



Kerala Tidings

VOL. LX NO. 9 ■ SEPTEMBER 2020 ■ CHRIST HALL ■ KOZHIKODE

From the Provincial's Desk

What the Killer Flu tells us

Recently I came across an old issue of National Geographic Magazine dated October 2005. An article titled "The Next Killer Flue: Can we stop it?" written by Tim Appenzeller caught my attention. Based on scientific data, it predicted that sooner or later another deadly virus was likely to hit humanity. It was the context of the bird flu that swept Southeast Asia in 2005. Studies indicated that new variants of the virus could emerge any time leading to a global pandemic. Our experience with Covid-19 compels us to look back. Covid-19 was first identified in Wuhan in December 2019, WHO declared it a public emergency on 30 January 2020 and a global pandemic on 11 March 2020. After ten months we continue to fight it. It is not yet time to count the cost, both human and material. The prediction of 2005 was a warning to be vigilant, and we have obviously failed to heed it. We are yet to learn to read the signs of the times!

The recent advancements in the field of medicine and medical technology are astounding. Yet, in utter helplessness, we are forced to fall back on a simple mask and soap water. Is it not a sign of our lopsided priorities? Thinkers like Amartya Sen have been saying it for decades. The neglected area of public health and primary education is taking centre stage again. Lopsided priorities affect not only physical health but also mental health and spiritual health. Learning to discern the signs of the times has become a new urgency.

E.P. Mathew, SJ

APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL

Fr Dionysius Gerard Leonard Vaz (Dion): Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province.

Fr Keith William Abranches : Rector of Collegio internazionale del Gesu, Rome (w.e.f. July 2021).

APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS BY FR PROVINCIAL

Fr Abraham Pallivathukal : Spiritual ministry, Loyola Institutions, Sreekaryam.

Fr Adhul Thomas Ulloppillil : MA English, St Aloysius College, Mangalore.

Fr John F.J. Manipadam: Xavier Training Centre, Prasanthi, Pachilakad.

Fr Sheise Porunnakottu: Tertianship, Prerana, Mount St Joseph, Bengaluru.

Fr Thomas Erinjery : Spiritual ministry, Alleppey diocese.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

NEW PROVINCE COMMISSIONS AND COORDINATORS

Fr Provincial has reorganized the Province Commissions to be consistent with the new Secretariat Structure of the SA Conference. The six Commissions and their Coordinators are:

Development : Fr Deepak Edattu

Education : Fr Tomson Vadakkeputhenpura

Formation : Fr Salvin Kachirayil

Higher Education : Fr Binoy Jacob Pichalakkattu

Service of Faith : Fr Xavier Tharamel

Social Apostolate and Ecology : Fr P.S. Antony

The Province is grateful to the outgoing members of the Province Commissions. The full details of the Commissions and Forums are given on page 7 of this issue of Kerala Tidings.

LEFT THE SOCIETY

Sch Amardeep Pittappillil on August 8, 2020

Sch Jenophine Joseph on August 13, 2020

Novice Simson Sunny left the novitiate on August 15, 2020

Sch Sebin Vellamaruthunkal on August 29, 2020

FROM OUR INSTITUTIONS

CHRIST HALL, KOZHIKODE

The most momentous event of August, just after the Ignatian month, was the annual visitation of **Fr Provincial**. Personal meetings with him enabled us to become more aware of our shared vision as members of the Society. He encouraged the community with words of appreciation and suggestions for improvement. We sincerely thank Fr Provincial for his accompaniment and care for each one of us!

Br Sebastian Valiamattam left us for his eternal reward on 6th August. The funeral service was conducted strictly keeping the protocols of the pandemic on 7th morning with a Mass presided over by Fr Provincial. **Fr Thaiparambil**, in his homily, recalled the long and fruitful life of Br Sebastian and highlighted his eagerness to proclaim Jesus through his writings. **Mar George Valiamattam**, Archbishop Emeritus of *Thalassery* and **Bishop Varghese Chakalakkal** paid their homage to the departed soul.

Fr Joe Thayil was admitted to the hospital for a few days

Pope's Intentions Sept 2020



**Respect for the Planet's Resources
We Pray that the Planet's
Resources will not be plundered,
But shared in a just
And respectful manner**

**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network
Mumbai INDIA**

and he returned to the community with new energy. **Schs Frangle** and **Dijin** left for **Tripura**, and **Sch Vysakh** left for Manipur on 3rd August to do their regency. **Schs Sebastian** and **Cicil** left for Bangalore for their studies on 26th. The community gratefully remembers their lively presence and generous service and wish them blessings in their new mission. **Fr Devasia**, our minister, successfully monitored the construction of a light roof over the kitchen staff block. The community celebrated **Onam** with the entire domestic and office staff on 29th August with an appetizing *Sadya*.

George Karuppallyil

ST JOSEPH'S, KOZHIKODE

Master Aljo Saju (17), a Jesuit candidate doing the Plus Two course here, had a scooter accident in the wee hours of 15th August at his home town Chemperi and succumbed to the injuries. After the forensic formalities, his funeral was held in the afternoon of 16th August in the cemetery of Lourde Matha Forane church, Chemperi (Archdiocese of Thalassery). Some of his classmates, teachers and Fathers from the Jesuit house attended his funeral. May his soul rest in peace!

In the wake of COVID – 19 pandemic, the bishop of Kozhikode has arranged a relay-adoration for 40 days in all the parishes and religious houses of the diocese. Hence we had half a day adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the forenoon of 10th August. Under the auspices of the Alumni Association of the school, 'Onam-kits', containing all the necessary ingredients for a sumptuous Onam lunch for a family, were distributed to 150 deserving students of Std X and Plus Two. To cope with the challenges posed by the lockdown due to COVID-19, both the schools have recourse to online-offline modes of conducting classes. Zoom meetings for the parents and teachers seem to be the order of the day. This process of remote learning will certainly enable our students to become part of a digitally empowered society.

Joseph Edassary

LOYOLA, ALUVA

We celebrated the Assumption of Mother Mary and the Independence Day with a solemn Mass, flag hoisting and parade. Kunjumon Chettan, our cook, hoisted the flag and novice **Rins Rappakutty** delivered the message of the day. We conducted a one-day seminar on the encyclical letter, *Laudato Si* for the novices on Aug 7th. After that, we attended a course on 'Aesthetics and Dance' under the guidance of **Fr Emmanuel Mathew**. As

an outcome of the course, we performed a prayer dance before an audience comprising the Loyola community and the scholastics from Sameeksha. Classes on Jesuit Constitutions have begun for the second-year novices. **Fr Rachans**, our director, took some classes on Ignatian Spirituality for the Jesuit theology students as part of POP at Sameeksha. **Dn Rephin Kamal** reached Loyola on August 21st and is confined to the quarantine. As part of our Onam celebrations, we prepared *pookkalam* and *onasadhya*, and conducted *nadankalikal*. **Fr Immanuel Koyan** was the main celebrant of the solemn Eucharistic celebration on Onam day.

Praveen & Charis

SAMEEKSHA, KALADY

Despite the lockdown, Sameeksha was blessed by the visits of Fr Provincial and Fr PCF. We welcomed **Fr Immanuel Mathew** as the new member of our community. Sameeksha had a meaningful Independence Day celebration with **Fr Immanuel Koyan** presiding over the Eucharist and **Sch Ajith** giving an inspiring homily. A dance performance on the descent of the Holy Spirit by Fr Immanuel Mathew and the team of Juniors added colour. After the Mass,



Fr Sebastian Painadath hoisted the national flag, and **Sch Poly** gave a message. After a tasty Onasadya, **Fr George Nedungatt** shared his memories with the group. On Aug. 19th, one group of scholastics assigned to do college studies left for St Xavier's, Thumba.

Francis Paracka

LUMEN, KOCHI

Fr Sheise Thomas left for Mount St Joseph's, Bengaluru, to attend his tertianship programme. He will be away for about six months. **Fr Roy Thottathil** participated in the Online Art Camp Phase IV, *Solacing Strokes*, organised by CARP. **Frs Kuriakose Puthanapra** and **James Pullokar** are fine and keep themselves busy with the

backyard cultivation as well as gardening, especially in the afternoons. The *onapookalam* in front of the altar in the chapel was the result of Fr James' innovative spirit. The editorial team of *Ezhuthu* magazine had a meeting with selected Jesuits to assess the ministry and its impact. Many acknowledged the unique role *Ezhuthu* has been playing in the intellectual-cultural arena since its launch in 2015. Various suggestions were proposed for the improvement of this ministry. As part of *LIPI-Science Talks*, LIPI organized three webinars in which eminent scientists delivered talks on Mathematics, Statistics and Genetics respectively. The third XLRI-LIPI Certificate program in Peace Studies will be launched on 25 September 2020.

Devassy Paul

SANTHINILAYAM, KOTTAYAM

We bade farewell to **Fr Abraham Pallivathukkal** on August 26th as he has been transferred to Loyola, Sreekaryam. We are grateful to him particularly for his initiatives in improving the farm and the flower garden. On the 31st, we had a joint celebration of Onam and **Fr Pulickal's** 60 years in the Society of Jesus. During the liturgy which was attended by our neighbouring Clarist Sisters also, **Fr Sunny** recalled the great gifts the Lord has showered on Fr Pulickal, and, through him to the Province.

The online counselling programme and legal aid services continue on a low key. Dr. Lissy, director of Snehabhavan Special School, and Mr. Joseph who was managing its Aimanam Annexe have gone on a vacation tour of four months. The teachers of the School stay in touch with the students through regular online activities.

Jithin Joseph

AICUF CENTRE, TRIVANDRUM

Kerala Aicuf and Atmamitra, with the support of the Province, worked to initiate a project called "Kaithangu" relief kits for Poonthura and Chellanam. It became a great support for 436 families in Poonthura and 434 families in Chellanam. The kits contained food items, medicine, and other materials. Food items for Chellanam were purchased, packed into kits and distributed with the help of the Cochin Social Service Society.

The first phase of *To Bloom*, the three-month online leadership training program for aicufers, was concluded successfully. Almost 70 students were trained in different virtual groups for 3 months by the

senior aicufers. The second phase, *To Bloom - 2*, will be launched in the second week of September.

Prince Clarence

AADI, ATTAPPADI

AADI organised a 2-day International Webinar on '*Ecological Concerns during Corona Era*' in collaboration with Tarumitra, Patna and Global Jesuit Eco-Network. About 300 people from various walks of life participated. The resource persons included Dr. Pedro Walpol, SJ and Mr. Brex Arevalo, both from the Philippines, Robert Athickal, SJ, founder of Tarumitra, Dr. Tony Pandanath, SJ, present Director of Tarumitra, Ms. Devapriya Datta, UN representative of Tarumitra, and Mr. Tharakan, an eco-activist. It was an occasion for people and organisations to meet on a common platform to discuss the current ecological issues.

Fr P.S. Antony worked tirelessly to make the webinar a success. Another webinar was organised on August 9th as part of the celebration of the 'World Day of Indigenous People'. For this, AADI collaborated with JAMAI, Lok Manch and other national Tribal Networks. Its focus was on the 'Effect of Corona on Adivasis' Life and Culture'. Over 50 people from nine states participated. The national evaluation of Lok Manch in Attappady was conducted virtually by AADI. The national leadership of Lok Manch was happy about the activities of Lok Manch in Attappady despite Covid-19. The Sultanpet Diocese organized a virtual meeting of priests in which Frs P.S. Antony, **Binu Michael** and **Mathew Aerthayil** participated. After working for two years at AADI, Fr Binu Michael, left for Poovar on 28th August. We gratefully remember him, especially his zealous work of developing the Eco- Reserve of AADI, and wish him well for his new assignment.

Mathew Aerthayil

PIUS X ITI, EDATHUA

This year also the flood caused much inconvenience but without any financial loss. We were prepared to face the annual visitor. Our scholastics from Kanjirapally joined us for the post-flood clean up activity. Mr. Prasannakumar, our Principal, is on leave for a few months and **Fr Rubil** is appointed as the Principal-in-charge for the interim period. Our students are using the online platform for their classes.

The Jesuit Alumni Association of Kerala (JAAK) collected Rs.2, 74,155/- and channelled the amount to coastal villages with special focus on Anjuthengu area. LOBA,



St Xavier's College, Thumba and Pius X ITI were the main contributors. We pooled the money through a series of webinars. Pius X Alumni launched a Rapid Action Team of 15 trained volunteers with special uniforms. They were trained in disaster management with the help of the local police force. They are also getting trained in providing first aid. Pius X alumni produced a musical album also with our alumni/ae across the globe. It is available on YouTube:



https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=21751551822630584&id=100004073610896

Jose Mathew

LOYOLA, MUKUNDARA

Loyola School celebrated Independence Day in the absence of the teachers and students. We decided to conduct the Onam competitions online. A group of teachers under the guidance of **Fr Gracious** has begun the ground-work. The PTA executive meeting also was conducted online. The parents were extremely happy about the service that the school has been rendering through online teaching. Poozhanad area was declared a containment zone for a few weeks. The community had the Onam celebration on a modest scale.

Libin Mathew

INIGO SADAN, BENGALURU

The month of August witnessed changes in the community as the Scholastics, who are completing degree studies moved to their new communities. **Sch Sooraj Sebastian** has left for Christ Hall on 21, August. Soon after, the new members, **Schs Sebastian Chiriyankandath** and **Cicil Valiakarottu**, have arrived. They reached on 26 and joined the community after spending a few days in quarantine. We had a meaningful celebration of Onam with the Jesuit community. On 30th, we began novena for Monti feast (Nativity of Mother Mary).

Rejoy

TRIPURA MISSION

St Mary's School, Jampuijala

With the arrival of **Schs Frangle and Dijin**, our mission team has grown five-member strong. We were introduced to Bishop Lumen and different missions of the diocese after our quarantine period.



We have begun classes for the students of the neighbouring villages from 7.30 to 10.0 and from 11.00 to 2.00. Our focus at present is on four major subjects – English, Maths, Science and Social studies. Students from faraway places are asked to come and stay in the hostel. We hope that by September the school will get back to normal functioning. Two sisters from the **Congregation of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul** take care of the girls' hostel and they also teach in the school. **Fr Syriac Panjikaran** is busy training the nursery teachers as he has already finished the first phase of training for all the other teachers. **Fr Babu Paul** is actively involved in his work as the Principal of the school. **Dijin** is in-charge of the hostel and teaches mathematics and science in the higher classes. As teaching in cluster groups was allowed, we

could conduct regular classes for two weeks along with the village outreach sessions. But currently, all such classes are stopped by the government. As people of the surrounding villages are very poor, smart phones are very rare. The internet facility in the villages also is very poor. Still, we are conducting online classes quite effectively.

Dijin Jose George

Xavier Institute for Development Education (XIDE), Kailashahar

The Jesuit house has expanded as a community with the arrival of **Sch Frangle** as a regent. Two Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy (**Srs Anni, SJA & Sanjukta, SJA**) have joined the mission. The Jesuit house has been given to the sisters, and we have



moved to a new house. The Bishop of Tripura **Rt. Rev. Dr Lumen Montero, CSC** and our parish priest **Fr Lancy, CSC** visited the community, and it was a moment of blessing. We have started a new livelihood project among the Reang tribals in Koskaupara. The project is slowly developing. We have started admissions to the nursery in St Xavier's Nursery School. **Sr Sanjukta, SJA** is appointed as the principal of the nursery. The remedial tuition for primary and high school students was started by the Xavier Institute.

Frangle Xavier

ST XAVIER'S SCHOOL, MOIRANG, MANIPUR (KOHIMA REGION)

Greetings from Moirang, Manipur! I arrived in Manipur on August 4. Two Kohima Scholastics accompanied me from Guwahati. We were tested negative for Covid-19 after six days of quarantine at Loyola School, Bishnapur. I reached St Xavier's School community at Moirang on August 22. The school is located in the midst of

the Meitei people. We have very few Catholic families around here. Online teaching is going on through Whatsapp with special attention to the tribal people on the mountains. I am continuing the classes of the previous regent. I am teaching English for class 4, 5, 7 and 8 and Environmental studies for class 5. We are reaching the end of the academic year. In addition to the teaching, I am also in-charge of the boarding and the Minister of the house. The community consist of two fathers and two pre-novices besides me. Three scholastics of Kohima region from Manipur state joined our community on August 22. They stay here to attend their online degree classes. We celebrated the birthday of Fr Felix Monteiro, principal of the school, on August 23. He will pronounce his final vows on September 5 and take charge as Mission Superior on the same day.

Vysakh Titus

OURS IN MEDIA

Fr Thomas Karimundackal, *Responsibility and Accountability to "Our Common Home": Caring, Nurturing and Sustaining the Environment* (co-ed with Sony Chundattu, CMI), Christ College Pune & Written Words, Delhi, New Delhi, 2020.

Fr Thomas Karimundackal,, "Laudato Si': Pope Francis' Vision for 'Our Common Home' and Humanity," in: *Responsibility and Accountability to "Our Common Home": Caring, Nurturing and Sustaining the Environment*, page 3-25 (see above).

GONE FOR THEIR REWARD

Br Sebastian Valiamattam, SJ (KER), 92/57
on 06.08.2020 at Kozhikode.

Fr Isidore Pinto, SJ (PAT), 78/57
on 07.08.2020 at Patna.

Fr Elias Arockiasamy, SJ (AND), 80/58
on 12.08.2020 at Visakhapatnam.

Fr Gaudentius Kongari SJ, (HAZ), 86/66
on 12.08.2020 at Ranchi.

Fr Patrick de Melo, SJ (GOA), 78/61
on 14.08.2020 at Goa.

Fr Augustine Tigga, SJ (HAZ), 72/51
on 16.08.2020 at Sitagarha.

Fr Gaston Roberge, SJ (CCU), 85/64
on 26.08.2020 at Kolkata.

Fr Walter Stephen Andrade, SJ (KAR), 78/53
on 26.08.2020 at Mangaluru.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

SEPTEMBER

- 06 Sunny Kunnappallil
- 08 Dileep Joseph Adacherry
- 15 Biju Joy Ottakkunnel
- 16 Vysakh Titus Purathur
- 19 Jacob Madukakuzhy
- 20 George Mutholil
- 20 Augustine Peedikamalayil
- 21 Mathew Olnidian
- 22 Joseph Kallepallil
- 23 Midhun J F Kochukallan
- 28 Cyriac Kulirany



OCTOBER

- 01 Babu Paul Kurisinkal
- 01 Mathew Puthiedom
- 02 Rosan Roy Periakottil
- 04 Varghese Malpan

IN CHRIST WITH GLORY

SEPTEMBER

- 05 (1995) Aloysius Del Zotto
- 07 (2002) Joseph Kannampuzha
- 13 (1986) Thomas Thundiyl
- 13 (2011) Varghese Nedungatt
- 20 (2017) Jacob Karthanam
- 22 (1988) **Bishop Aldo Patroni**
- 25 (1992) Augustine Erattamakil



PROVINCE COMMISSIONS AND MINISTRY TEAMS

I. SERVICE OF FAITH [Coord: Xavier Tharamel]

- 1) **Psycho-spiritual** (JIGSA)
Wilson Mulackal (Chair), Ephrem Manikompel
Jose Thachil, Joseph Pulickal
Raju Vattaparambil, Saji Kandassamkunnel
- 2) **Pastoral** (JEPASA)
Raju Vattaparambil (Chair)
Anto Dioneceius, Reji Kunnatheth
- 3) **Dialogue**
Xavier Tharamel (Chair)
Anto Muringathery, Baby Chalil
Midhun Kochukallan, Roy M Thottathil
Sebastian Painadath
- 4) **PWPN & EYM**
Shin Kallungal (Chair)

II. SOCIAL APOSTOLATE AND ECOLOGY [Coord: P.S. Antony]

- 1) **Social Action** (JESA)
P.S. Antony (Chair), Baby Chalil, Benny Chiramel
Mathew Aerthayil, Shin Kallungal
Thomas Kuravanveliyel
- 2) **Lok Manch**
Benny Chiramel (Chair)
- 3) **Tribal/Indigenous** (JEMAI)
Baby Chalil (Chair)
- 4) **Migrants**
Shin Kallungal (Chair)

III. EDUCATION [Coord: Tomson Vadakkeputhenpura]

- 1) **School Education** (JEA)
Tomson Vadakkeputhenpura (Chair),
Anto Muringathery, Devassy Paul Ponthempilly
John Francis Elamkunnappuzha
Jose Mathew Vayalilkalapura, Joseph Kallepallil
Ramlat Mekkulathil, Salvin Augustine Kachirayil
Wilson Puthussery
- 2) **JESUITECH**
Joe Mathew Kunnathoor (Chair)
Jose Mathew Vayalilkalapura

IV. HIGHER EDUCATION_ [Coord: Binoy Jacob Pichalakkattu]

- 1) **College Education**
Sabu Palathanadil (Chair)
Dasappan Vattathil, Saji Joseph Arithiyal Puraidam
Shibu Joseph Malekunnel

2) **Heritage/APA**

George Thenadikulam (Chair)
Dasappan Vattathil, Jose Jacob Maruthukunnel, Roy
M Thottathil, Sheise Thomas Porunnakottu
Sunny Jose Puthenpurayil

3) **Media (JESCOM)**

Sheise Thomas Porunnakottu (Chair)
Biju George Kunnappillil, Binoy Jacob Pichalakkattu
Emmanuel Mathew Puthuvalveettil
Roy M Thottathil, Sony Thazhathel

4) **Youth/Aicuf (JYMSA)**

Prince Clarence Panachithara (Chair)
Ranjit George Irattil, Saji Joseph Arithiyal Puraidam
Toby Kozhuppakalam, Xavier Tharamel

5) **Peace and Reconciliation**

Binoy Jacob Pichalakkattu (Chair)

V. FORMATION [Coord: Salvin Augustine]

1) **Formation**

Salvin Augustine Kachirayil (Chair)
Deepak Edattu, Deslin Paulson Chelatt
Jose Jacob Maruthukunnel, Philip Vattamala
Xavier Tharamel

2) **Vocation Promotion**

Xavier Tharamel (Chair)
Anil Kochumethikalam, Deepak Edattu
Dominic Madathaniyil, Jose Pulinthanath
Prince Clarence Panachithara
Sheise Thomas Porunnakottu
Toby Kozhuppakalam

VI. DEVELOPMENT [Coord: Deepak Edattu]

1) **Development Directorate** (PDD)

Deepak Edattu (Chair), Dominic Palakeel
Shin Kallungal

2) **Finance**

Peter Mulluparambil (Chair)
Mathew Pampackal, Thomas Kuravanveliyel
Toby Kozhuppakalam

3) **Construction**

Joe Mathew Kunnathoor (Chair)
Devassy Paul Ponthempilly, Peter Mulluparambil
Reji Kunnatheth

FORUMS

1. **Jesuit Alumni Association:** Jose Mathew Vayalilkalapura (Chair)
2. **Jesuit Artists:** Roy M Thottathil (Chair)
3. **Jesuit Brothers:** George Vattukulam (Chair)
4. **Jesuit Psychologists:** Toby Kozhuppakalam (Chair)
5. **Theology/Religious Studies:** Mathew Pampackal (Chair)

OBITUARY



BR SEBASTIAN VALIAMATTAM, SJ
(22.03.1928 – 06.08.2020)



Br Sebastian Valiamattam spent his last moments in a manner that appeared to be part of his daily routine. His evening tea was brought to his room at 3.30 pm on 06 August 2020. He got out of his bed by himself, sat on the chair beside his table, and slowly drank his cup of milk/Horlicks. Then he leaned against the table on his right and began breathing heavily. Alarmed by this sudden change, he was carried to his bed. He continued gasping for another ten minutes before he breathed his last. It was so peaceful.

During the past year, Br Sebastian was in a critical condition several times, and every time he would ask for the anointing of the sick and would regain his health. Then he would say, "The Lord has still some more plans for me and I have to finish them soon". He would get back to his routine of reading and writing during the day and at night. Br Sebastian had been suffering from several health complaints like non-alcoholic liver cirrhosis, cellulitis, chronic bleeding of piles, arthritis, and filarial swelling of legs. Despite the pain and discomfort,

Br Sebastian believed with a deep conviction that the Lord had a plan for him and he lived to fulfil that and thereby proclaim and spread His Kingdom. He served in almost all the Jesuit houses and institutions of the Province taking care of the property, buildings, and kitchen. He was known for his availability, devotion to his duties and loyalty to the Society. Development of the Ezhimala property ever stands as a monument of his dedicated hard work. Living all alone for many years in a humble abode with minimum conveniences, he transformed the barren land into a thriving plantation.

Though not an erudite academician, Br Sebastian was a self-made theologian. He dared to print and publish his insights and inspirations in book form or as audio records. Even when his weakening health didn't allow him to do active work, he continued his deep interest in study, reading, reflection and writing. He had an ardent desire to proclaim God's love through his writings, and that was the secret of his inner strength to stay active till his death. He has five books or

booklets to his credit, the latest being "Way of Salvation" published last year. This latest book contains the fruit of his study and reflections on the person of Christ. What Fr General wrote about Br Sebastian at the time of his jubilee is insightful. "You can be described in just one sentence. A man with a poetic heart, scientific bent of mind, theological sharpness and spiritual depth," he wrote.

Br Sebastian was born at Kidangoor in Kottayam, and the family migrated to Nilampoor. He joined the Novitiate at Calicut in the year 1962 which was one year ahead of my joining. From 2014 onwards he has been in Christ Hall, Calicut for rest and medical care. All through these years, he has come across to me as a person of prayer. I used to drop into his room many times in the night to check if he needed help. On most occasions, I would find him either sleeping or at prayer holding his rosary in hand. He leaves behind good memories of dedicated work and a life of holiness. May he rest in peace.

Jose Thaiparambil

Please send your news before the end of every month.
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