



Kerala Tidings

VOL. LVIII NO. 11 ■ NOVEMBER 2018 ■ CHRIST HALL ■ KOZHIKODE

FROM THE PROVINCIAL

THE POWER OF SPIRITUAL

CONVERSATION - JCSA DARJEELING EXPERIENCE

For yet another time, after millions of times since the first fathers in Venice experienced the unique power of spiritual conversation, the recent JCSA meeting proved to be an unforgettable experience of the depth and effectiveness of spiritual conversations. For five days, we spent time praying and discerning the Universal Apostolic Preferences for the Society of Jesus. At the end of the process everyone felt consoled, strengthened and confirmed in our choice of the preferences.

With the REGAE II programmes going on let us pray that spiritual conversation becomes a culture in all our communities.

More about the JCSA meeting: The hospitality of the Darjeeling Jesuits reminded us that in the repertory of Jesuit values, hospitality remains one of the most cherished.

On the break day some of us visited three spots which have left indelible memories. First, the Tiger Hills. Waking up at three am in the morning we reached the 8500 ft high hills to experience a life time view of the rising sun, fading moon, glittering Kanchenjunga and Mount Everest. A thousand people thronged the hill top keeping each other warm, sipping the ounce-full coffee sold by chirpy ladies. There was a palpable touch of the divine in the air.

The quarter-century old Gandhi Ashram School in Kalimpong, a unique Jesuit ministry of combining formal school with musical training, and their orchestral performance have left in us rich musical imprints.

An hour at the Jesuit Novitiate and a visit to the Cactus garden were all blessings of a lifetime for most of us.

Thank you Lord. Thank you Darjeeling Jesuits.

M.K. George, SJ

APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Mani Manimala: Loyola Sadan, Poozhanad

Fr Xavier Tharamel: Acting Superior, Sameeksha, Kalady

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER

- 09-12 : Christ Hall
- 13 : Curia meeting
- 17-18 : Kottayam
- 19-21 : Visitation, St. Michael's Kannur
- 24 : Ordination in Christ Hall
- 25 : Consult, Christ Hall
- 26-28 : SICJ

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FINAL VOWS

Fr Antony Mecherry pronounced his Final Vows during a Mass celebrated by **Fr P.T. Mathew**, Acting Provincial, at Sameeksha, Kalady on October 2, 2018.

Fr Binoy Pichalakkattu pronounced his Final Vows during a Mass celebrated by **Fr M. K. George**, Provincial, at Lumen-Jyothis, Kochi on October 19, 2018.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW PRIESTS!

Dn Midhun Francis Kochukallan and **Dn Immanuel Mathew Puthuvalveetil** got ordained priests on October 13 by **His Grace Rt Rev Dr Christudas Rajappan**, the Auxiliary Bishop of Trivandrum Arch-Diocese. The colourful function



at St John Baptist Church, Thumba, was attended by a large number of priests, sisters and the faithful. Congratulations, Fathers!

DATE TO REMEMBER

Dn Bastin Vattanky will be ordained by **Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil**, Bishop of Thamarassery, on November 24 (Saturday) at 2.30 pm at Christ Hall, Kozhikode.

HEALTH BULLETIN

Fr Benny Chiramel had a narrow escape from a bus accident. The bus on which he was travelling from Bangalore to Trivandrum on Oct 7 overturned near Karur near Dindigul. Diagnosis showed that he had a fractured rib, and he was advised complete rest for three weeks. He was well taken care of by the Dindigul Jesuits at Beschi Illam before he returned to Anjengo Oct 16.

Fr Wilson Puthussery was operated upon for prostrate at Lisie hospital, Kochi, on October 23. Presently he is recuperating at Lumen, Kochi.

NEW EMAIL ID

The email id of **Rephin Kamal** was hacked. Please use his new email id: rephinksj@gmail.com

THE JESUIT TEAM IN TRIPURA HAS A NEW ADDRESS

Jesuit Mission, Jamtolibari P.O., Kailashahar, Unakoti Dist, Tripura - 799 227

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON FR KURIEN KUNNUPURAM

A National Seminar on "**Prof. Kurien Kunnumpuram, SJ: A Theological Inspiraation**" was organized at SRC, Christ Hall on 17-18, October 2018. About 40 scholars in Philosophy and Theology came together to deliberate on the theological significance of Fr Kurien and his writings. **Fr M.K. George**, Provincial, inaugurated the seminar. Eighteen scholarly papers were presented. *Freedom and Joy*, the last book authored by Fr Kurien,



was released during the seminar. Though Fr Kurien's physical presence was missing as he was admitted to the hospital, the participants felt his empowering presence. The seminar was an initiative of the Kerala Jesuit Province and was organized by **Frs Kuruvilla Pandikattu** and **P.T. Mathew**.

FROM OUR INSTITUTIONS

CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE

Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram who was a source of great inspiration left us for his eternal reward on October 23, 2018. **Bishop Alex Vadakkumthala** of Kannur Diocese, a student of Fr Kurien, was the main celebrant at the farewell Mass. **Mar Remigiose Inchananiyil**, **Mar Paul Chittilappilly** and **Mar Ephrem Nariculam** (Chanda) also came to pay homage to Fr Kurien. A national seminar on the theological Contribution of Fr Kurien at SRC five days before his death was a fitting farewell gift to Fr Kurien. The 43rd ACPI research seminar on "Philosophies of Transformative Practice: Social Movements in India" was held at SRC on October 19. Nearly 100 philosophers participated.

Jethin

ST JOSEPH'S, KOZHIKODE

Dr. Ali Faizal, an Alumnus of the School and director of MITRA Hospital, Kozhikode was the chief guest for the award day held on October 12 to honour the meritorious students. He spoke in detail about the contributions made by Jesuits in the cultural milieu of the city. Our students won the title of sub district aquatic champions. Our school also came as runner up for athletics at the sub district level.

The junior school organized programmes for the quality enhancement of teachers and students. Experts were invited to conduct seminars to enthuse the students about recent developments in science. Scientists from ISRO helped to organize a seminar on Rocket science. Students of standards

9 and 10 were given a seminar on adolescence by Dr. Bindu

Jose Mathew

TUDI, WAYANAD

TUDI in partnership with Child Fund India is engaged in flood relief work since the end of August. We have covered 52 tribal settlements in the three panchayaths of Wayanad district distributing 837 family kits and wash kits and 1000 educational kits. One notable and creative



step in the post-flood situation is the introduction of Child Centered Spaces (CCS) in 35 villages. Volunteers from these villages underwent a one-day training programme on Oct 27 guided by Mr. Samit Pal, Child Fund India. On October 26 **Fr Baby Chalil** took part in the IAG workshop in the Collectorate on 'accountability to the affected population'. Representatives from all the leading NGOs of Wayanad were present.

The first phase of Lok Manch intervention comes to an end by the end of October. The core team members of the four organisations went for an exposure visit to NAWA (Neelagiri Adivasi Welfare Association) in Kothagiri, a leading NGO in Tamil Nadu. On Oct 28 TUDI conducted the last training programme of the first phase of Lok Manch for community leaders. 45 of them participated in it.

Ten second year novices from Belgaum have come for their work experiment under TUDI. They are engaged in cleaning the wells and helping in other relief works.

Baby Chalil

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL, KANNUR

Basket Ball Tournament: A J Mathew Memorial Ever Rolling Trophy St Michael's Inter-School Basket Ball Tournament was the highlight of the month, and it was a great success. Mr K V Sumesh, District Panchayath

President, inaugurated the tournament in which six schools from Malabar area participated. Silver Hills School, Kozhikode became the champions. A friendly basket ball match between Kannur Press Club and Former Students of St Michael's added colour to the tournament. Mr A J Mathew (Late), former PET of the School, was an efficient coach and trainer of national repute.

John

ATMAMITRA, KALADY

A series of NLP workshops, two basic, one advanced and one masters (all 5 days each) was the highlight of October. It was not only the satisfaction of training trainers and therapists that swept across the minds of Atmamitra team members, but also the joy of having produced a few more who would take forward our work of healing the young minds (and not so young). It was indeed a privileged moment when our trainees together chipped in to build one house for the landslide affected homeless of Wayanad District. Another peak event of the month was the one-day seminar on POCSO and JJ Act attended by 40 people from various walks of life. The programme was delivered by Adv. Mrs. Glory, former member of the Kerala Child Rights Commission.

Toby

LUMEN-JYOTHIS, KOCHI

Fr Binoy Pichalakkattu pronounced his final vows in the Society on 19 October, the feast of St John Brebeuf and Co., in the chapel of Lumen-Jyothis. **Fr Provincial** celebrated the Mass and gave an inspiring homily. Binoy's parents, other members of his family, some neighbours of Lumen, Jesuits from nearby communities and associates of LIPI-Ezhuthu and Snehasena were present.

Fr Mathew Nampiarambil continues his stay in Christ hall for his physiotherapy and treatment. **Fr Adappur** lost his sister-in-law, Dr Sosamma (74), who was known for her medical service to the poor in Pattambi area. Snehasena in collaboration with Kanjoor gramapanchayath and St Joseph's school Chengal conducted a community art workshop. Special thanks to **Fr Roy Thottam**, who stood with the project all through with his artistic skills. **Fr Sheise** offered a session on media awareness for the pre-novices at Pachilakkadu. He is a member of the Jury for the KCBC State level drama competition. Fr Binoy presented a paper on 'Education for Peace' at the Jesuit Higher Education

annual conference held at Chennai. Currently he is at JDV Pune offering two courses; one for philosophers and the other for theology students.

Roy Thottam

SANTHINILAYAM, KOTTAYAM

The community celebrated "Navathi" (90th birthday) of **Fr Joseph Podimattom** on October 18. Over 60 people gathered at Santhinilayam expressing their love and affection for Fr Joseph. His own elder brother, aged 93, spoke on behalf of the family felicitating him and recalling old memories.

As part of the flood-relief work we distributed relief materials (cots, mattresses, kitchen vessels, plywood sheets) to 35 affected families of Snehabhavan students and at the CBR Centres. The work was supported by the Province. Zonal gathering of the Jesuits on Oct 24 brought the scattered communities of Edathua, Kanjirapally and Kottayam for a sharing and agape. Santhinilayam was the venue for the young priests of the province for their Annual Triduum guided by **Fr Joe Pulickal**.

Thanmaya Centre is being utilized for conducting various programmes of different organizations. **Frs P V Joseph** and **T V John** are regular confessors at Parithrana Retrat Centre, Adichira.

TV John & Sunny Mathew

VIDYANIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM

We began the second term in the beginning of October. We all participated in the ordination of **Deacons Emmanuel** and **Midhun**, and it was a memorable experience. We had a four-day course on Psycho Sexual Integration by **Fr Jossy Rodriguez**, Novice Master of Karnataka. **Br George Vattukulam** has gone to Hyderabad to attend the Assistency-level celebrations of the Jubilee of St Alphonsus Rodriguez.

Kerala Juniors

AADI, ATTAPPADI

AADI organized a Seminar on SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act by Adv. Pradeepkumar, District Court, Thrissur. 120 people from different NGOs actively participated in the seminar which was part of our attempts at NGO net working at Attapady. We organized awareness classes on POCSO Act and Child Rights mainly for 100 students of our study centre. A street play training for 150 tribal children was also held at AADI. An external evaluation of Lok Manch in Kerala was conducted at KTDS (Kerala Tribal Development

Society), Attapady. All staff members of Lok Manch, Attapady participated in the state level review meeting held at TUDI, Wayanad. MSW students from Mercy college, Palakad came to AADI for a one-day programme. Two students from BCM college, Kottayam are doing their internship at AADI. Two batches of 22 Capuchin regents came to AADI for ten days of rural exposure. **Fr Binu Micheal** conducted a one-day life-orientation programme for the nurses of St Peter's Hospital, Thavalam, Attapady.

P S Antony

XAVIER TRAINING CENTRE, PACHILAKKAD

The month of October brought us closer to Mother Mary and we had creative Rosaries every evening at the grotto. **Fr Rajesh** gave us a talk on the condition of our environment, and how it worsens by the minute. He also shared about his wonderful mission at Sahajeevanakendram. **Fr Sheise** initiated us into basics of media awareness and the role of media in shaping our perspectives. Sr Agnet CMC gave us a talk on living a holy life in today's world. Sr. Shanty FCC guided us through a course on psychosexual integration. We were able to understand in depth the various aspects of maturity that we need in our relationship with God and others. We successfully presented a short mime about the unconditional love of Jesus at the youth convention of Mananthavady Diocese. We celebrated the feast of St. Jude together with our Panamaram parish. **Fr Midhun**, our new priest, visited us and said the Holy Mass for us. **Fr Jacob Kumminiyil** found XTC a good place for his personal retreat. We presently have ten novices from Belgaum with us for their work experiment. **Fr Saji** conducted a one-day training programme for ORC (Our Responsibility to Children) core team members from twenty ORC schools of Wayanad. He also gave motivation classes for 450 high school students at St Joseph's School, Kallodi.

Nikhil

SAMSKRITI, PARIYARAM

The blessing of the dormitory building of Samskriti Sahajeevanam took place on October 28, 2018 in the presence of a small gathering of Jesuits, neighbouring parish priests, DSS Sisters and close associates of Samskriti Sahajeevanam. **Fr Jacob Kumminiyil**, Superior, blessed the building. Lunch was served at Illam premises for all, especially the labourers who built it. The one-storey building is meant to provide



accommodation for about 40 people who come for overnight programmes. A unique feature of the building is that it gives a panoramic view of the entire area from the terrace. All are invited to have an experience of it. Funds from FACSI and the Swiss Jesuit Province, facilitated by our Province made this venture possible. We sincerely thank them and also **Fr M.K. George**, our Provincial for his sustained interest in this project. **Fr Rajesh's** vision and close supervision of the construction ensured that the building was completed as per schedule.

Mathew Aertthayil

IRC, PARIYARAM

Fr V T Jose was engaged in retreat programs for various groups: seminarians of Kannur diocese, Missionary Sisters of Jesus, Jalandar and DHM Sisters, Mangalore. The IRC team conducted a four-day youth retreat during the Puja holidays besides the regular monthly programmes. **Fr Raju** undertook an overseas retreat cum healing ministry in Tanzania basing at St Joseph's Cathedral, Dar Es Salaam. IRC hosted the second REGAE programme held in Kerala for nearly 30 participants from the southern Provinces.

Raju Augustine

SAMANVAYA, KANJIRAPALLY

The construction of the new shopping complex (Loyola Complex) at Samanvaya is almost complete. The Catholic Syrian Bank has already started functioning in the building. Congratulations to **Frs Augustine Mekunnel** and **Baby Mullooparambil** for their hard work and perseverance with the help of Mr Babu, the engineering & construction consultant. This building with 16 shutters in each floor and having a total carpet area of 21000 square feet (7000 in each floor) is an

asset to the formation area of the Province. Rental negotiations with some banks and private firms are in progress. As a sign of gratitude a dinner was hosted for all the workers and also the auto drivers nearby. All the Jesuits in the community also joined them.



Fr Stephen Chundamthadam presented a paper on "The Spirituality of Fullness of Life: A study based on the writings of **Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram**" at the seminar in Kozhikode organized for honouring Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram. He also participated in the Annual Research National Seminar at Kozhikode organized by the Association of Christian Philosophers of India. At present **Fr Stephen** is away at JDV, Pune teaching a course on 'Indian Spiritual Traditions' for MTh students.

Stephen Chundamthadam

PIUS X ITI, EDATHUA

The entire campus has become alive and vibrant once again. This year we have introduced new functional groups for better functioning of ITI and to foster the leadership qualities of our students. We are collaborating with JOBS, a job consultancy group, for placement assistance to our students. We organized a one-day picnic to Pallaruvi and Thenmala in order to revive the spirit of our staff after the floods. The entire community and some staff members visited the house of **Fr K.P. Mathew** after his brother's demise. We cherished the zonal gathering of Jesuits at Santhinilayam, Kottayam.

Fr Pullattu attended Regae at Pariyaram and returned more energetic. Construction of the first floor of the Jesuit residence has been completed, and the remaining renovation work will be finished soon. We gratefully remember St Xavier's college community, Thumba for their generous contribution to our institution after the floods.

Savy George

LOYOLA, POOVAR

Loyola Poovar has constructed a new house for Ms Helen Peter, a helper in our Crèche, to mark the Golden Jubilee of Loyola Poovar. **Fr Sunny Kunnappallil**, Rector, Loyola Sreekariyam, blessed the house in the presence of neighbouring priests and other guests on October 2. We thank the Province for its generous assistance for the project. We organized a one day workshop on Self Confidence for our final year students. The sessions were animated by Dr. Rishi Sagar, renowned psychologist and global life guru, along with his team. **Frs Prince Clarence** and **Roy Alex** conducted orientation classes for our 1st year students.

R J Thomas

LOYOLA, MUKUNDARA

Fr Mani Manimala joined the Loyola Sadan Jesuit community, Poozhanad on October 21. The community is very happy to welcome him wholeheartedly. The school also gave Fr Mani an exuberant welcome. The KG students were taken on a study tour to the Magic Planet. **Br Mathew** and **Fr Kallepallil** were happy to accompany them. The LP students were taken to Bay Watch Kanyakumari for their outing, and was accompanied by Mr Anil Jose, President of the School PTA. The sports day helped to rejuvenate not only the students but also the staff. The red house won the ever rolling trophy this year. **Fr Tinu** went to Hyderabad to attend the Regae programme. **Frs Manesh** and **Tinu** joined the Young Priests' Triduum at Santhinilayam, Kottayam.

Manesh

TRIPURA MISSION

We have moved to a village called Jamtoli near our karmabhoomi and stay in a rented house. It is a Christian



village where we have 34 catholic families. We use the village chapel as our chapel and we get around 20 persons for everyday mass. We began giving remedial education for school going students both in the morning and evening. A special exam preparation for 20 students, both boys and girls, of 10th standard also is going on. On Oct 2nd **Fr James** gave a talk on POCSSO for all the religious and priests of the diocese of Agarthala; it was organised by the diocese. Our **Provincial** is presently with us to plan the further progress of our mission.

Babu Paul

SATYANILAYAM, CHENNAI

The academic ambience in October is quite tough as we have many exams. The semester exams will get over by November 2. **Frs E.P. Mathew** and **Vibin** were away in Kozhikode, first for being part of the seminar in honour of **Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram**, and later to attend the Christian Philosophers' meeting. It was the turn of Satya Nilayam to organize this annual event, and we chose SRC as the venue. Ninety participants from all over India were present for the four-day meet. **Most Rev. Dr Varghese Chackalackal**, Bishop of Calicut, inaugurated the meet. **Bishop Remigios Inchananiyil** paid a curtesy visit one evening. **Fr Jose Thachil** and the SRC team took care of the board and lodge.

Deslin

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

Fr Salvin, our PCF, visited us on his way back after attending the Assistency meeting of PCFs at Vinayalaya, Mumbai. **Dn Midhun** (now Fr Midhun) left for Kerala for his ordination on October 4. After the examinations in October, the first year philosophers left on a cultural tour to Goa and the second years to Ajanta and Ellora. **Sch Jose Pitappilil** and the would-be deacons left for Belgaum for their diaconate retreat after the exams.

Sch Dijin has been elected a member of the organising committee of the Community Days. He is also the new Province Coordinator at DNC.

Frs Joye James, Binoy Jacob and Roy M Thottam were here to attend the Assistency-level meeting on Peace and Reconciliation. **Fr Stephen Thadam**, who left for his sabbatical from DNC, has come back for a brief visit. **Fr Thomas Karimundackal** presented a paper at the theological conference in Kozhikkode in honour of late **Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram**.

John Tomy

OURS IN MEDIA

Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram, *Freedom and Joy - Reflections of the Essential Characteristics of Christian Life Today*, New Delhi: Christian World Imprints, 2018.

Frs Sanil Mathew Mayilkunnel and Toby Joseph, *Discovering Oneself: The Beginning of a Long Journey* (Value Education Modules on Self Awareness), Kalady: Atmamitra Atmamitra Publications, 2018. [The book can be used as a text for Value Education in English Medium Schools in any class from 8 to 12. Book is priced Rs. 100/- and will be available for schools (Bulk Purchase) at 30% discount.]

Fr Thomas Karimundackal

1. "The Concept of Human Soul in the Bible", in *Bible Bhasyam* 44/2 (June 2018), 136-160.
2. "YHWH, the Good Shepherd: The Exegetical and Theological Implications of Ezek 34:11-16", in *Journal of Sacred Scriptures*, Vol 12/2 (September 2018), 127-146.
3. "Wisdom Metaphors (Wis 7:25-26) and Indian Traditions", in *VJTR* 82/10 (October 2018), 729-751.

GONE FOR THEIR REWARD

Fr Joseph Borg (DUM), 86/70, on 14.10.2018 in Malta. He was in India from 1952 to 1988.

Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram (KER), 87/68, on 23.10.2018 at Kozhikkode.

Mrs Mary Augustine (85), sister of Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram, on 05.09.2018 at Thrissur.

Mr K P George (70), elder brother of Fr K.P.Mathew, on 04.10.2018 in Delhi.



Mr Appachan (72), elder brother of Fr Sony Thazhathel, on 19.10.2018 at Melukavumattom.

Mr E.T.Thomas Aerthayil (98) paternal uncle of Fr Mathew Aerthayil on 20-10-2018 at Vayataparambil.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NOVEMBER

- 06 Thomas Anthraper
- 09 Joseph Puthenpurackal
- 13 Raphael Thottan
- 16 Philip Vattamala
- 17 Jose Valuvettickal
- 19 Sebastian Painadath
- 19 Rajesh Panchathalackal
- 21 Jose Jacob Maruthukunnel
- 22 Emmanuel Puthuvalveettil
- 24 Thomas Njaralamkulath
- 28 Raju Vattaparambil
- 29 Baby Chalil
- 29 Sunil J Padannamakkel
- 29 Xavier Tharamel



DECEMBER

- 03 Linto Kanichai
- 04 Joseph Jose Kadankavil
- 05 Xavier Veliyakam

IN CHRIST WITH GLORY

NOVEMBER

- 02 (1998) Mathew Pulickal
- 07 (2011) George Kandathil
- 09 (1970) John Kizhakethayil
- 09 (2017) John Mialil
- 22 (2008) Varkey Cheruvallil
- 23 (2016) Sabu George Malayil
- 25 (1997) Ignatius Chackalal
- 30 (1991) Antony Palakunnel
- 30 (1993) Sebastian Kappen



OBITUARY

FR KURIEN KUNNUPURAM, SJ

(1931-2018)

Fr Kurien Kunnumpuram is no more physically present with us. We are unable to comprehend the loss to the Jesuit family and to the Indian Church. He was very active till recently continuing his theological writings staying at Christ Hall, Kozhikode. He had a mild stroke in November last year, and he was recovering gradually. On September 25, 2018 he was diagnosed with cerebral bleeding which kept him unconscious despite an emergency surgery. After remaining in coma for three weeks he breathed his last on October 23, 2018.

Born in 1931 at Teekoy in Kerala, Fr Kurien completed his Pre-Degree from Sacred Heart College, Thevara, and joined the Jesuit Novitiate in 1950 at Christ Hall, Kozhikode. He did his philosophy at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur and his theology at De Nobili College, Pune, and was ordained a priest in 1963 in Pune. He was sent to Münster, Germany for his tertianship. He completed his PhD on Vatican II at the University of Innsbruck 1968 – just three years after the Council. The same year he joined the teaching faculty of *Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeth*, Pune, and remained there for 44 years. He served as Dean of the faculty from 1974 to 1977 and as Rector of JDV from 1988 to 1997. In 2013 he returned to his mother province, and continued his creative writing staying at Christ Hall Kozhikode.

Fr Kurien was an enthusiastic, creative and intelligent person. He, along with Francis D'Sa and George Soares-Prabhu, belonged to the second generation of theology professors at JDV, who brought about a culture of freedom and Indian orientation to the campus. As

an eminent thinker and creative theologian, he was instrumental in publishing *Jnanadeepa: Pune Journal of Religious Studies* in 1998. He served as editor of *Asian journal for Religious Studies* for over ten years. He was the first editor of *Encyclopedia of Christianity* published by JDV, Pune. Author of more than 20 books in areas of Church (Ecclesiology), Anthropology and Spirituality, he has contributed significantly to theologizing in the

Indian context. A national seminar was organized on October 17-18 in Kozhikode to acknowledge Kurien's contribution to Indian theologizing; it brought together nearly 40 scholars who presented 18 papers on themes dear to Kurien's heart.

Kurien's last book is aptly titled "**Freedom and Joy**" as it signifies his own life. He was quite convinced that freedom and joy are essential characteristics of Christian existence. The experience of joy of the first Christians inspired Kurien to find

the deep joy of his Christian life. Kurien reminds us of Pope Francis who invites Christians everywhere "to a renewed encounter with Jesus Christ". For "with Christ joy is constantly born anew." The freedom and joy Kurien experienced and radiated made him an enabling, encouraging and empowering presence among us. He could accept and affirm everyone with their differences and unique qualities. He had a warm and personal message to everyone who met him. He tried to reach out to people in a friendly and meaningful manner. Inspired by him, may we all become free and loving persons: enabling, encouraging and empowering each other.

Kuruwilla Pandikattu S.J.

Please send your news before the end of every month.

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