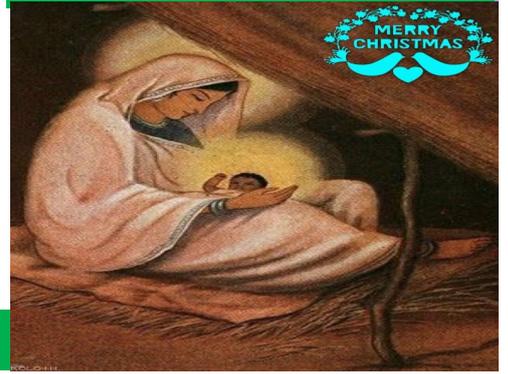




Joy to the world.....



Dear brothers and sisters,

Greetings from Bangalore. Hope this PIANO note will find you all keeping well.

We are in the Christmas season. It is a season of joy. Each day we seek this joy. We desire it for our world, for our families and for our religious communities. We seek it in our priesthood and in our consecrated life. Many a times it may seem like an elusive reality. But is it really elusive? Is it beyond our reach? Is it, as it were, a pie in the sky? If yes, our lives here on earth has no meaning! Our life as Christians has to be joyful. To be a Christian and not be joyful is a contradiction. So, what is this joy? It is, I believe, an encounter. It is an encounter with the person of Jesus in our lives who assumed our humanity. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus" (*Evangelii Gaudium*). Joy is to be experienced in that discovery of our humanness that has been perfected by God becoming man!

The mystery of incarnation that we celebrate in this Christmas season is not something of an annual occurrence. Whenever or wherever we discover true humanity in ourselves as well as in others, it is an experience of true joy. And we all yearn for the fullness of that joy. He has come so that "your joy may be full".

During this season of Christmas, we ask ourselves how God has entered into our lives throughout this year that is coming to a close. A year God has touched us in so many ways with His joy. "With Christ joy is constantly born anew" (*Evangelii Gaudium*).

Looking back over the past months since our Vice Province Congress, I can see many occasions of divine outbreak in our life as a Vice Province. To start with, it was a joyous occasion to gather ourselves together in Congress. Even though one particular issue, namely the topic on constructing a school on the Carmelaram property, kept us somewhat divided depending on who allied with whom, I believe there was certain bonhomie and a spirit of true fellowship and brotherhood.

It brings great joy to the leadership when the brethren manifest great generosity and are willing to sacrifice and move to different communities and take up various ministries. Among them there were three religious who reached out to foreign missions. I was amazed by the joy and enthusiasm of Fr. Roy in taking up the challenge of going to the missions in Jamaica, West Indies. The generosity of Frs. Tomy and George who made themselves available to be part of the international community in Highgate, London is also to be commended. Fr. Febin will soon be joining the Sacred Heart community in Louisville, Kentucky.

Our two parishes celebrated their annual feast day with much fervour and gaiety

Various committees, both permanent and ad hoc, on Vocation Promotion, Formation, FMT, School, etc had their meetings over these past months. Although it may seem boring and more work, I am sure coming together as brothers has its upside.

There was also joy in welcoming back a couple of our brothers from overseas mission. Fr. Xavier Ubagaraswamy returned from having served in Australia for many years. Fr. Juan Louis has back to India after ministering in the Philippines for a number of years.

Studies can be quite taxing and might seem like a drudgery. But we have the joy of seeing some of our confreres engaged in academic work in a number of fields both in India and abroad.

Thus, in spite of some minor setbacks and disappointments, both on a personal as well as Vice Province level, there have been many occasions of true joy. It is the result of discovering how God has been active in and through us - an encounter with Him! Encounter with Him always entails a mission. "The Gospel joy which enlivens the community of disciples is a missionary joy" (*Evangelii Gaudium*).

Therefore, my prayer is that we may continue to live out of this joy in the various places and ministries that we find ourselves in. May we be able to bring this joy especially to those who have been deprived of a dignified human life.

As we step into another year, I hope and pray that it may bring many occasions of joy and manifold blessings upon all of you. Wish you all continued blessings of this Christmas season and may you have a joyful and peace-filled new year.

May our blessed Mother intercede for us and may St. Paul of the Cross and all our Passionist saints and beatified pray for us

Pax et Bonum,

Paul Cherukoduth, CP
Vice Provincial

UPDATES

JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

MEJO	04
ANTONY X	11
XAVIER USA	19
WISLON	26
JERALD	26

PROFESSION

GEORGE	09
--------	----



Missioning of Fr. George who would be a member of Passionist community in Highgate, London.





A fruitful year of new experience and learning

As I complete a year of regency in the Archdiocese of Imphal, without any hesitation or doubt, I would say that it was an year of God's grace and blessings. My regency in the Archdiocese of Imphal was indeed a fruitful one with lots of new experience and learning. I was sent to a village called Tuaitengphai a small parish with 30 Catholic families which also has 5 other small villages as its substations. I had the privilege of doing my regency under the guidance of two different parish priests as the first one was transferred half-way through my assignment. For the first four months I was with Fr. John Shinto and when he was transferred to another mission station, have been under the care of Fr. Stephen Baite, the new parish priest. I am really



grateful to them as they took care of me very well, giving all the considerations and privileges with so much love, care, and concern. And it is their support, guidance, and encouragement that made my regency more meaningful.

I was given the charge of a parish boarding consisting of 29 boys which enlivened my days with so much energy and fun. I was also given opportunity to teach with the same responsibility of a class teacher in the parish school of 225 students from K. G to 8th standard.

The parish priest gave me lots of opportunities and occasions to conduct different camps and seminars for the youth and children. To encourage and mould me, the parish priest and the parishioners gave me lots of openings to give talks at different times to the parish community. I also got chance to visit the different villages (substations) of our parish including one of the villages with a distance of four hours walk. The parishioners, the students and the villagers here are very kind, and loving with so much care and concern. And finally, I am greatly thankful to my Passionist family who gave me this opportunity to experience one of the fruitful and meaningful years of my life.

Jerald CP

Manipur, North east India



“My Regency: An exposure to a different experience of life”

When I was in the minor seminary, I used to hear so many regency stories from my formators as well as from other priests of the Congregation. The stories that they narrated really inspired me and that time I had only a theoretical knowledge. But I got my opportunity to have a practical knowledge and to experience the life in the mission areas. I did my regency for one year in the Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur. At the very outset, I acknowledge whole heartedly that it was a wonderful experience for me. I was given one of the remotest mission parishes, named Good Shepherd Parish, Kasom Khullen, Ukhrul district, Manipur. It takes three hours of drive from the Bishop’s house of Imphal. The place is very beautiful surrounded by so many mountains and this parish is located on the top of a mountain. When I reached this parish, I felt as if I was in another world, because there was no electricity, no internet, no proper transportation, etc. But recently things have been improving, albeit gradually. There are seven villages under this parish and it takes 1-2 hours to reach each village from the parish centre. I got the opportunity to visit all these villages and to exhort the faithful to remain steadfast in their catholic faith. In the hilly areas, all the people are Christians, but majority of them are Baptists, since the Baptists arrived fifty years before the Catholic missionaries got to Manipur. The faith of the people is not deeply rooted, because they were either believers of other faith traditions or animists before becoming Christians. So the faith of the people is very shallow and they come to Church only on Sundays and that too only a very small number!

The people of this area belong to one of the major tribes called Thangkul Tribe and their language is Thangkul. They are mostly farmers and it is a hand to mouth existence. So they find it difficult to send their children to the School. Since the School in which I was teaching is run by the Archdiocese, the poor children are also given special concession to study along with other children. There were 372 students in the school coming from different villages ranging from K.G. I to Class X and of them 72 boys are in the boarding. I was teaching different subjects from class VI – X. The students were very loving and respectful towards me and I enjoyed each and every moment of my teaching in this school. The intellectual capacity of the students here is lesser compared to the students of city schools, but they are naturally gifted with many talents. Looking after the boys in the boarding was a tough task. However, when I give some corrections or advice, they used to respond positively which showed their love and respect towards me.

I also had to face some difficulties as well. The people of this area are good, but rather tough to deal with. Once a man wearing underground dress entered my class room and started lashing one of the students while I was taking class. I had to catch him and send him out. Recently, one girl from K.G. II was abused by one local youth of Kasom Khullen. I also had some tough time with transportation. I used to go every month for recollection day to Imphal and I found it difficult to go and come back to my parish. There used to be landslides very often blocking the road and many times I had to stay in some other places. The people of this area eat all kinds of animals, birds, leaves, insects, etc. that is to say everything that fly in the sky except aeroplane and everything that moves on the earth except vehicles. At times I too had chances to taste some of those things. Overall, this year has been one of the best pastoral experiences for me and it gave me a chance to learn about new culture, language, people, etc. The life that I experienced here taught me that one can also live without electricity, internet, etc. in this 21st century. I have enjoyed my regency here and as a Passionist, I feel being called to come and work for these people who are poor and backward in many areas.

Muthappan Silvadasan C.P.

Manipur, North East India.



Congratulations! Fr. Francis is appointed as a member of college of consultors in the Archdiocese of Port Moresby



Christmas celebrations



Bishop Joseph Karikkasery conducts pastoral visit to the Passionist parish, Kerala



St Thomas the Apostle, Vice Province, (THOM)
Congregation of the Passion,
Passionist Jyotir Bhavan,
Carmelaram, P.O. Bangalore - 560035.
Karnataka, India. Mob: +91-8129195929
Email ID: thomviceprovince@gmail.com,
clpaulcp1@gmail.com
Verba volant, scripta manent!