

**VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION  
ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE**

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

*Prayerful and loving greetings to you all from Vincentian Provincial House, Kottayam!*

**1. Rev. Fr. Paul Kariamadam, VC. R.I.P.**

Rev. Fr. Paul Kariamadam, our former Superior General and a renowned biblical scholar and professor of Bible, a devoted and zealous member of our Congregation has gone to the heavenly Father to receive his reward on 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2016, following a heart problem. He was somewhat sick for a month with cold and cough and some breathing difficulty. He was admitted in the S.H. Hospital for a couple of days earlier because of this. He had gone home for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of his Priestly Ordination on January 22 and the Jubilee Mass was scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> January. But in the midnight of 22<sup>nd</sup> he had severe breathing difficulty and was immediately taken to St. Mary's Hospital in Thodupuzha. As they suggested Dialysis he was taken to SH Medical Center in Kottayam on 23<sup>rd</sup> where he was being medically treated for years. He seemed to improve but on the evening of 26<sup>th</sup> January it became suddenly serious and by midnight he was put on ventilator. He was given the anointing for the sick in the night itself. He went in to a coma stage. His relations came to visit him in the hospital. By evening the functioning of the vital organs seemed to fail and by 5.45 pm on January 27, 2016 he breathed his last in the presence of our Fathers and his Rev. Sister. After the prayers and office for the dead his body was kept in the mortuary in SH Medical Center by 7.30 pm. After the recitation of the first part of the requiem prayers for the priests at 3.30 pm on January 28<sup>th</sup> the mortal remains of Fr. Paul was taken to VH. Adichira by 4.30 pm and V. Rev. Fr. Paul Puthuva, the Provincial Superior of the Mary Matha Province, officiated the second part of the requiem prayers. Thereafter many priests had come and prayed for him.

Mar George Punnakkottil the Bishop Emeritus of Kothamangalam, Mar Thomas Chakiath the Bishop Emeritus of Ernakulam-Angamaly, and Bishop Sebastian Thekkethecherril the Bishop of Vijayapuram came to Adichira and gave messages of condolence and offered prayers for Fr. Paul. Some other bishops, especially Baslios Cardinal Clemees, Syro-Malankara Major Archbishop, and Mar Mathew Vaniakizhakkal, and V. Rev. Fr. John Kandathinkara, the Provincial Superior of St. Thomas Province had called and conveyed their prayers and condolences. Superiors General, Provincial Superiors, and representatives of the seminaries, and different religious communities were there to pay homage for him. The Vicars General of different Dioceses were also there to convey condolences and offer prayers.

The concelebrated Requiem Mass in connection with the burial ceremony on January 29, 2016 was celebrated at 2.30 pm by His Excel. Mar George Madathikandam, Bishop of Kothamangalam together with V. Rev. Fr. Varghese Parappuram, VC our Superior General and the provincial Superior Fr. George Arackal and the 2 brother priests of Fr. Paul namely Rev. Fr. Jose and Rev. Fr. Augustine and also other Fathers. The last funeral Rites were officiated by Mar George Madathikandam. During the Holy Mass Rev. Fr. George Manalel gave the homily narrating beautifully about Fr. Paul and also referring to his various qualities. At the beginning of the Mass the special condolence message from the Major

Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church, George Cardinal Alencherry, was read out. Cardinal had emphasized Fr. Paul's contribution to the Church in India, esp. Kerala through his scholarly biblical reflections and writings and his much appreciated books on Biblical themes. Many priests and seminarians of our Congregation, many religious and diocesan priests of the locality, a good number of priests whom he had taught in the seminaries belonging to different Dioceses, many sisters, his family members, relations and friends took part in the function. More than 150 priests participated in the concelebrated Mass.

May God grant him eternal rest! **R.I.P.** The 6<sup>th</sup> day of his demise was commemorated at Adichira on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at 9.30 am with concelebrated Holy Mass and Prayers.

Fr. Paul was born on 30-09-1939 at Vazhakulam and he made his first profession in the Vincentian Congregation on 09-05-1962 and perpetual profession on 09-05-1965. He had his major seminary studies in Poonamallee. He was ordained on April 18, 1966 at Poonamallee. In 1967 he was sent to Rome for higher studies. He took Licentiate in Oriental Theology, and Doctorate in Holy Scripture from Pontifical Biblical Institute. After his return from Rome he served in different capacities in different Vincentian Houses namely Angamaly, Aluva, Adichira, Kothamangalam, and Nedumkunnam. He served as the Superior General of the Vincentian Congregation from 1988 to 1992. He had been rendering service as Rector of Aluva Vidyabhavan from 1979-to 1984. He was a much sought after Professor of Bible in many seminaries. He was the regular professor in Aluva seminary and had taught in Kottayam, Trivandrum, Shillong, and Bangalore seminaries. His renowned publications in field of Bible are: *Vachanamalyam*; *The Questions People ask of Bible*; *the Saccheus Story*; *Prakasathinte Rahasyangal*; *Biblical Treasures*; *Bibilile Durgrahavachanangal*; and *Kuriavanum Kure Chinthakalum*. He has also authored many scholarly articles in *Vachanolsavam* and other magazines.

Fr. Paul was a prayerful, simple and humble man, very hard working, and studious and also humorous. He was ready to take up challenges and sacrifices. He was straight forward and open and would speak out what he feels. It was during his time that the Congregation was divided into Provinces and he could manage the process of division very peacefully. He was the pioneer behind our Generalate in Edappally and our Philosophate. He together with his Council managed to collect funds and buy the land and construct the buildings for Generalate at Edappally and the land for Philosophate in Bangalore and begin the construction there.

His scholarly reflections on Biblical passages were greatly appreciated by all. His classes were well prepared, precise and clear though very deep and textual, and communicated to the seminary students in the best way possible. The students were eagerly waiting for his classes.

He was always a compassionate man always ready to help others especially the poor and sidelined ones. His initiative and foresight in beginning the cancer care center in Trivandrum is praiseworthy. He had indeed a soft heart for others especially the suffering ones.

He was a lover of nature. Always eco-friendly and bio-friendly! He planted fruit trees and other special trees in all the Ashrams where he had served. He was interested in agriculture and farming. And now we are enjoying the fruits of his labor.

He was a lover of the Vincentian way of life. He had that longing for it. His trust in God is praiseworthy. It was indeed a very difficult time for him to buy the land for Generalate and Philosophate with practically no funds at hand. He and his Council had struggled hard for raising the needed funds. His determination and far-sight were commendable.

His devotion to the Miraculous Medal of Bl. V. Mary has inspired him to spread the devotion among the people and he has been instrumental in the construction of Grottos of Miraculous Medal of Mary in our Ashrams at Kothamangalam and Nedumkunnam. His life style was inspiring. It has inspired many, especially in the field of biblical research. His hobby was reading. Even when restrained to the bed with

the amputated leg he used to get many a book newly published on Bible and read them and take notes of it. He was never tired of reading!

His attitude towards the personal incapability (due to high diabetes and consequent amputation of the leg) is commendable. For 6 months after the amputation he was very sorrowful. But then he accepted the situation and came out of it and he began to live within the given frame. And he was thankful to the Lord for all this. He took it positively and no more murmur about the disability. He did not also want others to show compassion towards him because of his disability.

He was indeed a multi-talented person. He has given us all a very good lesson – how to live in a real difficult situation without mobility. Still he managed heroically, we can say. **Let us also try our best to imitate these positive qualities of his life.**

Let us also continue to pray for him. May the good Lord grant him eternal rest and happiness in the heavenly kingdom in the presence of His holy Mother Mary and the saints. As we all know **we have the obligation to offer one holy Mass for the repose of his soul in accordance with the norms of our Constitution. (Practical Norms No. 112a).** If someone has not yet offered the Mass for him kindly do it at the earliest.

## **2. Sacerdotal Ordination**

As you all know we had 6 priestly Ordinations this year. Dear New Priests, I welcome you officially in the name of all the members of the Province to our priestly koinonia. May I wish you, on behalf of the members of the Province, best wishes, congratulations and prayers. You are indeed the Christmas and New Year gift of the Lord for the Province. The dates and parishes of their Ordination and First Mass are as follows:

Rev. Fr. Moolecherry Joseph	- December 26, 2015	-Kavalam
Rev. Fr. Kollakkottil John	- December 28, 2015	-Thuruthipally, Kuravilangad
Rev. Fr. Pulickakandathil Sebastian	- December 29, 2015	-Mankuzhy, Udumpanoor
Rev. Fr. Manjooran Jose	- December 30, 2015	-Muttuchira
Rev. Fr. Koshackal Jose	- December 31, 2015	-Velanilam, Mundakayam
Rev. Fr. M. Pushparaj	- January 04, 2016	-Chengam

We thank the Lord for the gift that you are and we pray that the good Lord may continue to bless you, your parents, brothers and sisters, and relatives.

### **➤ Diaconate and Minor Orders**

I am happy to inform you that some of our major seminarians received their Diaconate and minor Orders in December 2015. Those who received the Orders in December are the following:

#### **❖ Diaconate**

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

Brothers Philip Kochutharayil and Davis Kanayinkal will receive their Diaconate on March 18, 2016.

#### **❖ Sub-Diaconate**

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

#### **❖ Karoya**

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

Dear brothers, hearty congratulations, prayers and best wishes to all of you. As you have come one more step closer to the altar we all wish you the best and will support you with our continued prayers. May the Holy Spirit guide you and make you grow to the stature of Christ Jesus the eternal Priest.

### 3. Annual Retreat

The annual retreats organized by the Vincentian Generalate are over. Thank you for attending the retreats. If someone was not able to participate in the community retreat let him please participate in any retreat for priests and inform the superior General before the end of March 2016.

### 4. Health Corner

Fr. Abraham Orathel is undergoing radiation therapy. He has to take it for 5 more days. He is keeping well. Fr. Jerish Kunnekattu has already undergone 3 courses of chemotherapy. He is also doing well. Our senior Fathers in Adichira, Rev. Frs. Kadiyankuttiyil, Nampiarambil, and Paliyakunnel Emmanuel and Fr. Karikulam in Pala are keeping fine and healthy.

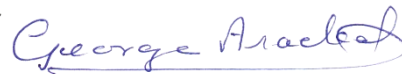
May I request you to keep them all, especially Frs. Orathel and Kunnekattu, in your continued prayers. Many thanks to you for your valuable prayers for them and also for finding time to visit them once in a while!

### 5. Transfers and Appointments

Fr. Chiraparamben Varghese	Rector, Vincentian Vidyabhavan, Alwaye
Fr. Choorapuzha Varghese	Assistant Popular Mission Director, V.H. Adichira
Fr. Kodakkallil Clement	Teacher, De Paul Academy, Ron
Fr. Kollakottil John	Assistant Finance officer, V.H. Adichira
Fr. Koshackal Jose	Assistant Secretary to Provincial Superior, V.P.H. Kottayam
Fr. Kuncherakkattu John	German Studies, V.H. Thiruvananthapuram
Fr. Manjooran Jose	Assistant Finance Officer & Assistant Vocation Promoter, V.H. Chethimattom
Fr. Moolecherry Joseph	Bursar, De Paul Public School & Finance Officer, V.H. Thodupuzha
Fr. Padinjarekuttu Sebastian	Parish Priest, St. Joseph's Church, Babusahibpalya
Fr. Pulickakandathil Sebastian	Assistant Parish Priest, St. Joseph's Church & Asst. Administrator, Logos Retreat Centre, Babusahibpalya, Bengaluru
Fr. Pullattu Mathew	Assistant Director, Krupalaya Retreat Centre, Kattappana
Fr. Pushparaj M.	Asst. Director, Boys' Home, Adaikalapuram & Teacher of De Paul schools
Fr. Thundathikunnel Sebastian	Internal Auditor of the Province, V.P.H. Kottayam

Wishing you all a blessed Lenten season and praying for you,

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent de Paul,



**Kottayam**

**20-02-2016**



**Fr. George Arackal VC**

**Provincial Superior**