



# Vartha

A CAMILLIAN NEWS LETTER FROM INDIA

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## 'I profess...O, Lord'

On 10th of May 2005 six brothers vowed their commitment



**For God and for others:** ( from left) *Bijoy, Binoy, Jimmy, Tomy, Vincent and Thomas* after making their vows. - Photo: Rinoj

### Staff Reporter

**Bangalore:** Camillians of Indian Delegation witnessed a historical event, when six brothers vowed their commitment to the Lord and to the Order of St. Camillus, in a function here at Snehadaan on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2005.

During the Eucharistic celebration, Kollamkunel Vincent, Kuliraniyil Bijoy and Puthenveetil Thomas vowed their perpetual commitment by which they became full-fledged members of the Order. After a year of their Novitiate-experience, Sasthampadavil Binoy, Vadakkel Jimmy and Paradiyil Tomy made their temporary profession and received the religious habit with the distinctive red cross.

The function began at 10.30 a.m. with the Eucharistic celebration in which the parents and the relatives of those who made temporary profession also participated.

But the celebration was marked with an unprecedented low-level participation of Camillians. The six brothers read out the profession formula proclaiming their willingness to commit themselves to the Lord and to the Order and the Provincial Delegate Fr. Mathew Perumpil accepted their profession.

Fr. Arnaldo Pancrazi said, during the homily, that religious profession is to serve the Lord and people. "St. Camillus was a man for God and for others", he pointed out. He reminded them of the importance of Camillian charism to witness the merciful love of Christ towards the sick. He wished them all the best in their life journey and urged them to be merciful and compassionate towards the sick. Puthenveetil Thomas and Paradiyil Tomy gave vote of thanks in English and Malayalam respectively.

## Editorial

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### A Warning

**T**he recent visit of Fr. Provincial and his addresses to us confreres surface in our mind. 'Prayer' dominates among many issues he addressed.

During this summer, theology students had been to various places, ministries and experiences. One of them spoke about a young fellow, of 25, who welcomed the brother as a guest to his home and who suggested to pray the rosary together before they went to rest at half past eleven in the night! Imagine, the young friend was not a religious, nor a priest, but one came home dead tired after a day's heavy work-schedule.

On the other hand; a few days back a retreat assistant on the other end of the phone asked, "Father, can you come for the confessions for the retreatants?" Father could not say 'yes' because he was planning about an out-dinner. So he said he was bit busy, hanging the phone up.

One thing is sure, there are a good number of lay young boys and girls 'outside' there, so prayerful and deeply God-connected, though their life identity does not necessarily demand them to be so.

I foresee a situation, where we fathers and brothers will learn spiritual lessons from the lay people, a situation that reminds Jesus' words: "From those who had little, even what they had will be taken away". The laity is bringing God's presence to other people.

If we wish to give something true of our identity, it should begin with our level and time of being with God, praying moments, moments of reflection, of self-check, of self-awareness, of silence. Only that would give an apt foundation to our kind of life. Otherwise, to

## Provincial meets Delegation

Staff Reporter

**Bangalore:** Prayer is to say to God: I thank you for loving me and I also love you, said the Provincial Superior Fr. Vittorio Paleari. He was speaking during his meeting with the perpetually professed members of the Indian Delegation here at Snehadaan, on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005.



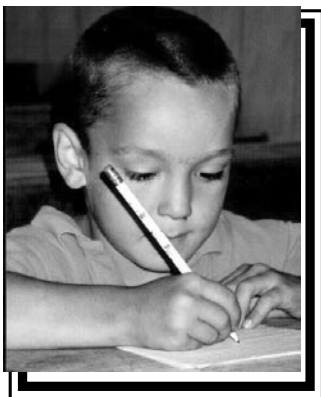
He said that real spirituality is not mere observance. "We cannot think that since we are never absent from the chapel at the established times, we can be considered to be really spiritual", he said. He shared his reflections on what a 'disastrous catastrophe one can arrive at without taking care of the spiritual life'. "Loss of sense of dependence on God and on his providence, and of belonging to one and only family are the results of this", he added.

Fr. Palaeri was in India for an emergency visit to the Delegation from April 15 to 19. During his visit he met almost all the members individually and in group. During the general gathering he requested the delegation to formulate programmes for formation. "Formation is always an element of concern and because of this it is necessary to have a programme and a curriculum in formation", he pointed out. He also made two particular suggestions: 'the drawing up of internal programme of formation' and 'the formation of formators'.

Drawing conclusion from the individual meetings with the confreres, Fr. Provincial pointed out that the attitude to ministry changes 'as soon as one becomes religious'. He asked for programmes for variety of ministries. "But it is also true that in the field of the ministry there are questions to ask ourselves concerning the possible variety", he said.

Fr. Vittorio also spoke about some other specific issues like 'advance knowledge of the nominations and appointments', and the 'supreme authority of the chapter'. He raised some questions about the recent changes of the formative curriculum and regarding the 'observance of the vow of chastity'.

## Academic year begins



### The Academic year 2005-'06 began in all the formation houses

John Kakkarakunnel OSC

As the monsoon started pouring down, the fresh academic year of 2005-'06 began with a new vitality and enthusiasm in all the formation houses.

St. Camillus seminary, Mananthavady, located on the lap of the breathtakingly beautiful Wayanad Hills of Kerala, is the first house of Indian Camillians. There are seven new admissions this year, making the total number, thirty four, in three batches.

At the Janampet minor seminary in Andhra Pradesh, there are twelve new admissions and the total number is 28, in three batches. Janampet is blessed with the embrace of an arm-like rivulet that connects to Godavari, one of the biggest rivers of India.

From the Trichy minor seminary in Tamil Nadu, two new admissions would join Janampet and one second year would join Mananthavady.

The number in the Pre-Philosophy batch is sixteen. Hence, they are formed in two separate groups and

are in two of our ministry centres Snehadaan, Bangalore and Snehasadan, Mangalore, eight each in both houses.

In the novitiate, the foundational year of religious life, there are seven with the novice master Fr. Johnson Vellachira. The novitiate of this year began on 24<sup>th</sup> May, at Snehadaan.

For the philosophical studies, there are twenty candidates in three batches at Jyotidarshan Nagpur, the geographical centre point of India. Also there are two doing philosophy at Banaras, residing with IMS community.

There are eleven theology students in the Major seminary, Upasana, Bangalore, the central house of the Delegation. There are also three more brothers who are going for their Bachelor's degree in a regular college. The seminary also accommodates three more candidates from other societies.

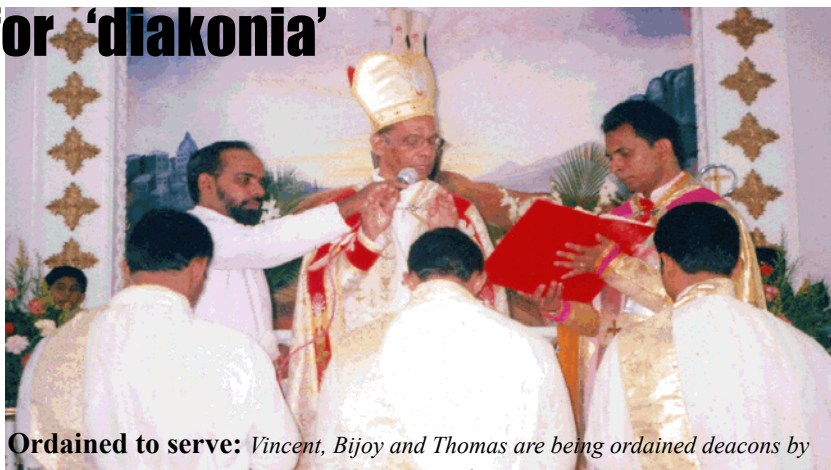
## Three ordained for 'diakonia'

Staff Reporter

**Aluva:** Three brothers of Indian Delegation were ordained deacons by Bishop Thomas Chakkiyath of Ernakulam at the Holy Angels' church Muppathadam, near here, on 26<sup>th</sup> of June.

The function in the Muppathadam parish church began with the Eucharistic celebration at 8.00 a.m. During the Holy Mass, the three perpetually professed members of the Order of St. Camillus, Bijoy Kuliraniyil, Thomas Puthenveetil and Kollamkunnel Vincent were ordained deacons by the Bishop of Ernakulam, as he laid hands on them. The Eucharist was concelebrated by the Provincial Delegate Fr. Mathew Perumpil and the project coordinator of *Snehatheerm* Fr. Biju Sebastian.

During his homily, Bishop Chakkiyath pointed out that the number of vocations to religious



**Ordained to serve:** Vincent, Bijoy and Thomas are being ordained deacons by Bishop Thomas Chakkiyath. **Vartha Photo**

life reduced considerably 'these days'. Appreciating the Camillian presence in Ernakulam Diocese, he said it was noteworthy that Camillians are dedicated to caring the sick even risking their lives, in this world of materialism and selfishness. He wished that many people follow this example of noble service set by the Camillians.

The recently-consecrated parish

church, which was fully crowded during the function, witnessed a 'grand celebration', since it was for the first time that a diaconate was conducted there. "It may be the first time in the history of Indian Camillians that a diaconate was celebrated in such an impressive manner", said Fr. Biju Sebastian, who coordinated the day's function.

# Delegation goes

## Special correspondent



**Arlappa**



**William E**



**Joy Inchody**

There are many ways we can show our care for the other. Especially when it comes to a world-spread congregation like ours, one best way of caring for our communities is by sharing the personnel, finance, spirituality and so on. The years 2004 and 2005 witnessed six of our confreres going away to other regions of our society for various intentions.

Fr. Arlappa, Fr. William E. and Fr. Joy left for Italy on 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2004. Fr. Arlappa and Fr. William E. were learning Italian so far and are now working as chaplains in the civil hospitals at Verona and Padova respectively, both in the Lombard-Venetian Province. But Fr. Joy had a different reason for going to Rome. He is doing licentiate in Pastoral care at Camillianum, staying at Rebuschini, our study house.

Fr. Joshy and Fr. Prakash have undertaken their mission to serve in Austrian Province at the invitation of the provincial Fr. Gregotsch. They reached Austria in January 30, 2005. After learning the language of the place, German, they are assigned to two parishes for an year's term. They would be serving as chaplains in the future.

Fr. Reji, after some time of uncertainty, could reach Philippines by the end of March, this year. He is trying to do Ph. D in Counselling from La Salle University, Manila. It was a surprise that he could get admission for a Ph.D though the intention was to do only a post-graduate programme. He is already into the classes while the visa-securing process is on.

So we hope this intercultural, continental collaboration in terms of personnel, finance etc would bring us closer to each other in the global family of Camillians.



**Prakash**



**Joshy**



**Reji**

## Central Commission for Missions meets

Joy Inchody OSC

**Rome:** A meeting of the central commission for missions was held here at Maddalena, the Camillian Generalate, on 29 April 2005.

The meeting, in which six people participated, was convened by the General Secretary of the Commission for the missions, Fr. Luigi. The meeting commenced with a brief report by Fr. Luigi. He explained his various projects, and gave a narration of his visits to different missions of the order.

The participants of the meeting represented five mission

zones of the Order. Fr. Dietmar Weber of Germany explained the mode of his functioning to collect funds for the missions which he does almost alone. Fr. Antonio Busiello from the Province of Naples also presented the group with his unique way of sensitizing the people about various missions especially of Africa. Fr. Battista represented delegation of Burkino Faso by explaining various difficulties and challenges they face in the country. Fr. Cyril

Marijuana of Spain described about his activities in Spain and in Latin American countries. Fr. Joy Inchody represented Asia in general and particularly India. He made a brief presentation about Indian Camillians and its various ways of functioning in the areas of Formation, Ministry and Community Life. He spoke about its relief and rehabilitation works for the Tsunami-affected people in the southern peninsula of India.

## Being wounded for

It won't be an exaggeration if I say that the single factor that led Camillus to be a saint and even to found a religious Order in the service to the suffering humanity was the wound on his leg. It was from this wound the wells of compassion flowed in and out of Camillus. Camillus was blessed by God (grace) to transform this wound into an instrument of healing. Being wounded Camillus learned - first hand - of the pain of those who are wounded. He was inspired by "The Wounded Healer", Christ himself. It is from the wounds of Christ humanity received the gift of salvation. It is almost inevitable that every Camillian experiences his own woundedness as an opportunity to be united to the suffering and healing of humanity. But the starting point of this journey of transformation (to transform the wounds to wells of compassion) is our own personal acknowledgement of the many wounds we may have experienced in life. All of us are wounded in one way or another. We have two ways of going about with these wounds. Either we can blame all those who have caused those wounds or we can embrace them and make them avenues of transformation. The choice we make determine how we might live our Camillian life. Like Camillus the wounds may never go away, but it will make us more compassionate and empathetic towards other human beings who are similarly wounded. We become "wounded healers" who are wounded and are prepared to heal the wounds of others. It is then the "Red Cross" we wear on our chest becomes relevant, the sign that we are wounded healers, who have experienced the pain and joy, being both wounded and healed.



Mathew Perumpil OSC

## Xposed, xperienced, nriched..

Rinoj

**Bangalore:** Theology students here at Upasana took initiative to go for experience in various parts of India, in the summer. On their return they had a great treasure of experience to carry with.

It was experiential moments for Teji to be with spirit-filled Jesus Youth members in Bangalore. "The spirit of prayer, hard work and healthy relationships were the key points which inspired me from their lives", he says with lots of satisfaction.

"Seemingly, there is no much difference between our charism and that of Missionaries of Charity (MC) Brothers", says Binoy Jacob who accompanied James, Jim and Shiju to work with the MC in Calcutta. They say MCs do not confine themselves to the centres but they go out to the villages, leprosy colonies and schools.

The Empowerment of Children and Human rights Organization (ECHO), initiated by Norbertine congregation, has been rendering a job true to its name. James and Shiju had enriched themselves in joining them in their noble work for one month. "It is definitely a sanctuary of the unwanted children", swears both of them.

When life moves in uncertainty, hopes being shattered, there grows our trust in God, says Jim who had been with the fishermen in Anchuthengu, one of the coastal regions of Kerala. In the company of Binoy Jacob he explored the treasures hidden in the poor sections of that region. "We were taken up by their hospitality, prayer life and hard work", they say. Of course, they didn't fail to notice some of the prevailing social issues like alcoholism, early marriage etc.

Our young generation is fed well, satisfied to its maximum with the Christian values, observes Reju, one of the MCBS brothers here. As he returned after a month's service in a few parishes in Trivandrum diocese, he shared with *Vartha* the experiences he had there. "I certainly admire the great love of children to the Word of God, respect towards priests and priesthood", he added.

### Staff Reporter

## Annual Retreat concluded

**Ooty:** The annual retreat for the members of Indian Delegation was concluded at St. Theodore's Seminary, Konoor, near here on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005. Fr. Arnold Pancrazi, who has been contributing significantly to various communities in Europe and the United States as a CPE supervisor, led the five-day retreat, in which eight perpetually professed members and three novices participated.

Talks of Fr. Pancrazi and lots of sharing of participants were the peculiar marks of this retreat.



Fr. Pancrazi (third from the left) with some of the participants - *Vartha* Photo

Fr. John Kakkarakunnel, one of the participants of the retreat, said it was a psycho-spiritual retreat. "This retreat helped me to look into

my own personal journey in the light of the journey of Jesus and that of St. Camillus", he said. He said he got a new and better picture of St. Camillus through this retreat. "Personal life sharing of confreres gave me a stronger feeling of unity", he remarked.

The retreat was in view of the decision taken in the previous Delegation Chapter that annual retreats should be arranged in common.

# Shall I tell you something ?

vartha



## Forget please

"Forget..." many reminded me.  
"Why still carry the leftovers  
of those days in the haversack  
of your memory?"  
"Forget... you have to... don't you?"  
"No... butt off.." I shouted.  
"How dare you tell me that?"  
"What if I become great one day" I blurted  
(indeed I plan to, you know?)  
"What if four people hear my name,  
recognize my face and pride my autograph.  
One day they might even love  
a biography from me.  
What will I put in, then,  
-if I forget all these now?  
Wasn't that the way great men have done?"

'Well... what if I don't become great'  
I mused.  
What if no one asked my biography,  
and what if I had to bury my biography  
in my own biology?  
Won't this heavy head-load be a waste?  
Oh, I remember someone telling me:  
"Don't carry, put it in the subconscious.  
You can rake it up, when you want to."  
"But what if it slips into the unconscious?  
Who could ever trace even its 'antibody'?"  
You know, my friend,  
I forgot to forget what you thought  
I should forget.  
Or better, I refused to.  
I want them.  
I want them to death.  
It's them that made me.  
It's them that do not make me anybody

Biju Sebastian

## Johnson completes formation course

### Staff Reporter

**Bangalore:** Fr. Johnson Vellachira completed a three-year course of 'Psychology and Formation' conducted by the Institute for Formators. Fr. Johnson, the novice master, had been pursuing this course which gives training in formation at a psycho-social-spiritual level.

In an interview with *Vartha* Fr. Johnson said, "I was able to understand myself better so that, I hope, I can help others, especially those in formation, to understand their own inner dynamism and to cope up with life better". He pointed out that self-awareness he achieved became a resource to help others. "Personal accompaniment is the most important thing in formation", he added.

This programme consists of a weekly therapeutic guidance from a recognized guide and an intensive two-month summer programme consecutively for three years. The approach in this programme is a synthesis of useful elements from various other disciplines of psychology and counselling. Personal accompaniment by a qualified guide throughout the three years is a unique feature of this course.

## Retreat preached in Kenya

### Staff Reporter

**Mananthavady:** Spiritual thoughts and reflections of Indian Camillians have started going overseas. Fr. Baby Illickal preached a one-week retreat to the Camillian community at Nairobi, Kenya, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of May.

The retreat on the theme "Eucharist: source and foundation of our community life" was attended by a group of twenty-two people which consisted of six fathers, students of Theology, novices and one Camillian sister.

Talking to *Vartha*, Fr. Illickal expressed his personal satisfaction and fulfillment in conducting the retreat. "Since it was for the first time, I was bit tensed and anxious, but I prepared well, learned the subject and did well", he said. "The participants also shared positive remarks about this retreat. They said that this was a very good experience", he added. Asked whether he would continue to conduct retreats, he said with greater expectations, "I am looking forward to many other chances."

# Building on the Crumbs



## Suneesh Memana

*Fr. Vincent gives away school uniforms in a tsunami hit village*

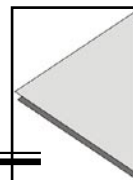
Camillians go lending long-lasting help to the tsunami affected by helping the school children, distributing boats to the fishermen, and so on..

The Camillian concern and solidarity with the tsunami affected had been immediately initiated by the superior General Fr. Frank Monks himself, as he was here in India for his canonical visit. He also visited some of the affected areas and traumatized people of Nagapattanam and Velankanni in Tamil Nadu. A Camillian tsunami relief and rehabilitation committee was set up with Fr. Vincent and Fr. Siby Kanjirathammoottil at the wheel of the committee. Short-term and long-term rehabilitation interventions had been planned and carried out by the committee based on the meetings with the Bishop of Kottar and the collection of data obtained through initial assessment of damages, loss and needs of the people by some of the parish priests of Kanyakumari district.

The magnitude of the tragedy had been such devastating that we cannot address comprehensively all the problems caused by tsunami. Therefore, in the first phase of action, the relief and rehabilitation committee paid special attention to the needs of children in camps and schools.

Apart from suffering the physical and psychological wounds, their educational future appeared to be bleak as schools and study materials had been washed out in the waves of death. Study aids like school uniforms and school bags have been distributed making the children realize the importance of continuing their studies. Long-term projects also have been planned to assist the poor and desiring children to continue their studies.

The hardest-hit victims of tsunami are the fisher folk who have lost their boats, canoes and other fishing equipments like nets and outboard motors. Therefore, the focus of the committee, in the second phase, was to provide support for their livelihood. Thus, long-term strategies have been carried out to provide for at least a few families and parishes fishing equipments like boats and nets. And of course, it is a great challenge to translate one's empathy and solidarity with the tsunami survivors to selfless service, but the bountiful generosity of the Lombard-Venetian Province and of the funding agency, PROSA, and the commitment of Camillian confreres make it a reality.



**LIVELIHOOD IN THE MAKING:**The boats to be distributed are getting ready

## In the name of Jinnah

Political dramas continue to rock Indian democracy. Bharatiya Janata Party chief L.K. Advani tried to recapture the political space and image he lost in his own party circles and in Indian political scenario. He shed crocodile tears over the demolition of Babri Masjid and he assessed Pakistan's founding father and great leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah as a secular leader. This triggered flames of protest within BJP and its supporting parties. The subsequent resignation of Advani from the helm and the dramatic withdrawal of his decision have only served to weaken his hold on his party and to isolate himself. It seems that Sangh Parivar decides what ideology BJP should hold on to.

As far as the BJP and RSS are concerned, the issue is closed. But in the wake of Advani's visit

to Pakistan and his remarks about Jinnah, the questions of partition and Indo-Pak relations have been continuously asked. Was the partition unavoidable? Who was responsible for this? In a way,

Between the Lines



Siby Augustine OSC

Gandhi, Nehru and Jinnah were all responsible for the partition. It could have been averted if various politicians and leaders had behaved otherwise. Now the question that needs to be addressed is why the elements of separatism and hatred continue. All the peace processes between these two estranged neighbours remain an ideal even today, because we have been blaming each other for not initiating effective action.

What Advani said, if objectively taken, could have bolstered the peace process which former Prime

Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee hopefully launched and what Dr. Manmohan Singh has committed to. The efforts of a nation go unproductive when these types of partisan attitudes are nurtured by the leaders of religious fundamentalist groups. They blame Jinnah for dividing the land on religious grounds, but, in fact, they perpetuate the division among minds of the people. It was a mind poisoned by religious fanaticism that murdered Gandhi. That poison further divides the country on the basis of religion.

Political concerns should not endanger the integrity of a nation which has always been valuing tolerance and peace more than hatred and conflict.

*Articles are invited from the readers for the column-Between the Lines.  
You are also welcome to make any correspondence of  
news, reflections, reactions and suggestions.*

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