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Volume 5, Issue 11

## The 3D's of Maturity

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings from the serene surroundings of our Novitiate house in Nilambur! I trust that this will find you all doing fine.

A few days ago, I attended the annual celebrations of an NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) which focuses on women's empowerment projects. I was invited to the function not only because I was interested in the topic but also because I was able to help the NGO on occasions with required references and thus helping them procure project funding. Having had the opportunity to watch closely the growth of this NGO for the past number of years, I can say that it has grown leaps and bounds. It has grown from being a **dependent** NGO to being an **independent** and **interdependent** entity.

We can see this same dynamic if we look closely the growth of an individual into a mature person or of a successful organization. The human person begins his/her life as an infant, totally **dependent** on others. He/she is directed, nurtured and sustained by others. Thus gradually, over the ensuing months and years, the person becomes more and more **independent** – physically, mentally, emotionally and financially – until he/she can essentially take care of himself/herself. As the person matures, he/she becomes more and more aware that being too independent, without reference to others, will eventually be a diminishment.

Prof. Stephen R. Covey uses this maturity continuum to argue for the paramount importance of **interdependence**. He says that dependence is the paradigm of *you* – you take care of me. Independence is the paradigm of *I* – I can do it; I am self-reliant; I can choose, etc. Whereas, the interdependence is the paradigm of *we* – we can do it; we can cooperate.

When I look back over the years since the foundation of the Passionist Congregation in India, I can see the growth of our Vice Province in the same maturity continuum. In the early years we were totally dependent on the Generalate for everything – for the service of missionaries as well as for the financial resources. Then, as the Holy Cross Province (CRUC) took upon itself the care of THOM, it continued to nurture and support us. And, as we continued to grow in numbers and the ability to take responsible decisions, we became increasingly more independent. This status of independence was recognized and ratified by the 46<sup>th</sup> General Chapter in 2012. Since then we have grown further to become more interdependent. Thus, we are able to send missionaries to other parts of the Congregation sometimes on an inter-Configurational arrangement and, at other times, on a bilateral basis.

I am sure that this sense of interdependence will continue to help us as we move on in our mission as Passionists. Dialogue is on with some entities to send a couple of our religious to those places where there is a real felt-need.

As we get closer to the end of another year I would like to thank all of you – the THOM members, PASPAC Configuration as a whole as well as members of the CP family and all the benefactors for the continued prayers, support, hard work and the mutual help.

I wish you all a fruitful Advent and a meaningful preparation for the birthday of our Saviour leading to a happy conclusion of 2018.

Paul Cherukoduth,  
Vice Provincial

**UPDATES**

**DECEMBER**

**Birthdays**

AJESH	04
BENSON	06
NAMBIKAI	07
JACKSON	07
LOUIS	12
NOBLE	12
JOSE	28

**ORDINATION**

BRUNO	04
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**Feast days**

Christmas	25
Holy family	30

**Rally by the children and the parishioners through the streets of our parish, Pallipport as part of Christ the King feast day celebrations**



**Constructions in progress....**



**Kindergarten school construction in Randham, Tamil Nadu.**



**Residence at Ashram JXP, Cochin**

**MISSION SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS IN OUR PARISHES**



**Randham Korattur, Tamil Nadu**



**Randham Korattur, Tamil Nadu**

**Palliport, Kerala.**



**Memorial service for the dead observed as part of the Jubilee celebrations in Palliport Parish, Kerala.**

**Fr. Antony Arackal, C.P., the Novice Master, initiating children into the world of letters according to the local custom of Kerala at our novitiate house in Nilambur.**



**Fr. Xavier Valiaprambil, C.P., the first THOM ordained to celebrate 60th birthday.....**



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