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Like Raindrops...**

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Showers of Blessing

Fr. Mathew Perumpil MI

[Provincial Delegate]

After the sweltering heat of summer, the rains have brought refreshing respite to almost all of us. The annual event of the monsoon by the beginning of June brings new life to rich vegetative life of the South, energizing and revitalizing its life once again.

This issue of *Vartha* reflects the season as Camillians begin yet another new academic year in our delegation. Some of us are also beginning new life with new assignments and responsibilities. Most of us were re-energized spiritually and fraternally as Bro. Luca and Fr. Anselmo guided us in our Annual Retreat and seminar on Camillian spirituality. All our temporary professed brothers renewed their profession. Five novices made their first profession and two postulants entered novitiate and Deacon Binoy was ordained a priest. Surely signs of new life in the life of our Delegation.

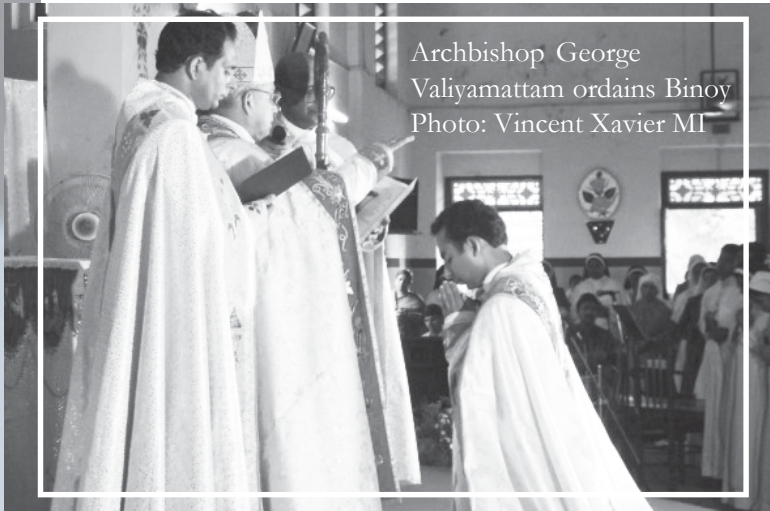
Perhaps a most striking comparison of the summer heat giving way to the refreshing monsoon is the new life we are witnessing in the vocation promotion area and in the number of young candidates entering our seminaries this year. In Eluru seminary we have 15 new candidates (three more are awaited to join shortly) and Mananthavady seminary is awaiting at least 8 candidates to join us. Only in Trichy we continue to feel the summer heat as only one candidate has joined us so far this year. I want to acknowledge with gratitude all the hard work that went in to bring forth new life to our seminaries this year.

Another sign of new life in our delegation is the blessing of the new Community Care Centre in Secunderabad. Some of the transfers and changes are also a sign and opportunity to bring forth new life and vitality in our personal lives and the life of the delegation.

Showers also remind us about God's Blessings. Truly God has been blessing us in many ways. Monsoon is a reminder to thank God for the rich blessings we receive daily in our lives.



riestly ordination



Archbishop George
Valiyamattam ordains Binoy
Photo: Vincent Xavier MI

Suneesh Memana MI

A birth on earth is a gift of God, and indeed a search for joy and happiness for the family and society. The birth of a new priest in the person of Binoy Thakidipurath on May 31, at St. Thomas Church Manikkadavu, in the diocese of Thalassery, Kerala, on his own birthday has become moments of Grace of God to the Whole Church, the Camillian family and very specially to Fr. Binoy himself. The bishop of Thalassery Mar George Valiyamattam conferred him through the Sacrament of Orders a new mission, ministry and consecration belonging to Christ in being and doing.

The ceremonies of the Ordination started at 9.00 a.m. in devout and prayerful presence of his parents, dear ones, parishners, and many priests and nuns. After conferring the Sacrament of the Orders, the Bishop in his homily narrated how one recognizes this grace of unmerited gift and expressed his wish and desire that many might follow the path which the newly ordained has chosen. Fr. Binoy offered his first Holy Eucharist in an intimate union with Christ who has called and showered him with abundant graces. It was followed by a felicitation ceremony where the gathering congratulated his consecration and promised their prayers and support.

**Life
To
Serve**



First Profession Celebrated

Staff Reporter

Bangalore: In a ceremony held here at *Snehadaan*, five young men dared to vow their commitment to the Lord and to the Order on May 25.

Declaring their willingness to adhere to the service of God and of the sick, Avvari Chinnappa Raju, Madanu Bhaskar, Mekkattu Prince, Savari Sundar Raj and Vempenickal Jomin made their First Profession during the Eucharistic celebration.

Many Camillian confreres, their family members and relatives, neighbours and well-wishers witnessed the event. General Councilor Bro. Luca Parletti accepted their profession and united them to the Camillian family. The Provincial Delegate Mathew Perumpil, Anselmo Zambotti and Novice Master Johnson Vellachira together with other confreres and priests celebrated the Solemn Eucharist.

Novitiate 08-09 Begins

Bangalore: The Novitiate of this year began on May 24 with a Eucharistic celebration held here at *Snehadaan*.

The two novices, Karetu Aneesh and Kochokudiyil Vineesh, formally began their journey of religious life with the newly-appointed (proposed) Novice Master Sojan Koonanikkal. Fr. Sojan has just completed his Formators' Course and Post Graduate studies in Formative Psychology.

New Appointments

Johnson Vellachira - Superior of Nagpur & In-charge of Hyderabad project
Naveen Mathew - Superior of Mananthavady
Sojan Koonanickal - Novice Master
Teji Thomas - Rector, Mananthavady
Santhosh Kumar - Administrator, Mtdy
Binoy Jacob T. - Vocation promoter, Kerala
Biju Joseph - Patient care coordinator, Hyderabad
Kaitharan Siby - Community Ministry, Eluru
Memana Surneesh - Patient care coordinator, Snehasadan
Illickal Baby - Study

Renewed Together



The participants of the retreat with the resource persons. - *Vartha* photo

Binu Vellamattathil MI

The annual retreat and seminar on Camillian Spirituality were moments of renewal for Indian Camillians. A participant observes the renewal programme.

To renew our commitment to the charism of the Order, the members of the Indian Delegation gathered at *Sayujya*, Whitefield, Bangalore for the annual retreat and a seminar on Camillian Spirituality and Charism. The resource persons were General Councillor Bro. Luca Parletti and the President of PROSA Fr. Anselmo Zambotti. The retreat for the novices and the temporary professed members was held from May 16 to 20 and for the perpetually professed from 25 to 30. Commenced on May 21, the seminar well-served a bridge between the retreats and it turned out to be a joint venture of all.

Basing on the spirit and life of St. Camillus and on the Constitution, and infusing insights and observations from the writings of former General Superiors Frs. Calisto Vendrame, Angelo Brusco and Frank Monks, the resource persons guided the group into a collective retrospection and introspection. Group discussions, pictorial depictions and presentations brought to limelight the relevance of the charism, the emerging concerns and issues of global healthcare and Camillian response to it. The seminar provided an avalanche of health-oriented endeavors to the booming Camillian fervor in India.

While the focus of seminar was more of a communitarian dimension of living the spirituality and charism, the retreat remained a personal journey into the dynamism of responding to this great mission. The expositions were firmly supported by Gospel passages. Timely jokes of Fr. Anselmo provided lighter moments to each session.



The Irish Connection

Provincial Delegate shares of the collaborative venture with the Anglo-Irish province

I was a special invitee for the Annual General Assembly of the Anglo-Irish Province in Killucan from May 14-16. Fr. Stephen Foster, the provincial superior invited me to join the meeting to discuss and share the possibilities of collaboration with the Irish province.

Most of the total 24 members of the province gathered together for three days to reflect together and share their fraternity with the theme: "An Ageing Province: Discerning the Spirit". A major focus of our sharing was around the collaboration plan with India. I presented an overview of our life and

activities in Indian Delegation with our vision for the future direction.

One of the main areas of this collaborative plan is to send two of our confreres to Ireland to work and to train in pastoral care ministry in the hospital. As it was already planned Fr. Jayan also will join them for CPE training from September. The Irish province will support us financially for their services and also help us train in Clinical Pastoral Education. Fr. Frank Monks also has consented to animate our Delegation with retreats and seminars in the jubilee year.



Photo: Vincent Xavier MI

Centre of Excellence Blessed

Vincent Xavier MI

Secunderabad: The Collaborative endeavour of Camillians with CHAI witnessed another milestone on June 12, when Archbishop Joji blessed the new Community Care Centre in the premises of CHAI Training Centre here. Fr. Mathew Perumpil, Provincial Delegate of India

represented the Camillians. During the function Archbishop appreciated the Camillians for taking up this responsibility and welcomed us to the Archdiocese promising all his support. It may begin admitting patients by the end of July.



Asian Regional meeting on Ministry was held at Camillian Hospital Bangkok from March 29 to 30. Fr. Naveen Mathew represented Indian Delegation in the meeting.

Photo courtesy: Thai Vice-province

Hard work + Providence = Vocation Promotion

Delegation Secretariat for Formation

Genuine effort to promote vocation is the greatest expression of one's belongingness to the Institute. This year we all have worked hard to promote vocation or attempted to do so. Consequently, we have again proved that our loyalty and commitment to the Order is unchanging.

For one year we have been working in different capacities to engage ourselves in this mission. Now it's the harvest time. To great extent our efforts have been translated into fruits. Hopefully we will have around 25 candidates in three minor seminaries.

We acknowledge and appreciate the tireless efforts of our confreres especially of the Rectors and formation team of the minor seminaries. We know that it is a more demanding but less rewarding ministry, but

we assure you that the whole delegation is with you to support and guide you in this noble mission.

St. Camillus College, Janampet, may have nearly 15 new candidates. Congratulation to Eluru Community! Asked how the community feel about the result, Fr. Shibir said: 'We are very happy that we got these many candidates this year, and God works with us when we work hard. Of course, it is the result of our prayers and the team work of the community'.

Eluru's story has been a successful one this time, but we face a debacle at Trichy. Instead of brooding over failures and fruitless efforts, let's march forward with renewed spirit. Let success stories be a powerhouse for our future action.

Experiences

Two temporary professed members share their experiences as they completed their Pastoral Year programme



Suresh Chintagunda

As I have completed the pastoral year, I feel it is all about introducing me to the pastoral dimension of my life which includes the elements of faithful reflection on my vocation, spiritual life, community life, ministry and integration of all my studies to the context in which I live. It was a personal invitation to be part of the mission of Jesus, the greatest pastor and perfect example of how to be fully human in sensing the needs of the people and how to be holistic care-givers to the wounded and the broken.

I was glad to be part of *Snebasadan* family for giving me rich experience “with the sick” and “in the community” as a whole. There was an atmosphere of friendly nature, encouragement and prayerful support from all my community members in my vocation. The life stories of women, children and men there inspired me much. I felt that Camillian spirituality is all about “extension spirituality” which was expressed in St. Camillus’ own words “take care the sick as mother takes care of her only child who is ill”. It means as the child is an extension of mother, the sick are the extension of Camillians. As a whole I felt the presence of God in caring, sharing, experiencing and living with the sick and the community.



Shiju Kureekattil

After my theological studies which tried to explain God in class rooms and text books, I got a golden opportunity to convert my theological knowledge of God into practice by serving the sick people in *Snebadaan*- a home for the homeless. It was a time to strengthen my vocation to the Camillian charism (serving the sick at the risk of my own life) and totally commit myself to the poor and the needy. Having gone through one year pastoral experience in *Snebadaan* I am joyful because the charism helped me to experience my God through serving the sick and listening to them. Encountering the human realities of pain, suffering and death gave me an understanding of our own broken world. It also deepened my desire and will to commit myself to the cause of bringing the healing touch of Jesus to the sick and the suffering.

One’s life becomes successful only because of the support of the other. I could experience this unique time meaningfully because of the support and encouragement of my superior and other community members. I experienced various dynamics of community living, its strengths and challenges and I feel that I was accepted in the community as I am. I am grateful to the community and the residents of *Snebadaan*.

Asian Camillian Formators Meet

Joy Inchody MI

Bangkok: A meeting of Camillian Asian Region on Formation was held at Camillian Hospital, from 27 to 28 April, with 16 participants from 6 delegations/provinces, including Fr. Babychan Pazhanilath representing general consulta. Fr. Joy Inchody represented Indian delegation.

Fr. Babychan Pazhanilath, general consulta for formation, presented the six-year programme for the Order in the areas of vocation promotion and formation, and other delegations/provinces presented their own programmes for the next three years.

The meeting discussed various themes like: Ongoing formation, joint novitiate in the



Together stronger: Participants of the programme pose for a photograph

Asian region and the possibility of promoting vocation from one country to another.

- **Month-long Ongoing Formation Programme for English-speaking countries to be organized by the General Secretariat once in three years**
- **Asian Regional Meeting on Formation to be conducted once in two years**
- **Next meeting to be convened in India on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Camillian Presence in India.**

Samastha Expands Services

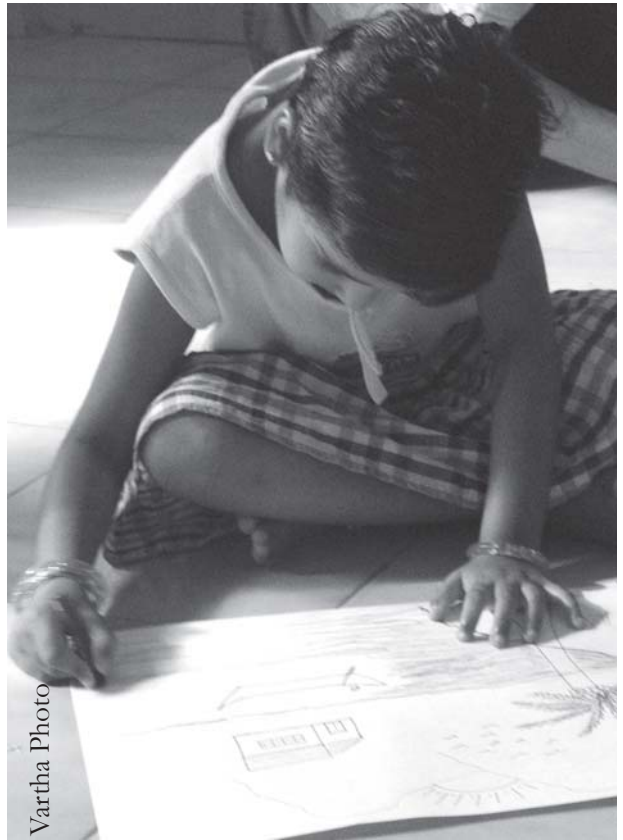
Samastha Correspondent

Bangalore: Samastha expanded its services to many more PLHIV by coordinating 19 Community Care Centres (CCCs) across Karnataka. Camillians, since April 2007, in partnership with Karnataka Health Promotion Trust (KHPT) has been coordinating 12 CCCs under the Project. The success stories of these CCCs were reflected in the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) round

VI selection process of CCCs. Camillians could motivate like-minded religious congregations working in the field of health care to come forward to run CCCs in districts like Bangalore, Chamrajnagar, Tumkur, Kolar, Dakshin Kannad, Chikmagalur, Uttar Kannad, Dharwad, Belgaum, Bijapur, Gulbarga, Bidar, Raichur and Bellary. We are involved in mentoring, supporting and guiding the care programme of these centres.

Drawing Workshop Conducted

Mangalore: For the children of *Snebasadan*, summer vacation meant an occasion not only to play around all the time, but also to be creative. *Snebasadan*, in collaboration with St. Joseph's Engineering college, Vamanjoor, organized a Drawing workshop in which thirty children gave a coloured expression to their imaginations. The children from both *Snebasadan* and *Jeevadaan* participated in the event.



Mangalore: *Snebasadan* goes one step ahead to include continuous dental services in its spectrum of care to the orphaned and vulnerable children.

Snebasadan, in collaboration with Yenepoya Dental College, Mangalore began to provide regular dental check-up and required treatment to children with HIV. This comes as a positive move, as the dental needs of people with HIV are generally ignored.

A few students of the Dental College, under the leadership of Dr. Sameer, visit the centre once in every month with their well-equipped mobile dental van. They render their free service since they make points of research and lessons out of it.

Snebasadan also plans to extend this service to the adults as well.

In A Lost World

Madhu MI



Children who participated in the camp

Twinkle twinkle little star (child)
How I wonder what you are....
Yes, that is the song that rings in my ears at the end of the two camps that are conducted at Snehadaan for the HIV affected children. The camps were named GALIPATA ... come let us fly. GALIPATA means KITE, The title *Galipata* was a flash that came to me, but found meaningful and apt for the camp. KITE needs wind to fly and it also needs to hold on to something or else it will just fly with the wind and get struck in the bushes or fall in a river..... it truly reflects the life of these children.

It was a three-day camp and two camps were conducted; one from May8-11 and the other from May 15-18. In both the camps there were 40 children each. We made a big kite with a white cloth and the children had to dip their hands in colours and print their palm on the Kite declaring their participation in the camp. The three days were filled with lot of group activities, plenty of games, painting to their liking, singing to their wish, dancing to their tunes and an outing to National Park.

Thus the three days passed as children jumped and danced, no child cried or asked for mother or father, may be because they are used to the absence of Mummy and

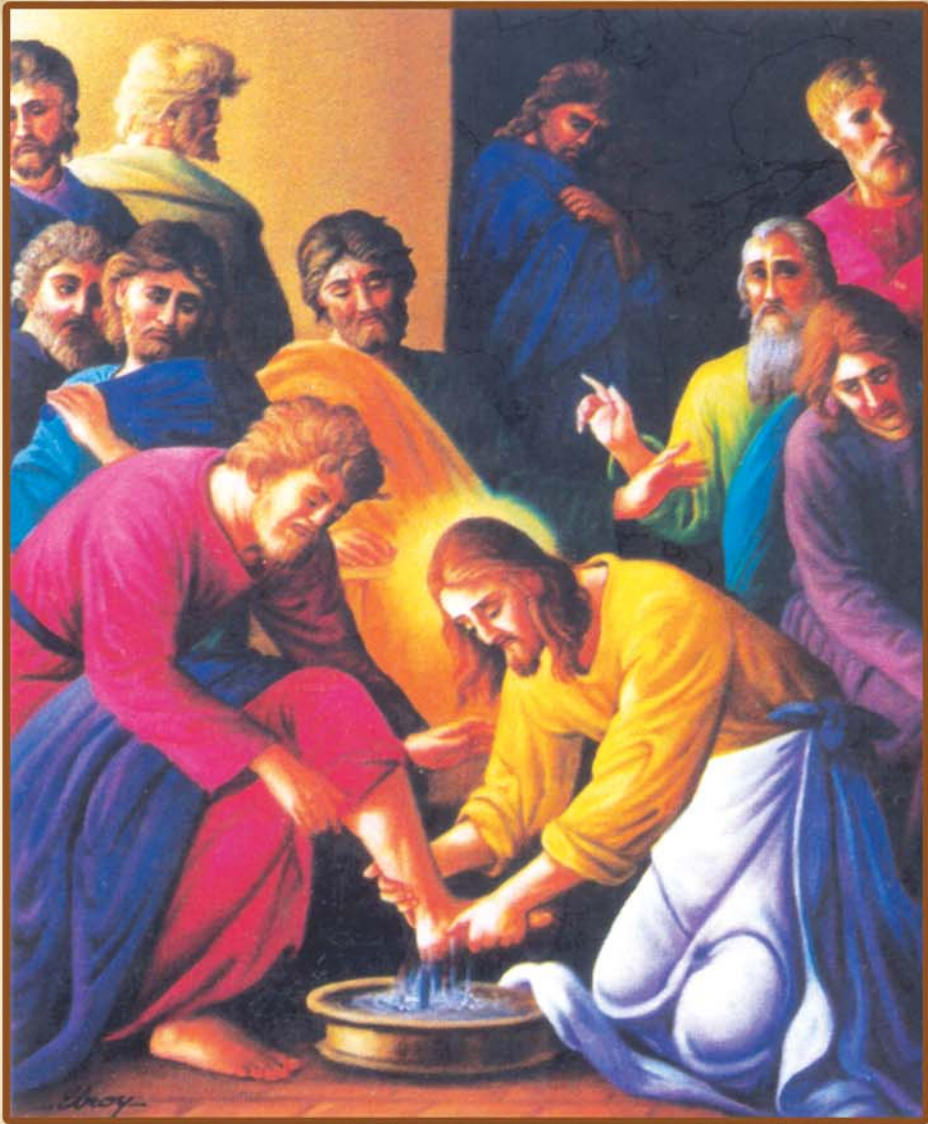
Daddy. As the camp went on we made it point to meet every child to know what is going on within them. Yes we are shocked to know that these kites have no wind to fly and are loosing or lost the ones who holds them. Here are some of their own words:

.... I and my sister go to sell flowers before going to school... a girl says in tears
..... After the death of my father they have taken our property and thrown my mother away..... a boy complaints
.....My mother should get a bigger sickness and die, my stomach burns when I think of her... says an angry girl

Normally when we hear that a child is tested HIV negative we are usually happy. But today I feel we should be equally worried. These children become parents, they feed their parents when it is their turn to be fed, they bathe their parents when it is their turn to be bathed, they start to fight for life when it is their turn to just enjoy life.

With this new step GALIPATA we aim to help these children to go to school, find alternatives like hostels, by giving counselling ... a psycho- social support. Hope that this small step of ours would bring about a little wind that will enable these Little Kites to Fly High.

Serve With Love



“ More hearts into those hands, brothers” - St. Camillus

Wish you all the joys and blessings of the
Feast of St. Camillus (July 14)