



VOL. LIII NO. 2 FEBRUARY 2014 CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE

APPOINTED BY FR GENERAL

Father Rudlof Uher, Provincial of the Slovakia Province (SVK)

Father José Frazão Correia, Provincial of the Portuguese Province (POR)

Father Osvaldo Chirveches, Provincial of the Province of Bolivia (BOL)

Father José Francisco Magaña Aviña Provincial of the Province Mexico (MEX)

Father Brian McCoy Provincial of the Province Australia (ASL)

APPOINTMENTS BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Malpan Varghese – Samanvaya, Kanjirappally

Fr Malayil Sabu – Sameeksha, Kalady

Fr Punchathalackal Rajesh–S.M. Farm, Pariyaram

Fr Kochumethikalam Anil – Santhinilayam, Kottayam

FR ZUCOL LINUS, S.J.

Fr Zucol Linus expired at 10.30 p.m. on 06 January 2014 in Nirmala Hospital, Marikunnu, Calicut. He was buried in Perpetual Succour Church, Mariapuram, Pariyaram on 08 January 2014. (See the Obituary at the end)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

FEBRUARY -2014

- 04 Blessing of New Building, Kanjirapally
- 5-07 Visitation, Edathua
- 09-11 Visitation – Asha Kiran, Mangalore
- 28 Extended consult

MARCH -2014

- 01 Extended Consult
- 02 Consult
- 10-15 Visitation- Christ Hall, Calicut

FROM OUR INSTITUTIONS

CHRIST HALL, CALICUT

The pre-novices were back at Christ Hall on 6 January. Our community offered homage to Fr Linus Zucol. Fr Immanuel, our minister, hoisted the Indian flag on the Republic day at Christ Hall. There was a fantastic basketball match between the pre-novices and the second year Novices who came to attend a Personal Growth workshop in S.R.C. And it ended in a draw. The pre-novices and the participants of the P.G course from S.R.C. had a wonderful cultural evening on 25 January. Sahrudaya Club had their Annual Day celebration on the 26 January. The Annual Day function of the Christuraja L.P. School was conducted with variety of cultural programmes on the 28th.

Rephin Kamal

ST JOSEPH'S, CALICUT

For St Joseph's new year marked another burst of events. Our students bagged several prizes at the state school *kalotsavam* held at Palakkad. The High School section won third prize in *chendamelam* and second prize in orchestra and the Higher Secondary section has won first prize in *bharathanatyam* and *kuchipudy* with A grade. We also got B grade in the violin. It is also to be noted that the Higher Secondary also bagged the A grade for the work experience. Though the examination fever has got its hold on the campus (for plus two and SSLC) it has not dampened the enthusiasm and zeal for the preparation for the Annual School Day celebrations which will be held on 7 February 2014. What is the best way for the alumni to express their gratitude for all the lessons which St Joseph's has taught them? It is to have a reunion basking in their old memories or to help the alma mater to improve its facilities? The alumni of 1996 SSLC batch have combined both. They had a memorable reunion in which they recreated their old school atmosphere; they even held an assembly! They have renovated the old science library into a modern one with the state of the art facilities. It was inaugurated by Fr Provincial who was then their Headmaster. They spent more than five lakhs of rupees for the renovation.

For the community it was a moment of grace as we were having the visitation of Fr Provincial. We, as a community, have thanked Fr Joseph Kallepallil for all his guidance and support as the provincial.

Timu Francis

LOYOLA, ALUVA

We welcomed the New Year with much joy and enthusiasm – the 1st years in the spirit of their Long Retreat, and the 2nd Years carrying the rich experiences of their Work Experiment. On the day of Epiphany a new 'cabinet' with **Joy Cruz** as Beadle and **Anjo Thomas** as Sub-beadle started their service to the community.

During the first half of January we had a special course on Discernment by **Fr Joe Thayil**. Fr Thayil took special efforts to make us understand the meaning of discernment and its importance in our lives. This course has helped us in many ways. Thank you very much Fr Joe!

From 17 to 26 January we the 2nd Years attended a Personal Growth Workshop at SRC, Kozhikode. This workshop helped us immensely in our personal growth. We are very grateful to **Frs Ephrem and Joe Thayil** for guiding us through this workshop with love and professional expertise. Besides, revisiting Christ Hall, meeting old friends there and interacting with the pre-novices, were all experiences of much joy to us.

Republic day was celebrated in the company of our neighbours. During the Flag-hoisting ceremony **Amardeep** gave a well-prepared and thought provoking speech. We are privileged to have **Fr Varghese Malpan** with us for the past few days. Next week he will start some classes for us. **Fr Roy Thottathil**, after his angioplasty, is now convalescing here at Loyola. He is improving day by day. His very presence fills the House with certain artistic aroma!

Selin Joseph

SARVODAYA, EACHOME, TUDI

TUDI bio- farming vegetable cultivation was a good initiative. It received much appreciation from the public. This endeavor has been selected by the Agricultural Department for the best institutional vegetable garden award competition. In our winter season vegetable cultivation we had planted more than 12 varieties such as carrot, beetroot, cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, beans, chilly, long beans, ladyfinger etc. We again started second season vegetable cultivation with the support and guidance from the District Agricultural Department. The Agricultural Department has sanctioned Rs 50,000/- to TUDI for the promotion of bio-farming vegetable cultivation.

Our thudikoottam programme is very active and vibrant. At present more than 100 tribal students regularly participate on every Saturdays in the tudikalakendram. Apart from regular educational programme we introduce folk arts and instrumental music training. This initiative creates interest among the tribal children to go to school regularly.

This year's Christmas celebration of TUDI was unique. Our tudikkoottam member **Miss Sindhu M**, a Paniya tribal woman, who did her studies in and through TUDI, became a permanent teacher in Sarvodaya Higher Secondary School. She is the

first teacher from the Paniya tribal community in Panamaram Panchayath. This event added more happiness to our celebration. She invited her kith and kin and TUDI's well wishers for the celebration, and this doubled our happiness.

In the months of December and January our cultural troupe was invited for several programmes in Wayanad. The notable programmes we participated were the Kerala Science Congress held at Pookode veterinary university, state level tribal festival at Panamaram (*Paithrukolsavam*) and Kerala Trade Fair alliance (*Vithulsavam*) at Nadavayal.

Baby Chalil

LUMEN/SNEHASENA, KOCHI

Snehasena celebrated its 60th birthday in a series of colourful events. It started with various competitions for the students announced months ago. On 11 January, the celebrations were in the mood of a finale. Lumen campus was transformed to a beautiful auditorium decorated with flowering plants and red carpet. Snehasena animators participated in a seminar conducted by **Sri C. Radhakrishnan**. **Master Minon**, the State and National Award winning child artist was an attraction in the seminar as well as the entire programme. **Fr Provincial** distributed mementos to the participants of the seminar. In the concluding public meeting that followed, the **Archbishop Dr Francis Kallarackal** was the chief guest. Collector **Sri. P.I. Sheik Pareed** released the souvenir of Diamond Jubilee. **C. Radhakrishnan** launched Tik Tik Life by handing over three issues of the magazine to writer **Sri. Sippy Pallipuram**. **Sri. Boby Joseph** received the First Fr Mathew Moozhiyil Memorial Snehasena Award. Former directors of Snehasena were specially honoured and felicitated by **Sri. Johny Lookose** of Manorama News. Fr Provincial gave out the prizes to the winners of various competitions. Those schools subscribing Snehasena for all the students were specially honoured with 'Snehasena Vidyalaya Puraskaram.' The august function had its culmination with a rendering of tribal music lore by AADI, Attapady led by Fr P.S. Antony. The entire celebration was coordinated and conducted by a committee led by **Fr Sabu Malayil**, its convenor.

Fr Adappur is hospitalized due to general weakness and continuous cough. He was discharged after 7 days previously but later he was admitted again. He had a mild stroke. Doctors say that he is responding to the treatment and slowly but steadily recovering.

Fr M.J. Thomas gave a special one day seminar on prayer to the staff of Major and Minor seminaries under the Latin Hierarchy at Carmelgiri, Aluva. Fr. Sabu Malayil has moved to Sameeksha to take up the new assignment after his successful accomplishment of Snehasena Jubilee celebrations as the general convenor. He was specially assigned by Fr Provincial to coordinate the function. Lumen community was made cheerful and lively by Fr Sabu's jovial presence.

Vincent Pereppadan

AKJM & SAMANVAYA, KANJIRAPPALLY

The much expected School Annual Day was fêted in a grand manner; parents, students and teachers of the three sections of the school actively played their part in the celebrations held in the Cathedral's parish hall. It was an added enthusiasm for our school because some of ours secured A grades in the state Youth Festival and the school felicitated them for their amazing performance in the competitions. Model exams for Higher Secondary second year students have begun on 30 January.

After the renovation work of the school chapel, a solemn Mass was celebrated on January 5 to commemorate the 50th death anniversary of late **Mr Mathew Kollamkulam** in whose memory the chapel is donated.

The blessing and inauguration ceremony of the **Centre for Ignatian Spirituality and Advanced Indian Studies** was organized in an impressive manner at Samanvaya. **Mar Mathew Arackal**, the bishop of Kanjirappally, blessed the new building and presided over the function while **Mar Mathew Vattakuzhy**, emeritus bishop of Kanjirappally, released the new books of **Fr John Vattanky**: one was a Festschrift in honour of Fr Vattanky on completing eighty years. The book is entitled "An Indian Ending, Rediscovering the grandeur of Indian heritage for a sustainable future", containing articles from scholars all over the world edited by Frs Kuruvila Pandikattu and Binoy Pichalakkattu,



published by Serials Publications, New Delhi, price Rs.995. The other book was the new second edition of Fr Vattanky's book, 'Gangesa's Philosophy of God' brought out in honor of Dr Vattanky by the Adyar Library and Research Centre, Chennai. The blessing ceremony was followed by the unveiling of the new building by **Mar Mathew Arackal** and that for the renovated Samnvaya building was done by Mr George Anathanam, the nephew of late **Fr K. K. Mathew Kallarackal**. This was followed by a public meeting in which **Fr Joseph Kallepallil**, the provincial, welcomed the gathering. **Fr John Vattanky** introduced the purpose of the new institution to the public. Many Jesuits, priests, sisters and well-wishers were specially invited to witness the maiden endeavor of the province. Felicitations were offered by **Fr Tom Panikulam**, and Vicar Generals of the diocese and the function ended with the vote of thanks of **Fr Kuriakose**. At this point in time, the community reiterates appreciation and gratitude for this dream project of **Fr John Vattanky** and implores divine providence for the success of all initiatives in this Centre. Besides, our words are actually inadequate to explain the hard work and artistry of **Fr Kuriakose** - his tireless efforts and timeless dedication in actualizing the construction work of the centre and the renovation of Samanvaya as well. Thanks to our Jesuit friends who came to enrich the program from Christ Hall, Santhinilayam, Aluva, Edathua and Vidyaniketan.

Ramlal Thomas

LOYOLA, TRIVANDRUM

The College has commenced a new course – M.Sc. Counselling Psychology – sanctioned and

approved by the University of Kerala. The last few weeks have been hectic with so many events – Arts/Sports Day, Alumni Day and the PTA Meeting. The Principal, **Dr Elizabeth Mathew** as well as the Head Accountant, **Mr Paul G**, were accorded farewell by our alumni. The certificate course for the year is complete. Preparation for the NAAC accreditation is on. The LES has a group of 35 Swedish students on a three-week visit to our campus. Earlier in the month 44 CMC sisters from all their provinces in Kerala attended a social animation seminar facilitated by **Fr Joye James**. The School celebrated its 52nd School Day. The STD XII boys were accorded farewell. And we are gearing up to draw curtains on to one more eventful academic year.

Devassy Paul

ST XAVIER'S COLLEGE, THUMBA

After a pleasant December, the summer has opened its wings and the campus is getting warmer day by day. As there is a short break from the unending university semester exams, the college union is busy organizing various arts and sports competitions. The sixth semester students are busy with their study-tours and the countdown has begun for them, to say good-bye to the campus.

Fr Biju Joseph, our Librarian, has secured the first rank with a first class in the University of Kerala for the Master in Library & Information Science course. Congratulations to you, Biju. You are sure to be much sought after! Our Rector, **Fr Benny** is very busy with his hectic schedule and is shuttling between Sneharam and St Xaviers. Along with his routine responsibilities as the Rector, Manager, Director of XIM, and Director of Sneharam, he is giving final touch to his Ph.D. thesis. Good luck to you, Fr Benny! **Br. Jacob** is convalescing after he had a fall in the farm. He has been advised to take complete rest for a month. Though resting is not in his nature, he is compelled to do so. Get well soon, Brother! **Frs V. T. Jose** and **Sunny Jose** were the main dignitaries during the annual public meeting of Loyola Social Work Projects, Poovar. **Fr Biju Joy** has been working assiduously to teach Latin while helping Fr Principal in maintaining discipline and preparing a proposal for Ph.D. in Chemistry.

The work of the cricket court is progressing at a faster pace. The leveling of the ground is completed. We are expecting a full-fledged court in another three months. BSNL has erected a mast structure on the terrace of the college building for enhancing the internet connection in the campus. An agreement has been signed to this effect. Some preparatory functions in connection with the Jubilee of St Xavier's College have been over, some are in the offing and the college staff and students are preparing for a golden jubilee fete in February.

On 29 January 2014 there was a meeting of Jesuits in higher education at Loyola Campus, Thiruvananthapuram. We had a fruitful discussion to deliberate on matters affecting both St Xavier's and Loyola Colleges and to respond to the recent letter of Fr Provincial regarding 'change of governance structures in changing times'.

Biju Jay

VIDYANIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM

Welcoming 2014 we attended the New Year thanksgiving adoration and the Eucharist in St Andrew's parish. **Fr Jacob Madukkakuzhy** guided our triduum which helped us to review, reform, renew and to recommit our lives at the service of the Lord. Two Juniors along with Fr Leo attended the funeral of Dr K.J. Mathai, father of Fr Joe Mathew at Calicut... Now we are busy preparing a scientific paper under the guidance of **Fr Joe Mathew**. The highlight of the month was the ecological awareness course which we had in Shenbaganur. **Fr Britto Bonaventure** (MDU), the Rector of St Joseph's College, Tiruchi, was our guide. He shared with us the different aspects of ecology such as eco-faith, eco-theology and eco-justice. It was a wonderful experience for all of us to be with nature and to feel the warmth of our mother earth.

Jaman

FROM DHARMARAM, BANGALORE

My former Rector at the Orientale, Rome, **Fr James McCann, S.J.**, hailing from Chicago and a graduate of Princeton University, was around here for a few days. On 28 January he delivered

the 37th convocation address and distributed the licentiate degrees to the students of Dharmaram Vidyakshetram (DVK). He spoke of the mission of institutions of higher education to foster and transmit culture refusing to accept "a hegemonic culture imposed from above." He reminisced about his secondary school Jesuit teachers who "were outstanding pedagogues" and one in particular, Mark Link, S.J., who passed on "to his students a respect for differences." He paid high tribute to an Irish village schoolmaster Eugene Judge, who "was an astronomer, a botanist, a poet, a painter, a sculptor, a linguist (he wrote to me in Russian), a classicist... An encounter with Mr. Judge was for me... life-transforming." Fr McCann then added the following, which I cite for the record from the printed brochure of his convocation address (p. 12). "I cannot fail to point out how fortunate you are here at DVK to have the presence of an extraordinary teacher. Of course, I am speaking of **Fr George Nedungatt, S.J.**, who joined you a few years ago after retiring from a long and fruitful career as professor of the Pontifical Oriental Institute. I am jealous of you students. You have an unprecedented opportunity to learn from this great man. Be sure to take advantage of him."

George Nedungattu

VIDYA JYOTI, DELHI

The sudden demise of **Br Britto Stalin**, a second year theology student studying for the Delhi Archdiocese, was a great shock for the whole Vidyajyoti family. He was diagnosed with stomach cancer in early December, and was under treatment at AIIMS, Delhi.

As part of the class project, the first year batch put up a theological feat on the theme 'Islam'. **Schs. Sheise** and **Rubil** had major roles in this much appreciated programme. The video presentation led by Sch. Sheise added colour and beauty to it. The students and staff of Vidyajyoti participated in the Dalit Christian Rally to the Parliament in December, expressing our solidarity. The rally resulted in Police action and mass arrest; Delhi Archbishop also got arrested. Ms.

Jaseera of Kerala, who had been agitating against sand mining at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, inspired Sch. Prince Clarence to have a long interview with her. The fruit of it has already appeared in two Malayalam periodicals - Satyadeepam and Jeevanaadam. **Congratulations, Prince.**

Fr K.T .Chandy was a special invitee to the 6th Agri-business summit held at Delhi under the auspices of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India on 13 January.

Augustine Peedikamalayil

FROM LONDON (UK)

Month of January was eventful. London welcomed New Year in a grand manner with variety of programs and fireworks. There was a special Mass at Wimbledon parish during which the transition of the Parish from Jesuits to Archdiocese of Southwark took place. It was a saddening moment for the parishioners as well as Jesuits. British province of the Society of Jesus has been running this parish for the last 136 six years. There was also a special Mass at the Heythrop College chapel to mark the reactivation of the faculties of Theology and Philosophy at the Bellarmine Institute to the Heythrop College presided over by **Archbishop Vincent Nichols** and numerous ecclesiastical dignitaries. This was a pretty huge event for the British Province and for Heythrop College, especially significant as it falls within the 400th anniversary year of the college.

Sch. Joseph Mathew gave a session on Faith Development in Psychological Perspective to the parents of the children who are going to receive first Holy Communion at Farm Street Jesuit Parish. He also guided an Ignatian Retreat in daily life for the parishioners. We are eagerly waiting for the diaconate ordination of our nine fellow Jesuit Scholastics including Sch. Joseph Mathew which is going to take place in the beginning of next month. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Deepak George

GONE FOR THEIR REWARD

Mr Ninan (79), brother of Fr Abraham Pallivathukal at Karuvatta on 15 January 2014

Mr Freddy (44), brother-in-law of Fr Saji Joseph Arithiyal Puraidam on 19 January 2014, at Marianad

Bro. Francis Thachil (81), maternal uncle of Fr Tom Panikulam at Thrunelveli (TN) on 25 January 2014

Fr Everic Pais (BOM- 87/58), 06 January 2014

Fr Simon Furtado (KAR-95/75), 16 January 2014

Archbishop Emeritus Benedict J. Osta, S.J. (82/63) died in Kurji Holy Family Hospital, Patna, on 30th January 2014.



'HAPPY BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY

- 10 Shelton Robert
Thomas Kuravanveliyel
- 13 James Thottakath
- 14 Vincent Pereppadan
- 18 Lijo Antony Pathickal
- 25 Gijo John Kochuparambil
- 26 Sebin Vellamaruthunkal
- 27 Deepak George Edattu
John Thottupattu

MARCH

- 02 Thomas Madathiparambil
- 03 Libin Mathew Puthukadath
- 05 Henry Pattarumadathil
- 09 Roy Mathew Thottathil



IN CHRIST WITH GLORY

FEBRUARY

- 05 (1987) Joseph Edamaram
- 07 (2006) Jose Murickan
- 09 (1958) Aloysius Spinelli
- 11 (2011) Cherian Curiyicad
- 20 (2002) Antony Vachaparambil
- 22 (1982) Philip Veliath
- 28 (2008) Antony Manjil



OBITUARY

FR ZUCOL LINUS, S.J.

(08.02.1916 – 06.01.2014)

Fr Lino Maria Zucol has said his last good-bye. He lived nearly 98 years, 73 as priest, 70 as Jesuit and 65 as missionary in Kerala, his beloved parudeesathottam. Incredible as it may be, it was in Kannur district that Fr Zucol spent a most happy and most fruitful life as a traditional missionary, revered and beloved by all—including Marxists and R.S.S. men-- around his simple abode at Mariapuram, Pariyaram.

Fr Zucol was born on 08 February 1916 as the third child of a farmer couple in an Alpine village of North Italy. Two children died as infants when the mother promised the next child for God's service, if boy. And a boy was born and baptized on the following day as Lino Maria. When he grew up smartly, the father would rather keep him for the farm -- developed with much labour and hard-earned money. Then came a fourth child, who too died. This was a 'sign' for the father who now let Lino join the Minor Seminary of the diocese of Trent. That was when Mussolini attacked Abyssinia to create an empire for Italy. Keen to join the "imperial" forces, Lino slipped out of the Seminary and went home. But soon he repented and, thanks to his mother's pleading, he was re-admitted. Ordained in 1940 Fr Zucol spent 3 War years as assistant curate, when he heard the call of Christ the King. He joined the missionary "military" Jesuit Order. His first option was Japan and the second Africa, but providence had destined for him for the Calicut Mission.

Fr Zucol reached Kerala in **April 1948**. For two months, he "learned" Malayalam, while serving as Minister of the 64-member Christ Hall community and helping as organist at the ordination of Bishop Patroni.

In June Bishop Patroni appointed Fr Zucol parish priest of **Chundale**. Fr Zucol took to his Mission like a fish in water. His parish extended from Chudale to Sulthan Bathery; his flock almost entirely Travacorean settlers, hard working, enterprising

and strong in their Catholic faith. As he had been an expert cyclist and mountaineer as seminarian, Wayanad posed no challenge to young missionary as he enthusiastically responded to the spiritual needs of his flock, covering miles and miles on his cycle. During three years he established many stations, soon to grow into parishes.

In **1951**, Fr Zucol was transferred to **Pallikunnu**. Here his farming skills became handy. He made the extensive church land productive coffee plantation, ensuring work for his parishioners and income for the parish.

In **1954**, Fr Zucol got his first appointment to Chirackal Mission, as Parish Priest at Madayi with Fr Peter Caironi as Assistant! Sure enough, the Assistant left for a new station (Choottad) within a week, leaving the PP to his own designs. Some designs of his own Fr Zucol had by now developed and he was only happy to try them out. His first task was to construct a new church, for which his predecessor Fr John Sequeira had made the plan and collected funds. The new church was built with the fullest participation of the parishioners and blessed in 1957. Bishop Patroni extolled the new church as "the most beautiful" in the Diocese.

In 1955 the Malabar (Jesuit) Region was erected, with Fr John de Roton as Regional Superior. Fr De Roton appointed Fr Zucol Superior of Chirakkal Mission. His headquarters was Pazhayangadi. Fr Zucol was now free to start out, on his own. Fr Zucol founded St Francis Assisi station at Neruvambaram in Ezhom village. At Pilathara he started the parish of the Mother of Sorrows. His work was progressing when Visitor Fr Edward Mann ordered him back to Chundale. Here he had another important task left by Fr John Sequeira: to complete the building for the high school, which started functioning shortly. Fr Zucol was Manager and future Bishop Maxwell Noronha, Headmaster.

Back at Pazhayangadi in **1963**, Fr Zucol sent his new Assistant Fr Jacob Kulangara across the river to Pattuvam, which was to become the most important mission centre of Fr Zucol during **1963-1974**. From here he founded mission stations at far away Kannadiparamba, Arippambra and Karakkundu / Vayad. It was at Pattuvam that Fr Zucol assisted Servant of God Sister Petra Moennigmann to found Dinasevana Sabha - the realization of his long-cherished "big dream" of a Congregation of Sisters at the service of his poor converts in far flung areas.

In 1972 Fr Zucol founded Mariapuram station at Pariyaram on the National Highway. This became his Residence and Center for the rest of his life. From Mariapuram he founded Vellikil, Kurumathur, Poovam, Bakkalam, Mangara, Kayappoil, Kavinchal, Mudikkanam, Sreestha, St Mary's/Pariyaram; also Ettukudukka and Velichanthode —the last handed over to the diocese of Bathery. All the stations founded by Fr Zucol and developed “out of nothing” so to say, grew to be regular parishes --the number of families ranging from 300 to 50. For the communities he founded, he bought land, built houses, dug or bore wells. He has not kept a record about the number of houses built (or helped to build), sewing machines, cows, goats and fowls he distributed. As for cash help, particularly medical help, it ran into crores annually. All the money he begged and got from his hundreds of co-missionaries.

While the foundation of Dinasevana Sabha in 1969 was the realization of Fr Zucol's first “big dream”, the second one was the foundation of the Contemplative Devamatha Ashram at Pariyaram as the “spiritual lightning conductor” for the Mission. Ignatian Retreat Center, Pariyaram, for the continued faith formation of the new Christians, built by him on land assigned for it by the province with money he collected for that purpose and meant to be run by the province, was the happy realization of his third dream.

Among the secrets of Fr Zucol's phenomenal success as a missionary should be counted his beaming and infectious smile, childlike simplicity (being ready to dance at the least stimulus) optimism, systematic work, implicit trust in and warm appreciation for his hundreds of co-workers, patience with endless callers with all kinds of needs, and harmonious relationship with superiors, officials, neighbours of diverse religious and political persuasions. He was proud of and grateful for the citizenship he was granted in 1980.

Fr Zucol was prodigal with his love, which people visibly and generously returned; they enthusiastically came together and generously contributed their hard-earned money to celebrate his Golden Jubilee of priesthood (which seven parishes jointly celebrated) and the Saphthathi

of his priesthood (jointly celebrated by nineteen parishes founded by him). And it was opening of flood gates of love and grief that was witnessed when, after brief stay in Nirmala Hospital, where he was surprisingly diagnosed as having cancer beyond the stage of any treatment, he passed away peacefully, with no struggle; his pulse became weaker and weaker and stopped. Of course he was in love with his priesthood. He used to say with pride and gratitude that he had hardly missed a dozen Masses. His worst suffering at the hospital was his inability to offer Mass. But God saw to it that hardly hours before he died, had the joy of celebrating Mass sitting on his bed with the help of a close friend priest and Fr Superior of Christ Hall.

It was a triumphal journey for his life-less body back from Christ Hall to Mariapuram, stopping on the way at Burnassery Cathedral, Payyambalam (tomb of Servant of God and Fr Zucol's one time spiritual child), Pattuvam D.S.S. Generalate chapel (tomb of Servant of God Mother Petra, with whom he had founded Deena Sevana Sabha), and Bakkalam, Pattuvam and Pilathara churches, three of the 30 plus churches he had built. His people from and outside Mariapuram had been waiting for days praying and fasting to receive mobile mortuary carrying his dead body. Once laid in state on the stage, it was a flow of people from near and far, which stopped only after he was finally interred in the new tomb in the church, after the Mass presided over by Bishop Varghese Chakkalakal, the (Malankara) Bishop of Puthur, Fr Provincial and over a hundred priests, many hundreds of Sisters and around 20000 people.

Santo!Subito! Italian for “Saint! Soon!” was the chant of people at the burial of Pope John Paul II, was in the heart of one and all participating in Fr Zucol's funeral Triumph.

Saints are not miniature Gods but human beings with foibles and failures. And the saintly Father Zucol had his own, and not a few: among these, having his way as he invariably “obeyed” his Superiors, his seeming inability to discipline occasionally erring staff, his inability to retire.

Joseph Kottukapally

KINDLY PRAY FOR MANY GOOD VOCATIONS

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