



Circular 6/2016



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 call to mind in this Christmas season the great love of God to touch the human life with his own bodily presence on this Earth. On this occasion may I wish you all the blessings of Christmas filled with peace and joy. We may be never able to comprehend the mystery of Incarnation – why God became man. The only reason is **‘He cares for you’ (1 Pet. 5:7)**. It is the sign of his **compassion and mercy**. As the Special Jubilee Year of Mercy has been just concluded in Rome and elsewhere, this year’s Feast of incarnation, the Feast of God’s compassionate Love and Mercy, has a great relevance for us. The love of God towards mankind may not seem very logical to human brain very often. As the Scriptures testifies: **‘... as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts’ (Isaiah 55:9)**. When we submit ourselves to this loving God, He will do wonderful things for us beyond our thoughts and imaginations. This thought gives strength and meaning to our community living, ministries and above all our lives themselves. We may not be able to comprehend the present-day people and situations around us, but Incarnation invites us to the insight that no individual or situation comes to my life unless it is let by God. For, He cares for me.

I take this occasion to wish you a very happy, fruitful and peaceful New Year 2017 too. May this year be an opportunity for us to witness to the mystery of Incarnation and the mystery of God’s compassionate Love.

2. Sacerdotal Ordination

I am very glad to share with you the good news of the Ordinations of our Rev. Deacons. We have 8 Rev. Deacons from our Province who are going to be ordained Priests in this December 2016 and January 2017. They are the Christmas gifts for us from the Lord. The dates of their Ordination and First Mass are as follows:

1. **Dn. Velickakathu Thomas** - **December 27, 2016** - **9.00 am**
Palavayal,
(cell no. 7907042027)

2. **Dn. Kulathinkal Joseph** - **December 29, 2016** - **9.15 am**
Ezhalloor, Thodupuzha



- 9495386443
3. **Dn. Vilakkunnel Sebastian** - **December 31, 2016** - **9.00 am**
Maniamkunnu, Poonjar
8606761033
 4. **Dn. Kochutharayil Philip** - **January 02, 2017** - **9.15 am**
Kumaramkary, Changanacherry
7559044840
 5. **Dn. Kunnappilly Augustine** - **January 03, 2017** - **9.15 am**
Karimannoor, Thodupuzha
8547532421
 6. **Dn. Panthackal Jacob** - **January 4, 2017** - **9.30 am**
Kaloor
8547292460
 7. **Dn. Adappoor Joseph** - **January 04, 2017** - **2.30 pm**
Keerampara, Kothamangalam
9645429731
 8. **Dn. Kanayinkal Joseph** - **January 5, 2017** - **9.30 am**
Ponkunnam
8606561869

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 22nd at Vincentian Generalate, Edappally, at 2.30 pm. Two of our Brothers studying in Satna Seminary are receiving the Minor Orders at St. Ephrem's Theologate Satna on 20 December 2016. Those who receive the Orders in December are the following:

➤ **Diaconate:**

Bros. Kannamkulam Francis, Kumbukkal Thomas, Kurinjiparambil Terry, Malieckal Thomas and Palackal Joseph.

➤ **Sub-Diaconate:**

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



➤ **Karoya:**

Bros. Chamblangal Xavier, Erupulamkattil George, Kizhakkekara Kuruvila, Kozhuppathadathil Alex John, Kuthiramattathil Antony, Mandapathil Mathew and Vazhachalil Antony.

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. Pakal Veedu @ Anthinad

As the Jubilee year of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis is coming to a formal conclusion, a monumental and fitting follow up and embodiment of Mercy is being born by the name De' Paul Jeevan Jyoti Pakal Veedu – 'a day care-home' - for our beloved Senior Citizens in Anthinad parish and the surroundings, in the diocese of Pala, Kerala. The centre will be built & managed by the Vincentian Congregation in close collaboration with Anthinad Parish in the land donated by Rev. Fr. Joseph Thayil, a priest of Jambua Diocese.

Mar Mathew Vaniyakizhakkal inaugurated the meeting and blessed the Foundation Stone of the Pakal Veedu building complex on 13th November, 2016. Thirteen senior most and respected citizens including Rev. Fr. Joseph Pampackal (86) were honored with 'Ponnada' on that day. The meeting was presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Kollithanathumalayil, the Vicar General of the diocese of Pala.

.4. 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 participate in the last retreat to held at Edappally in December 2016. Kindly bring your Mass account books too.

5. Reception to our New Priests and Golden Jubilee of Ordination

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 8th January 2017 (Sunday) on behalf of our Province. We are also celebrating the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Joseph Arackal, VC. The concelebrated Holy Eucharist will be at 11.00 am followed by dinner and greetings. May I most cordially invite all of you to participate in the celebration and greet them personally.

6. 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 Cannon Law and also of our Statutes. They have been reminded individually by the Superior General too. This course would be held at



Divine Retreat Ashram Faridabad from 16 to 18 February, 2017. Let the other members of the Houses make it convenient for the junior priests to attend the Quinquennial course.

7. Visit to Europe

I am planning to visit Germany, Austria and Italy (from November 27 to December 21). I will be making the canonical visit in our Houses, and visit our members. I will meet the Diocesan officials of the Dioceses where our members do ministry. It will be an opportunity also to visit some funding agencies and benefactors to thank for the projects helped by them. There will be the blessing of a residential building for retreats in Berlin (taken in rent) on December 12, 2016. Anyone can contact me through the Superior of Berlin House, Rev. Fr. Thomas Ouseparambil, while in Germany (cell: 0049 17645650422). My cell phone number in Europe will be: 0049 15124970952. May I request you to kindly pray for the success of my visit. Thank you! **During my absence the Asst. Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Jose Chettoor, VC will discharge the duties of the Provincial Superior.**

8. Health Corner

Rev. Fr. John Malieckal has undergone a keyhole surgery in Caritas Hospital to remove the blood-clot in the brain. He is recovering from it now and is in Adichira Ashram. Other senior Fathers in Adichira are all OK. Rev. Frs. Luke Nampiaparambil, and Paliyakunnel Emmanuel are all fine. Rev. Fr. Sebastian 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! May I cordially thank you on their behalf.

9. Happy New Year!

Praying that the compassionate and merciful incarnate Son of God may shower his abundant blessings upon us all and wishing you once again a happy New Year 2017,

Yours lovingly in St. Vincent de Paul,

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



Kottayam
21-11-2016