpet	07.00 a.m.
13	Confirmation	Sangagiri	06.00 p.m.
14-27	Pastoral Visit (Evenings)	Shevapet	
16	Mass, Cluny Mat. Hr. Sec. School	Salem	09.30 a.m.
17	Catechism Inaugural Mass	Arisipalayam	09.30 a.m.
23	Feast Mass, Sacred Heart Church	Pondicherry	05.30 a.m.
25	Confirmation	Suramangalam	07.45 a.m.
28	Mass, St. Annes Aspirantate	Yercaud	10.30 a.m.
29	Ordination of New Bishop of Kottar	Nagercoil	05.00 p.m.
30	Madha TV Office	Chennai	

FROM BISHOP'S DESK - JUNE 2017

- 1. Month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.** I request all the Parish Priests to enkindle the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in our people and to revive the practice of the **Enthronement of the Picture or Statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Houses of Catholics and Institutions** and to renew them every year, specially during the month of June. This could be another fitting occasion for House Visits in the parish.
- 2. The CLERGY MONTHLY RECOLLECTION IN JUNE 2017 will be on 05.06.2017 Monday**, at the Bishop's House, Salem, **along with the Holy Mass with the Silver Jubilee Priests of our Diocese** with the following schedule. Kindly come prepared for celebrating Holy Mass with the Jubilerians.

09.30 a.m.	Adoration and Confession
10.30 a.m.	Session I
11.00 a.m.	Coffee
11.15 a.m.	Wishing the Silver Jubilee Priests
12.00 noon	Mass with the Silver Jubilee Priests
01.00 p.m.	Lunch.

3. The Clergy Monthly Recollection in the month of July will be at the Vicariates. The Vicar Foranes are requested to call for the meeting and conduct it. Bishop and Vicar General are willing to attend the Vicariate meeting if the dates are fixed earlier by the Vicar Foranes. Each Vicariate is allotted Rs. 100000 per year in the diocesan budget for common Vicariate programmes and not for individual parish programmes. Hence please plan how to effectively use the funds allotted for common activities at the vicariate level for the benefit of whole vicariate.

4. May I remind **all the Parish Priests** in our diocese about the obligation **to offer one Mass on All Sundays and Days of Obligation for the Intentions of the Faithful (*Missa pro Populo*)**. Please enter this in your Mass Diary.

5. The LAITY SUNDAY is celebrated on 18.06.2017 this year, with the theme “இறையாட்சி பணியும் சான்று வாழ்வுமே பொதுநிலையினரின் அழைப்பு”. Apart from praying for the Lay Faithful, appropriate short programmes are to be arranged in the parishes to felicitate, affirm and encourage the laity for their involvement in the Church and in the world. All Parish Priests are requested to celebrate this day in a fitting manner, making use of the material that will be sent to all the parishes from the Diocesan Laity Commission.

6. Catechism and Moral Instruction are very important duties of every Catholic Educational Institution. The time and days allotted to Catechism of Catholic children should be conducive for their faith formation and hence it should receive top priority in every Catholic School in arranging the time table. Make the Catholic teachers understand that this is not an additional burden to them, but their privilege to share their Catholic Faith with the younger ones.

7. Hearty Congratulations to all the Catholic Schools in Salem Diocese for their Good Results in the X & XII standard examinations. Congrats to the teachers and the Heads of Institutions, who have put in hard work and sacrifice.

8. Diocesan Education Help for Poor Children: According to the decision made on 17.05.2017 in the Salem Diocesan Education Council, Diocesan Education Help will be given to the deserving students in Classes XI and XII only. The Application Forms to distribute this Education Help for Poor children will be issued from the Office of the Manager of Schools, Mary Palace, Thamanan Road, Arisipalayam, Salem-9, from 01.06.2017. The filled-in application forms from qualified candidates are to be submitted to the office of the Manger of Schools, Mary Palace, Thamanan Road, Arisipalayam, Salem, before 20.06.2017. The Education help will be disbursed in the first week of July 2017. Applications that reach the Manager’s office later than 20.06.2017 will not be considered. Kindly observe the following:

- Only students studying in classes XI & XII can apply.**
- Only students from deserving poor families are to apply for Education Help. The parish Priest will certify this by his endorsement of the application.**
- Only one student should apply from one family.**
- Only application forms with the endorsement of the Parish Priest, signed and sealed, attesting the eligibility of the candidate for Diocesan Education Help, will be considered.**

9. For Reflection and Action about Temporal Goods of the Parish / Institution:

- e. The temporal goods of the parish are administered by the parish priest or by the Head of the Institution, as the case may be, under the supervision of the diocesan Bishop.
- f. All legal transactions with regard to the temporal goods of the parish / institution shall be done in concurrence with the diocesan Financial Administrator.
- g. All the valuable documents concerning the temporal goods of the parish should be submitted in original to the office of the diocesan Financial Administrator for safe custody and the copies of the same should be preserved in the parish archives.
- h. The book of Inventory is to be updated and maintained by the parish priest / Head of the institution regularly. The Secretary of the Parish Finance Committee can help the parish priest in updating the Inventory.
- i. No priest is permitted to take any loan for parish / institution from any person or financial institution. No priest is permitted to lend money to any one from the funds of the parish / institution without prior written permission of the diocesan Bishop.
- j. No priest is permitted to invest personal money by way of advance or loan for the works of the parish / institution without the prior written permission of the diocesan Bishop. The amount thus invested without permission will be treated as a gift by the priest to the parish / institution.

10. Instructions to the priests on Transfer in Salem Diocese please take note of the following:

- a. All Parish Priests and Priests in charge of diocesan Institutions, who are on transfer, please **invite the Incoming Priest and your Vicar Forane to your place earlier** to study and scrutinize the official Records, Accounts and Inventory of the Parish or Institution and clear all doubts well in advance. Do not wait for the last moment.
- b. **The Final Statement of Accounts before the transfer has to be signed by the members of the Parish or Institution Finance Committee**, before it is signed by the Vicar Forane.
- c. The **handing over of the charges should take place in the presence of the Vicar Forane** who will sign the Record of Accounts in the presence of both the out-going and the incoming priests.
- d. **The fact of the handing over and taking charge of the parish / Institution should be recorded in the Chronicle Register of the Parish or Institution** and signed by both priests concerned and the Vicar Forane.
- e. **The Vicar Forane is requested to verify the state of affairs of the Parish or Institution in every detail at the time of the handing over of the charges.** The Vicar Forane, who signed the registers, will be personally responsible to settle any discrepancy that surfaces later.
- f. **When the Vicar Forane is on transfer and for the transfer of the Secretaries of Diocesan Commissions, the Vicar General** will do all that is to be done by the Vicar Forane at the moment of transfer. Please fix the time with him early.
- g. **No large payment or expenditure is to be done after the announcement of the transfer.**
- h. **No one is to leave a debit balance or any other form of loan or liabilities** for the Parish or Institution at the moment of transfer, as no one can spend if there is no credit.
- i. As you move out of the parish / Institution **kindly prepare a Statement about the parish / Institution indicating all the activities, pending works and balances of various accounts including deposits and liabilities if any. Please have it signed by the V.F. and by the incoming priest and send one copy of it to the Bishop for files.** This provision is new. Please cooperate.
- j. **When the transfer of the President or Secretary of a Society / Trust (like SSSS, SDS) takes place, the handing over of the charges will be done during the meeting of the members of the Governing Body of the Society.**

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS OF PRIESTS – 2017

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| 1. Rev. Fr. R. Xavier | - | Retired from Active Ministry |
| 2. Rev. Fr. S. Pushpanathan | - | Retired from Active ministry |
| 3. Rev. Fr. A. Belevendiram | - | Parish Priest, Agraharam |

4. Rev. Fr. A. Charles	-	Parish Priest, Manjakuttai
5. Rev. Fr. A. Durairaj	-	Parish Priest, Kumarapalayam
6. Rev. Fr. A. Alaguseivan	-	Parochial Administrator, Morur Mission
7. Rev. Fr. T. Manickam	-	Headmaster, St. Paul's Hr. Sec. School, Manager, St. Theresa's Home for Boys and Cardinal Krol Hostel
8. Rev. Fr. D. Madalaimuthu	-	Headmaster, St. Antony's Hr. Sec. School, Thiruchengode
9. Rev. Fr. S. Sebastian	-	Principal, Mount Mary Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Chinnagollapatti Parish Priest, Andipatti
10. Rev. Fr. M. Rajamanickam	-	Director, Salem Social Service Society
11. Rev. Fr. D. John Arockiaraj	-	Parish Priest, Sendarapatti
12. Rev. Fr. K. Prasanna	-	Parish Priest, Salem Camp
13. Rev. Fr. E. Ashok Kumar	-	Parish Priest, Paramathi
14. Rev. Fr. A. Arockiasamy	-	Asst. Director, TASOSS, Trichy
15. Rev. Fr. A. Amal Mahimai Raj-	-	Parish Priest, Karumandurai
16. Rev. Fr. V. Albert Antonyraj	-	Parish Priest, Thirumanur
17. Rev. Fr. Antony Vincent Robert C.P.P.S.	-	Parish Priest, Perunkurichi
18. Rev. Fr. P. Nepolian, HGN	-	Parish Priest, Kootathupatti
19. Rev. Fr. Alex Peter, MSFS	-	Parish Priest, Udayapatti
20. Rev. D. Tharthees, CM	-	Parish Priest, Namagiripettai
21. Rev. Fr. Antony, MSFS	-	Parish Priest, Semmedu
22. Rev. Fr. Southern Star (Kottar)	-	Assistant, Shevapet
23. Rev. Fr. Alex, Schoenstatt Cong.	-	Assistant, Arisipalayam

Appointments take effect on 8th June for schools and on or before 03rd June 2017 for parishes.

Salem Diocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal

Rev. Fr. A. Alaguseivan	-	Judicial Vicar
Rev. Fr. A. Jacob	-	Defender of the Bond
Rev. Fr. E. Ashok Kumar	-	Promoter of Justice
Rev. Fr. Marian Austy	-	Notary
Msgr. S. John Joseph	-	Assessor
Rev. Fr. Michaelraj Selvam	-	Assessor

SALEM DIOCESAN COMMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS – 2017

Commission	Secretary / Director
1. Commission for Basic Christian Communities	- Fr. T. Maria Joseph Raj
2. Commission for Biblical Apostolate	- Fr. M. Stanly Kumar
3. Commission for Catechetics	- Fr. T. Maria Joseph Raj
4. Commission for Clergy	- Msgr. S. John Joseph
5. Commission for Ecumenism and Dialogue	- Fr. R. Gopi Emmanuel
6. Commission for Education	- Fr. T. John Kennedy
7. Commission for Evangelization	- Fr. R. Gopi Emmanuel
8. Commission for Health	- Sr. Francina SMMI

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| 9. Commission for Justice, Peace & Development | - Fr. M. Rajamanickam |
| 10. Commission for Labour and Christian Workers | - Fr. Chinnappan Sagayaraj |
| 11. Commission for Laity and Catholic Association | - Fr. T. Maria Joseph Raj |
| 12. Commission for Liturgy | - Fr. S. Irudayaselvam |
| 13. Commission for Marriage and Family | - Fr. T. Maria Joseph Raj |
| 14. Commission for SC/ST/BC | - Fr. R. Jayaseelan |
| 15. Commission for Social Communication | - Fr. R. Gopi Emmanuel |
| 16. Commission for Vocation Promotion | - Fr. D. Michaelraj Selvam |
| 17. Commission for Women | - Miss S. Jacintha Rosi |
| 18. Commission for Youth – YCS/YSM | - Fr. R. Gopi Emmanuel |
| 19. Conference of Religious of India, Salem | - Msgr. S. John Joseph |
| 20. Pontifical Missionary Union of Clergy (PMU) | - Fr. A. John Alphonse |
| 21. Catholic Charismatic Renewal | - Fr. R. Gopi Emmanuel |
| 22. Eucharistic Crusade & Altar Boys Association | - Fr. R. Gopi Emmanuel |
| 23. Christian Rights Movement | - Fr. T. Maria Joseph Raj |
| 24. Christian Minority Welfare Programmes | - Fr. M. Rajamanickam |
| 25. Legion of Mary | - Fr. T. John Kennedy |
| 26. Little Way Association | - Fr. T. John Alphonse |
| 27. Liturgical Music | - Fr. K. Kirubakaran |
| 28. Nurses' Guild | - Fr. I. Gregory Rajan |
| 29. Pontifical Mission Societies | - Fr. A. Edward Rajan, Procurator |
| 30. Prison Ministry | - Fr. M. Rajamanickam |
| 31. University Students – AICUF | - Fr. J. Vimal |
| 32. Vincent De Paul Society | - Fr. I. Gregory Rajan |
| 33. SERRA Club | - Fr. M. Solomonraj |
| 34. Catholic Senior Citizens Organization | - Fr. R. Gopi Emmanuel |
| 35. Diocesan Public Relations (P.R.O.) | - Msgr. S. John Joseph |
| 36. Diocesan Public Information Officer (P.I.O.) | - Fr. A. Edward Rajan |
| 37. Coordinator of all Commissions and Associations
& Director of Diocesan Pastoral Centre | - Fr. R. Gopi Emmanuel |

NEW DEACON ORDAINED



Bro. J. Henry Kishore, native of Sendarapatti, was ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Salem on 31.05.2017 at the Bishop's House, Salem. We wish him God's Grace to complete his Priestly Formation successfully!

KOTTAR DIOCESE HAS A NEW BISHOP

REV. FR. NAZARENE SOOSAI is appointed on **Saturday, 20th May, 2017** as the New Bishop of Kottar Diocese, Kanyakumari district, following the retirement of Bishop Peter Remigius at Kottar. Rev. Fr. Nazarene Soosai is a clergy of Kottar diocese, born in Rajakkalamangalamthurai, in the Diocese of Kottar, on 13th April, 1963. He was ordained a priest on 2nd April, 1989 for the Diocese of Kottar. We send our prayerful greetings and best wishes to Rev. Fr. Nazarene Soosai and assure him of our prayers for his episcopal ministry.



INTERNATIONAL DAYS IN JUNE 2017

- 1 June:** Global Day of Parents (A/RES/66/292)
- 4 June:** International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression (A/RES/ES-7/8)
- 5 June:** World Environment Day (A/RES/2994 (XXVII))
- 8 June:** World Oceans Day (A/RES/63/111)
- 12 June:** World Day Against Child Labour
- 13 June:** International Albinism Awareness Day (A/RES/69/170)
- 14 June:** World Blood Donor Day [WHO] (WHA Resolution 58.13)
- 15 June:** World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (A/RES/66/127)
- 16 June:** International Day of Family Remittances (GC 38/Resolution 189)
- 17 June:** World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (A/RES/49/115)
- 19 June:** International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (A/RES/69/293)
- 20 June:** World Refugee Day (A/RES/55/76)
- 21 June:** International Day of Yoga (A/RES/69/131)
- 23 June:** United Nations Public Service Day (A/RES/57/277)
- 23 June:** International Widows' Day (A/RES/65/189)
- 25 June:** Day of the Seafarer [IMO] (STCW/CONF.2/DC.4)
- 26 June:** International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (A/RES/42/112)
- 26 June:** United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture (A/RES/52/149)

NEWS FROM DIOCESAN COMMISSIONS

CHARISMATIC COMMISSION

13.05.2017 is a day of full night prayer and on 28.05.2017 the charismatic team members conducted a day of fasting prayer. About 62 faithful from neighboring parishes of Salem Diocese sit at the feet of the Lord Almighty to praise and worship, shared their God experienced in order to enrich and empower their spirituality more and more.

YOUTH COMMISSION

On 26.05.2017 The Tamilnadu Youth Commission organized a one day seminar for the leaders at Karumandapam Trichy. Fr.Gopi Emmanuel the youth Director of Salem Diocese and Youth Coordinator John Britto participated and submitted the year plan for the youth for coming year 2017-2018.

SENIOR CITIZENS' ORGANIZATION

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month about 30 senior faithful from various parishes of Salem Diocese get together at Epiphany Pastoral Centre. They conduct praise and worship, read from the Holy Bible, share and celebrate the worship of celebration.

During this month of May on 15th to 17th 2017 there was a residential Retreat conducted by the CAC organization at Epiphany; the topic was “**On-going Formation**” The regional leader R. Solomon from Kerala,



P.K. Samy from Hyderabad, M.K.Kulandaisamy, Mr.Vincent and Mr.Samuel are the special speakers of the day. Msgr. S. John Joseph, Our Vicar General, inaugurated the function. The Bishop of Salem Diocese delivered special address and graced the function by his valuable presence and blessings.

EVANGELIZATION COMMISSION

The Charismatic animators joining with Rev. Fr. Gopi Emmanuel conducted mini programme on the theme "Devotion of our Mother Mary and saints" the Christian faith formation among the remote village children and youth in the following places:

01.05.2017	- Holy Mass and Prayer	Melnariyappanur
05.05.2017	- Holy Mass and Prayer	Melnariyappanur
07.05.2017	- Holy Mass and Prayer	Thalaivasal
14.05.2017	- VBS Training	Kakkaveri
24.05.2017	- Holy Mass and Prayer	Thiruchengodu

COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

The Epiphany Kalikuzhu Director Mr. Maria Selvam and the team members organized a Sound and Light Programme on 20.05.2017 Arulambadi, Pondicherry Archdiocese, and 27.05.2017 at Vellankanni in order to reach out the Gospel values to the underprivileged and marginalized people in the remote villages.

The Epiphany management is grateful and appreciate very much the Epiphany Kalikuzu,

MADHA TV PROGRAM

07.05.2017	Epiphany Studio	Bible quiz shooting
14.05.2017	Epiphany studio	Bible quiz shooting
22.05.2017	Epiphany studio	Bible quiz shooting
27.05.2017	Epiphany grotto	Bible quiz shooting

Teachers from Coimbatore Diocese and Salem diocese actively participated in the **Bible Quiz**.

07.05. 2017	Holy Mass shoot	Paramathi
03.05.2017	Epiphany Studio	Eraiatchiyin Sellangale

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN JUNE – EPIPHANY CENTER

05.06.2017	Mass and Prayer	Melnariyappanur
06.06.2017	Mass	Palacode
08.06.2017	Madha TV Meet	Chennai
09.06.2017	Mass	Mettur
11.06.2017	Marivalam	Epiphany Center
11.06.2017	Full Night Vigil	Epiphany Center
12.06.2017	Sound and Light	Melnariyappanur
25.06.2017	Fasting Prayer	Epiphany center



Fr. Gopi Emmanuel, Director, Epiphany Pastoral Centre

CATECHETICAL COMMISSION

On 18th March Catechetical Commission has conducted the Catechism Exam in the whole diocese. Papers were corrected by the Commission Members under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Maria Joseph Raj, Director of Catechetical Commission. The Prize winners List is given in this News Letter.

FAMILY COMMISSION

On May 13th and 14th 2017 Marriage preparation course was held at Epiphany centre, Salem. 127 young people participated in it. Rev. Fr. Maria Joseph, Director of Family Commission, Rev. Fr. Dr. Alaguselvam, Rev. Sr. Dr. Martina Cluny-Gangavalli, Rev. Sr. Dr. Ani Joice SMMI, Mr. Amul Raj, and Catechist Savarinathen Rtd were the Resource persons. Sister Clementia, Secretary of Tamilnadu-Family Commission gave the Talk and at the end distributed the certificates to the participants.



On Sunday 21st May 2017 Marriage Encounter program was conducted at Epiphany Centre Salem for the couples, who completed one to seven years of Marriage life in the Salem Vicariate. 17 Couples participated and benefitted in it. Rev. Fr. Maria Joseph, Rev. Fr. Dr. Devadass Cleretian, and Sister Clementia, Secretary of Tamilnadu - Family Commission and team enriched them.

There will be NO MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE in the month of JUNE- 2017

Place	: Marthal Illam, Epiphany Centre, Salem –9
Day	: 08 th (Saturday) and 09 th (Sunday) of July 2017.
Time	: From 08.30 a.m. to 05.30 p.m.
Reg Fee	: 250 /- (Registration, study material and Lunch for two days)

ANBIYAM COMMISSION

On 23rd April 2017 there held a Free Medical Camp in **Attur Parish** arranged by the Anbiyams under the guidance of Coordinator Mr. Regis. All the parishioners and other people benefitted in it. On 30th April 2017 Director of Anbiyam celebrated the Holy Mass at Kakkaveri; after mass at the end met the Anbiyam Leaders, he has discussed all the problems and advised, encouraged and enriched the Anbiyam Leaders.

On 3rd and 7th May, for the development of the Anbiyam and its family, Mother Thrice Admirable of Schoenstatt [Pilgrim Mother] was brought to the **Suramangalam Parish**. Fathima Anbiyam, Kuzhandai Theresa Anbiyam, Saveriar Anbiyam, Arulanandhar Anbiyam and St. Antony's Anbiyam eagerly welcomed Mother Mary to their Houses. Sr. Mary, Schoenstatt, guided them and explained to the Anbiyams about the Pilgrim Mother.

On 12th May 2017 Saveriyar Anbiyam from Sendarapatty Parish celebrated 150th Anbiyam gathering. Rev. Fr. Jerlin, SJ their Parish Priest celebrated the Thanksgiving Mass and prayed for the Anbiya-families. There were 130 people participated including other religious Friends. At the end they had a Anbiya Meal together. They witnessed the unity of True Catholic Christian Life.



On 18th May Anbiyam Director conducted the Salem Vicariate Anbiyam Coordinators' meeting at Mary Palace. They discussed about the development of the Anbiyams in the parishes. Especially they focused on the broken Families. They decided to advise and guide them to live as true Christian life.

On 21st May also Pilgrim Mother was eagerly welcomed by Lurdu Maadha Anbiyam to their Families in Arisipalayam Parish.

விவிலியப் பணிக்குழு

விவிலிய பயிற்சி பாசறை: மே மாதம் 12,13,14- ஆகிய தேதிகளில் காக்காவேரிப் பங்கில் முன் குறித்தப்படியே வெள்ளிக்கிழமை காலை திருச்செங்கோடு, நாமக்கல், ஆத்தூர் வட்டங்களிலிருந்து சுமார் 230 மாணவ மாணவிகள் வந்து கூடத்தொடங்கினர். சரியாக 10 மணி அளவில் நமது மறைமாவட்ட முதன்மைகுரு பேரருட்திரு. ஜான் ஜோசப் அடிகளாரின் தலைமையில் வாழ்த்துகளுடனும் செபத்துடனும் பாசறை இனிதே தொடங்கியது. இப்பாசறையில் மாணவர்களின் ஆடல் பாடல் முறையில் அடிப்படை செபங்கள், விவிலியம், அருட்சாதனம், பூசை உதவி, திருச்சபை வரலாற்றுச் சுருக்கம், புனிதர்களின் சரிதை சுருக்கம் குறிப்பாக இந்தியப் புனிதர்களின் பணி வாழ்வின் சுருக்கம், விவிலிய சைகை பாடல், திருப்பலி பாடல் குழு விளையாட்டு, மாணவர் திறன் வளர்ப்பு, திருவழிப்பாட்டில் பங்கேற்கும் முறை, பெரிய மாணவர்களுக்கு (6-12 வகுப்புகள்) ஊடகங்களின் நன்மை, தீமை பயன்படுத்தும் முறை இவைகளை குறித்து மாணவர்கள் மகிழ்வுடன் அறிந்து கொண்டார்கள். பிள்ளைகளின் ருசிக்கேற்ப பலவகை உணவுகள், பல பரிசுப்பொருட்கள் ஆளுக்கொரு புதிய ஏற்பாடு விவிலியம் பல நல்லுள்ளம் கொண்ட உபகாரிகளின் உதவியுடன் வழங்கப்பட்டது. இந்த 3-நாளில் நமது பாசமிகு ஆயர் அவர்கள் 3 முறை வந்து பிள்ளைகளோடு உரையாடி, உறவாடி தனது பழைய அனுபவங்களை பகிர்ந்து மகிழ்ந்தார். இது போன்ற பல உள்ளிருப்பு பயிற்சி பாசறைகளை ஏற்பாடு செய்யுமாறு ஊக்குவித்தார். மாணவர்களும் தொடர்ந்து நாங்கள் வருகிறோம் என்று கூறி மகிழ்ந்தனர். இந்த நிகழ்வுகளை செயலர் தந்தை. ஸ்டேன்லி குமார் திட்டமிட்டு செயல்படுத்தினார். பல நல்ல உள்ளங்களின் ஒத்துழைப்புடன் பங்கு தந்தை ஸ்டீபன் சொருபன் 3 நாட்களையும் பயன் உள்ள முறையில் வழிநடத்தினார். இப்பெரும் பணிக்கு அருட்தந்தையர்கள், அருட்சகோதரிகள், வேதியர்கள், ஆசிரியப்பெருமக்களும் பெரிதும் துணை நின்றார்கள். ஞாயிறு மாலை 03.00 மணிக்கு ஆயர் அவர்களின் கூட்டுத்திருப்பலியுடன் இப்பயிற்சி பாசறை இனிதே முடிந்தது.

பணிக்குழுவின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர். வேதியர். மரிய சூசை

PRISON MINISTRY INDIA Salem Unit

Participation in the State gathering: State gathering of prison ministry volunteers was organized from 18th to 20th April, 2017 in Pondicherry PMSS. From Salem Srs. Joyce, Lilly, Christy, and Amali participated. The Coordinator submitted the Annual report of our diocese through a beautiful PowerPoint presentation. From 19 dioceses volunteers were enlightened and inspired by this gathering. Most Rev. Bishop Peter Remigius appreciated us in a special way for the many significant activities of our Diocese.

Help to the Paper workshop: In the prison for the paper workshop they were in need of raw materials (Papers). From Mettur Dam St. Mary's Matric Hr.Sec. School supplied 1500 Kgs. of papers for the use. Sincere thanks to Sr. Flory for the generous contribution.

The Risen Lord brought Reconciliation: Sasi from Sendamangalam was 6 years in prison and nobody ever came to see him, because he murdered his own father. Coordinator, along with Mikiya, visited his house and spent nearly two hours with his mother and asked her to come to the prison to meet him. But she was not able to accept him. Finally with much difficulty accepted and came and met her son. Finally God touched both of them and on the 18th of April she paid Rs. 10000 as a fine and got him released from the prison. Now they are living together happily. The whole village was happy and thanked the PMI team. Praise the Lord.

SALEM SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

ESAI Project – DBA 2017: The trainings on Gender Inequality, Migration and Child labour was conducted to the DBA Indian students. Our staff visited the Neermullikuttai village to monitor the growth of planted trees. In the SSSS premises, we have started the construction work for the waste management pit.

New Thrust (NT): In Attur & Gangavalli, our staff took a session about Powers & Functions of PRI to the CBO members. Olivilakku & Om Sakthi Groups at Thammampatti received loan amount of Rs.6,50,000/- & 2,09,000. In Thammampatti, a New male group namely “Mahatma male group” was formed. Our staff gave orientation on silk worm process at Attur. Bharath group at Paithur, Attur had received loan amount of 5, 00,000. Our staff had taken initiatives to get orders for stitching of government school uniform for 4 members.

Kolping India

- ❖ Our staff had given a PRI and PRA Mapping Training to the new Kolping family members at Thedavur.
- ❖ Our Director and staff had participated in Regional Kolping Board election held at Madurai on 26th of April, 2017.
- ❖ Vocational training had given to the N.Kallipatti and Naththakarai kolping groups.
- ❖ Kolping Coordinators Ms.Dorathy Ruban and Ms. Christina had participated in the kolping Review meeting held at Pillar house, Madurai on 27 of April, 2017.
- ❖ We organised book keeping training to the Gandhi Nagar kolping family.

CHAI – Axshya Project

- ❖ Our CHAI staff met 650 houses in Door to Door campaign at Potheri, Yeruvadi, Murugan nagar, Jerina kadu. During the campaign 33 TB symptomatic were identified and they have referred to DMC centre, among them 15 symptomatic were reached at DMC Centre.
- ❖ In Primary Health Center totally 99 sputum samples have been collected and the sputum of 4 peoples were sputum found. They are registered and referred to DOTS treatment.
- ❖ Our Staff met 4 RHCP Doctors in Kolathur, They referred 5 patients to DMC, and among them one patient reached to DMC and it is sputum positive.

Manos Unidas

EDP Training had given to the Group members in Gangavalli and veeraganur. 22 members were benefitted in that training. In Thammampatti and Thalaivasal our staff had given Marketing skill training and they made a follow up visit at Attur.

ECO-DRR

- ❖ Our Coordinator Ms. Geetha, participated in ECO DRR Review meeting which was held at Pondicherry on 26 & 27th of April, 2017.
- ❖ In Gangavalli and Attur block, SSSS had organized Household Farming Training to the Group members, the resource person was Mr.Vanamahilan from Natural Resource Center.
- ❖ In Thalaivasal we organized training on land and water conservation for the farmers group.



Rev. Fr. Arockiasamy, Director, Salem Social Service Society.

NAMAKKAL SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

1. Preparatory Work for Skill Training to Organic Grower:

Continued efforts have been made to be part with National Skill Development Corporation to implement the Skill Training under the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)**. Rev.Fr. Selvam Francis Xavier, Director, NSSS has made necessary arrangements to get the accreditation to commence the Skill Training to Organic Growers. As soon as the Sanction is received NSSS shall train the farmers in Organic cultivation. Around 480 farmers shall be trained. The training will be imparted in Thumamkurichi PRTC centre.

2. Preparatory Work for Skill Training on Small Poultry Farming:

This training would commence in Thumamkurichi with the support of NSDC under PMKVY. 16 batches of trainees @ 30 persons per batch will benefit through this training over a period of one year Mr.Vinodhkumar B.Sc Agri., and Ms.Vinodhini B.Tech (Agri Engineering) the TOTs make efforts to organize this training. Mr.T.Annadurari, the Project Manager is the spokesperson for this program.



3. Interaction Meeting with Transgender in Namakkal:

An Interaction Meeting with the Transgender in Namakkal district was held on 16.05.2017 at the Christ King Church premises 70 transgender participated. The objective is to enhance employability for Transgender through Skill training. Mr.T.Annadurai, Project Manager NSSS delivered a brief note about the trainings to be imparted. **Mrs. Rosalind Kayalvizhi**, Managing Trustee of **HOPE EVER Foundation** delivered Special Address. **Mrs. Celin**, Director, **RENE Foundation** also delivered address and motivated the transgenders to apply their Skill on Specific trades.



Fr. Selvam Francis Xavier, NSSS

NEWS FROM VICARIATES

SALEM VICARIATE

St. Francis Xavier's Minor Seminary - Vocation Camp – 2017: 56 boys of class X, XI and XII, from various parishes of our diocese attended enthusiastically the Vocation Camp, held on 25th and 26th April 2017 at St. Xavier's Minor Seminary, Salem. Among them seven boys, who completed XII class, came forward to offer themselves to become Priests for our diocese. Thanks to all the Parish Priests.

Fr. V. Albert Antony Raj, Vice Rector

அரிசிபாளையம்: கோடைகால விடுமுறை விவிலியப் பள்ளி 2017. கோடைகால விடுமுறை விவிலியப் பள்ளியானது **‘இயற்கை நேய VBS’** என்ற கருப்பொருளை மையமாகக்கொண்டு மே 1 ஆம் தேதி காலை 8.30 மணிக்கு சேலம் குழந்தை இயேசு பேராலயத்தில் சென்னை-மயிலை உயர்மறைமாவட்ட முன்னால் பேராயர் சின்னப்பா அவர்களின் ஆசியோடும், பேராலய பங்குத்தந்தை இ. கிரகோரி ராஜன் அவர்களின் வழிநடத்துதலுடன் கோலகாலமாக தொடங்கப்பட்டது. இதில் 325 மாணவ மாணவிகள் கலந்து கொண்டு விவிலிய அறிவையும், ஞானத்தையும் பெற்றனர். தொடக்க நிகழ்வாக, பேராலயத்திலிருந்து பவனியாக மாணவர்களும் ஆசிரியர்களும் திருவிவிலியத்தை கைகளில் ஏந்திய வண்ணம் ‘விவிலியம் அறிவோம், விடுதலை பெறுவோம்’ என்றும் வசனங்களை முழங்கிக்கொண்டு அன்னை இல்லத்தை நோக்கி பக்தியோடு சென்றனர். பவனி இறுதியில் இறைவார்த்தை வாசிப்பு மற்றும் இறைவார்த்தைக்கு அஞ்சலி செலுத்தப்பட்டது. மாவணவர்களை நான்கு குழுக்களாக



பிரிக்கப்பட்டனர். நான்கு குழுக்களுக்கும் இந்திய மண்ணின் புனிதர்களான **புனித அல்போன்சா, புனித தேவசகாயம், புனித குரியாக்கோஸ், புனித யூப்ரேசியா** பெயர்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ஒவ்வொருநாளும் ஒவ்வொரு குழு தொடக்க வழிபாட்டை சிறப்பாக வழிநடத்தினார்கள். பிறகு வகுப்புகள்வாரியாக நமது மறைமாவட்ட விவிலிய பணிக்குழு தயாரித்துக் கொடுத்த பாடதிட்டங்களின்படி பாடங்களும், குழுக்கள் வாரியாக விவிலிய விளையாட்டுப் போட்டிகளும், கலைநிகழ்ச்சி போட்டிகளும் நடத்தப்பட்டன. இந்நாண்டு சிறப்பாக குழந்தைகளுக்கு சிற்றுண்டியானது அன்பியங்கள் வழியாக கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. ஒவ்வொரு அன்பியமும் அவர்களுக்கென்று குறிப்பிட்ட நாட்களில் வந்து குழந்தைகளுக்கு குளிப்பானங்கள், இனிப்புகள் வழங்கியது பாராட்டுதற்குரியது. இன்னும் சிறப்பாக 11 மற்றும் 12 படிக்கும் மாணவ மாணவிகள் அவர்களாகவே ஒருநாள் எல்லா குழந்தைகளுக்கும் சிற்றுண்டிகள் வழங்கி சிறப்பித்தார்கள். மே 09 ஆம் தேதி செவ்வாய்க்கிழமை நிறைவு விழாவிற்கு சேலம் மறைமாவட்ட அன்பிய பணிக்குழு செயலர் அருட்தந்தை மரிய ஜோசப் அவர்கள் தலைமையேற்று சிறப்புரை ஆற்றி வெற்றி பெற்ற குழுக்களுக்கு கேடயங்கள் வழங்கி பாராட்டினார். இதில் உதவிப்பங்குத்தந்தையர்கள் கிறிஸ்துராஜ் மற்றும் தோமினிக் சாவியோ கலந்து கொண்டு சிறப்பித்தார்கள். இறுதியாக மே 10 ஆம் தேதி புதன்கிழமை 3 ஆம் வகுப்பு முதல் 12 ஆம் வரை உள்ள மாணவ மாணவிகள் ஒருநாள் ஏற்காட்டுக்கு விவிலிய சுற்றுலா சென்றார்கள். இதனை ஒருங்கிணைத்த பங்குத்தந்தை, உதவிப் பங்குத்தந்தையர்கள், அருட்சகோதரர்கள், அருட்சகோதரிகள், இருபால் ஆசிரியர்கள் சிறப்பாக 4 பேருந்துகள் வழங்கி உதவி செய்த ஹோலிகிராஸ் நோட்ரிடேம் பள்ளி முதல்வர் அருட்சகோதர். ஆண்டனி அனைவருக்கும் நன்றிகளும், செபங்களும் தெரிவிக்கப்பட்டது.

பவுர்ணமி முழுஇரவு செபம்

மே 10 ஆம் புதன்கிழமை இரவு 10 மணி முதல் காலை 4.00 மணி வரை பவுர்ணமி முழுஇரவு செபமானது குழந்தை இயேசு பேராலத்தில் நடைபெற்றது. இதனை அருட்சகோதரி ஆல்பி மற்றும் சகோதரர் சுரேஷ் அவர்கள் சிறப்பு செய்தி வழங்கி வழிநடத்தினார்கள். இதில் 35 பேர் கலந்து கொண்டு இறையாசீர் பெற்றனர். இறுதியில் காலை 4.00 மணிக்கு அருட்தந்தை கிறிஸ்து ராஜ் அவர்கள் நற்கருணை ஆசீர் வழங்கி திருப்பலி நிறைவேற்றினார்.



குழந்தை இயேசுவின் நவமணி செமாலை: மே மாதத்தின் முதல் வியாழன் 11 ஆம் தேதி அன்று அற்புதக் குழந்தை இயேசுவின் நவநாள் மாலைத் திருப்பலிக்குப்பிறகு குழந்தை இயேசுவின் நவமணி செபமாலை எரியும் திரிகளுடன் ஆலயத்தைச் சுற்றி பவனியாக செபிக்கப்பட்டது. அன்றாட பிரச்சினைகள் தீர்வும், நல்ல மழை வேண்டியும், 10 மற்றும் 12 வகுப்பு தேர்வு எழுதியுள்ள மாணவ மாணவியர் அதிக மதிப்பெண்கள் பெற்று தேர்ச்சி பெறவும் செபிக்கப்பட்டது.

பங்குத்தந்தை ஐ. கிரகோரி ராஜன்.

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NAMAKKAL VICARIATE

Namakkal Parish: On May 1st VBS classes started in Namakkal Parish. 45 children benefitted in this VBS course. Every morning classes started at 9.00 am. and after a break for lunch classes went on till 4.00 pm. Major seminary brothers conducted these classes and our Catechist helped them. Children were divided into three groups and variety of competitions based on the Bible were conducted. On the final day 14th May we distributed prizes to all the participants after Sunday Mass. Children learnt many things from the Bible and were encouraged very much. After VBS classes children continued their preparations for the Sacrament of First Communion which was held on 21st May, 2017.

Fr. D .A. Francis

Rasipuram: On 07.05.2017 Sunday the parishioners of Rasipuram had the joyful celebration of opening of newly constructed Stations of the Cross around the church along with the celebration of First Communion and Confirmation for our children. Our Bishop presided over the celebrations. The construction of the Stations of the Cross is made possible solely by the contributions of our parishioners and other religious friends. Now the people of all religions around the city make it a point to visit our church and pray. The parish priest personally thanks everyone who contributed in various ways for the success of this project.



Fr. R. Jayaseelan. PP

DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND – MAY - 2017

24.04.2017	All Anbiyams of Johnsonpet Parish	76190
02.05.2017	Saniyasigundu Parish	5000
02.05.2017	Sangagiri Parish	5000
06.05.2017	Elakuruchi parish	5000
06.05.2017	SMMI Provincialate, Udayapatti	4000
09.05.2017	David Antony Amalraj, Irudayampattu	9990
11.05.2017	Salem camp Parish	2000
15.05.2017	Yercaud Parish	3000
15.05.2017	SMMI Provincialate, Udayapatti	5000
16.05.2017	Solasiramani Parish	1000
22.05.2017	Gangavalli Parish	3000
22.05.2017	Montfort Provincial, Yercaud	5000

SEMINARIANS FUND – MAY- 2017

26.04.2017	Montfort Brother's Novitiate, Yercaud	5000
28.04.2017	Rev. Fr. John Peter, Arulambadi	9950
11.05.2017	Mr. A.S. David Gipson, Salem Camp	700
11.05.2017	Rev. Fr. S. Sebastian, H.M, St.Paul's Hr. Sec. School, Salem	5000
19.05.2017	Mother General, St. Anne's Convent, Trichy	15000
21.05.2017	Valapadi, Parish	7000

EDUCATION FUND FOR POOR CHILDREN – MAY – 2017

05.05.2017	Mr. Augustin, Kosavampatti	5000
08.05.2017	Rasipuram Parish	2000
11.05.2017	Mr. A.S. David Gipson, Salemcamp	1750
15.05.2017	Koneripatti parish	3000
22.05.2017	Arockia Madha Nilayam, Gangavalli	5000

LOCAL MASSES RECEIVED – MAY - 2017

24.04.2017	Johnsonpet Parish	43000
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FEAST	26.04.2017	Andipatti Parish	1000	DAY
	05.05.2017	Salemcamp Parish	12000	
	06.05.2017	Suramangalam Parish	14800	
	09.05.2017	Arisipalayam Parish	25300	
	10.05.2017	Savariaralayam Parish	20000	
	23.05.2017	Shevapet Parish	8100	

WISHES TO

Rev. Fr. S. Irudayaselvam	Sacred Heart
Rev. Fr. C. S. Antonysamy	13.06
Rev. Fr. S. Arulappan	24.06
Rev. Fr. A. Peter Francis	29.06
Rev. Fr. X. Peter John Paul	29.06
Rev. Fr. T. Peter Raj	29.06

ORDINATION DAY WISHES TO

Rev. Fr. A. Durairaj	09.06.1987
Rev. Fr. A. Arockiarayar	09.06.1989
Rev. Fr. S. Arulappan	10.06.1980
Rev. Fr. I. Maria Susai	12.06.1973
Rev. Fr. S. Theodore Selvaraj	24.06.1976
Rev. Fr. C. Michael	24.06.1976
Rev. Fr. J. Lucas Thumma	29.06.1976

WE PRAYERFULLY REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED CONFRERES

Rev. Fr. Mathew Kadavil	01.06.1984
Rev. Fr. Laplace	03.06.1944
Rev. Fr. Gaymard	06.06.1980
Rev. Fr. A. Antonysamy	06.06.1981
Rev. Fr. Labadibar	08.06.1931
Rt. Rev. Michael B. Duraisamy	09.06.1999
Rev. Fr. I. Selvarathinam	10.06.1992
Rev. Fr. Nalais	11.06.1959
Rev. Fr. M. Kurusunkal	18.06.1995
Rev. Fr. A. L. Irudayam	26.06.1998

The Clergy Monthly Recollection in the month of July will be at the Vicariates.

POPE'S MESSAGE TO THE CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS
Seven Temptations for Clergy and Religious

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice in him! Christ is forever victorious over death, let us rejoice in him!”

I am happy to be with you in this house of formation for priests, which represents the heart of the Catholic Church in Egypt. **I am pleased to greet you, the priests and consecrated men and women of the small Catholic flock in Egypt, as the “leaven”** which God is preparing for this blessed land, so that, together with our Orthodox brothers and sisters, his Kingdom may increase in this place (cf. *Mt* 13:13).

I wish first of all to thank you for your witness and for the good that you do every day amid many challenges and often few consolations. I want to encourage you! Do not be afraid of the burdens of your daily service and the difficult circumstances some of you must endure. We venerate the Holy Cross, the instrument and sign of our salvation. When we flee the Cross, we flee the resurrection! “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom” (*Lk* 12:32).

This, then, demands believing, witnessing to the truth, sowing and cultivating without waiting for the harvest. In fact, we reap the fruits of so many others, whether consecrated or not, who have generously worked in the Lord’s vineyard. Your history is filled with such people! Although there are many reasons to be discouraged, amid many prophets of destruction and condemnation, and so many negative and despairing voices, **may you be a positive force, salt and light for this society. Like the engine of a train, may you be the driving force leading all towards their destination.** May you be sowers of hope, builders of bridges and agents of dialogue and harmony.

This will be possible if consecrated men and women do not give in to the temptations they daily encounter along their way. I would like to highlight some of the greatest of these temptations.

- 1. The temptation to let ourselves be led, rather than to lead.** The Good Shepherd has the responsibility of guiding the sheep (cf. *Jn* 10:3-4), of bringing them to fresh pastures and springs of flowing water (cf. *Ps* 23). **He cannot let himself be dragged down by disappointment and pessimism: “What can I do?”** He is always full of initiative and creativity, like a spring that flows even in the midst of drought. He always shares the caress of consolation even when he is broken-hearted. He is a father when his children show him gratitude, but especially when they prove ungrateful (cf. *Lk* 15:11-32). Our faithfulness to the Lord must never depend on human gratitude: “Your Father who sees in secret will reward you” (*Mt* 6:4, 6, 18).
- 2. The temptation to complain constantly.** It is easy to always complain about others, about the shortcomings of superiors, about the state of the Church and society, about the lack of possibilities... **But consecrated persons, though the Spirit’s anointing, are those who turn every obstacle into an opportunity, and not every difficulty into an excuse! The person who is always complaining is really someone who doesn’t want to work.** It was for this

reason that the Lord said to the pastors: “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees” (*Heb* 12:12; cf. *Is* 35:3).

- 3. The temptation to gossip and envy.** It is a great danger when consecrated persons, instead of helping the little ones to grow and to rejoice in the successes of their brothers and sisters, **allow themselves to be dominated by envy and to hurt others through gossip.** When, instead of striving to grow, they start to destroy those who are growing; instead of following their good example, they judge them and belittle their value. **Envy is a cancer that destroys the body in no time:** “If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand” (*Mk* 3:24-25). In fact, “through the devil’s envy death entered the world” (*Wis* 2:24). Gossip is its means and its weapon.
- 4. The temptation to compare ourselves to others.** Enrichment is found in the diversity and uniqueness of each one of us. **Comparing ourselves with those better off often leads to grudges; comparing ourselves with those worse off often leads to pride and laziness. Those who are always comparing themselves with others end up paralyzed.** May we learn from Saints Peter and Paul to experience the diversity of qualities, charisms and opinions through willingness to listen and docility to the Holy Spirit.
- 5. The temptation to become like Pharaoh,** that is **to harden our hearts and close them off to the Lord and our brothers and sisters. Here the temptation is to think that we are better than others, and to lord it over them out of pride; to presume to be served rather than to serve.** It is a temptation that, from the very beginning, was present among the disciples, who – as the Gospel tells us – “on the way argued with one another who was the greatest” (*Mk* 9:34). The antidote to this poison is: “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all” (*Mk* 9:35).
- 6. The temptation to individualism.** As a well-known Egyptian saying goes: “Me, and after me, the flood!” **This is the temptation of selfish people:** along the way, they lose sight of the goal and, rather than think of others, **they are unashamed to think only of themselves, or even worse, to justify themselves.** The Church is the community of the faithful, the Body of Christ, where the salvation of one member is linked to the holiness of all (cf. *1 Cor* 12:12-27; *Lumen Gentium*, 7.) An individualist is a cause of scandal and of conflict.
- 7. The temptation to keep walking without direction or destination.** Consecrated men and women can lose their identity and begin to be “neither fish nor fowl”. **They can live with a heart between God and worldliness. They can forget their first love** (cf. *Rev* 2:4). Indeed, when they lose clear and solid identity, consecrated men and women end up walking aimlessly; instead of leading others, they scatter them. Your identity as sons and daughters of the Church is to be Copts – rooted in your noble and ancient origins – and to be Catholics – part of the one and universal Church: like a tree that, the more deeply rooted it is in the earth, the higher it reaches to the heavens!

Dear consecrated friends, **resisting these temptations is not easy, but it is possible if we are grafted on to Jesus: “Abide in me, and I in you.** As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me” (*Jn* 15:4). The more we are rooted in Christ, the more we are alive and fruitful! Only in this way can we preserve the wonder and the passion of our first encounter with God, and experience renewed excitement and gratitude in our life with God and in our mission. **The quality of our consecration depends on the quality of our spiritual life.**

Egypt has enriched the Church through the inestimable value of monastic life. I urge you, therefore, to draw upon to the example of Saint Paul the Hermit, Saint Anthony, the holy Desert Fathers, and

the countless monks and nuns who by their lives and example opened the gates of heaven to so many of our brothers and sisters. You too can be salt and light, and thus an occasion of salvation for yourselves and for all others, believers and non-believers alike, and especially for those who are poor, those in need, the abandoned and discarded.

May the Holy Family protect and bless all of you, your country and its entire people. With all my heart, I invoke God's blessings on you, and through you I greet the faithful whom the Lord has entrusted to your care. May he grant you the fruits of his Holy Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (*Gal 5:22*).

You are always in my heart and in my prayers. Take heart and keep moving forward with the help of the Holy Spirit! "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice in him!" And please, don't forget to pray for me

29.04.2017, Vatican.

FRANCISCUS



The Clergy Monthly Recollection in the Month of July will be at the vicariates.