



## VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

*Loving Christmas Greetings and prayerful New Year Wishes to you all!*

### **1. Happy Christmas! Happy New Year!!**

Once again we are in the advent season preparing to celebrate the birth of Our Saviour. In this Christmas season, may I wish you all the blessings of Christmas filled with peace and joy.

Pope Francis has announced the “Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy” from December 8, 2015 to November 20, 2016. In fact, the incarnation of God as man is the most concrete form of God’s compassionate and merciful love (*Hesed*) towards humanity. We read in Jn. 3,16 “God so loved the world that He sent his only son ...”. Jesus Christ, thus, has become the face of God’s everlasting compassion towards mankind. Jesus’ love and compassion to the humanity has taken the visible form in the Church and thus Church has become the compassionate face of Jesus in the world. The compassionate face of Jesus expressed in the Church takes its concrete form in today’s world in various dimensions of the human life. Therefore we are called to be the compassionate face of Jesus in our living context. This will be possible when we are able to live a life of justice, mercy, compassion, love etc. as we read in Micah 6, 8. Let us take up this challenge to become the compassionate face of Jesus Christ through a life of compassion and works of mercy. May the Lord of Mercy help us to be ministers of His merciful love in this world. Let the message of the Son of God be thus deeply imprinted in our heart and mind.

Wish you a very happy Christmas and a fruitful and peaceful New Year 2016 too. May the compassionate love of Child Jesus be with you all throughout the New Year.

### **2. Sacerdotal Ordination**

I am very happy to share with you the good news that 6 Rev. Deacons from our Province are going to be ordained Priests in this December 2015 and January 2016. It is the great Christmas gift of the Lord for us. The dates of their Ordination and First Mass are as follows:

- |                                   |                              |           |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Dn. Moolecherry Joseph         | - December 26, 2015          | - 9.00 am |
|                                   | - Kavalam                    |           |
| 2. Dn. Kollakkottil John          | - December 28, 2015          | - 9.30 am |
|                                   | -Thuruthipally, Kuravilangad |           |
| 3. Dn. Pulickakandathil Sebastian | - December 29, 2015          | - 9.00 am |
|                                   | -Mankuzhy, Udumpanoor        |           |
| 4. Dn. Manjooran Jose             | - December 30, 2015          | - 9.30 am |
|                                   | -Muttuchira                  |           |
| 5. Dn. Koshackal Jose             | - December 31, 2015          | - 9.30 am |
|                                   | -Velanilam, Mundakayam       |           |
| 6. Dn. M. Pushparaj               | - January 4, 2016            | - 5.00 pm |
|                                   | - Chengam, TN                |           |



Dear Rev. Deacons, hearty congrats! Joyfully we congratulate you and offer our prayerful best wishes on the occasion of your sacerdotal ordination and first Holy Mass. May Jesus, the eternal High Priest bless you through the intercession of Mother Mary, St. Vincent de Paul and also of our founder V. Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarath that you all may become holy, good, zealous and dedicated priests of the Vincentian Congregation. Let us congratulate also their parents and relatives who have offered them to the Lord and stood by them in their path of total dedication.

### **Diaconate and Minor Orders**

I am happy to inform you that some of our major seminarians are going to receive their major and minor Orders on December 21<sup>st</sup> at Vincentian Generalate, Edappally, at 2.30 pm. Our Brothers studying in Satna Seminary are receiving the Orders at St. Ephrem's Theologate Satna on 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2015. A few Brothers will receive the Orders in Summer 2016. Those who receive the Orders in December are the following:

#### ➤ **Diaconate:**

Bros. Adappoor Joseph, Kulathinkal Joseph, Kunnappilly Augustine, Panthackal Jacob, Velickakathu Thomas, and Vilakunnel Sebastian.

#### ➤ **Sub-Diaconate:**

Bros. Kannamkulam Francis, Kumbukkal Thomas, Kurinjiparambil Terry, Malieckal Thomas, Palackal Joseph, Sonthosh D., and Vaniyapurackal Thuruthel Rintu.

#### ➤ **Karoya:**

Bros. Karingattuparambil Antony, Mulamkombil Devasia, Paimpillil Sebastian, Pendanathu Joseph, and Plavunilkunnathil Thomas.

Dear brothers, on behalf of all the members of St. Joseph Province I extend to you all hearty congratulations, prayers and best wishes. Dear Fathers and seminarians, kindly remember these brothers and pray for them.

### **3. Annual Retreat**

The annual retreats organized by the Vincentian Generalate are getting over. Thank you for attending the retreats. If someone was not able to participate in the community retreat let them please inform the superior General and participate in any retreat for priests and inform him.

### **4. Reception to our New Priests**

We will be giving a reception to the new Priests of our Province and also of other Provinces of the Congregation, at Vincentian Minor Seminary, Pala on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2016 (Sunday) on behalf of our Province. The concelebrated

Holy Eucharist will be at 11.00 am followed by dinner and greetings. May I most cordially welcome all of you to participate in the celebration and greet them personally.

### **5. Quinquennial Course for Junior Priests**

May I request the junior priests of our Province who were ordained in the last 5 years to take part in the Quinquennial Course according to the norms of Canon Law and also of our Statutes. They have been reminded individually by the Superior General too. This course would be held at De Paul Institute from 11 to 13 January, 2016. Let the other members of the Houses make it convenient for the junior priests to attend the Quinquennial course.



## **6. Health Corner**

Fr. Abraham Orathel is still undergoing chemotherapy. He has to take two more injections. He is in the Provincial House. Our senior Fathers in Adichira are all OK. Frs. Kadiyankuttiyil, Kariamadam, Nampiaparambil, and Paliyakunnel Emmanuel are all fine. Fr. Karikulam is also keeping fine in Pala minor seminary.

May I request you to keep them all in your continued prayers. Many thanks to you for your valuable prayers for them and also for finding time to visit them once in a while!

## **7. Happy New Year!**

Praying that the compassionate and merciful Jesus may shower his abundant blessings upon us all and wishing you once again a happy New Year 2016,

Yours lovingly in St. Vincent de Paul,

*George Arackal*

**Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC  
Provincial Superior**



Kottayam  
01-12-2015



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!**

