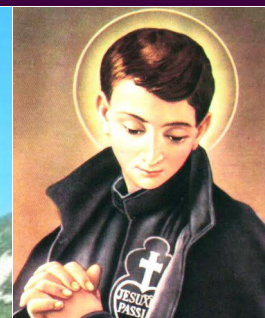




Volume 9, Issue 01

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Dear Friends,

Fraternal greetings! I hope that this will find you all doing fine as we go through this latest wave of the pandemic.

This latest wave had an impact on our preparations for the upcoming congress. The pre-congress, scheduled to be held at Carmelaram in the first week of January, had to be rescheduled and was finally conducted online from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. However, it was well attended and went on smoothly without major technical snags. A big thanks to Fr. Gwen, our General Consultor, who guided the discussions with great acumen, wisdom, and insight. Thanks also to the Preparatory Committee and to everyone who participated.

We had another great celebration this month. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January, deacon Binod Kisku was ordained to priesthood. He is our first Passionist to be ordained from the State of Bihar in the north of our country. About ten of our confreres attended the celebrations. We have another ordination coming up. Deacon Devaraj will be ordained to the Sacred Order Priesthood on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February in the State of Tamil Nadu.

And so goes the life....Here is another story for our reflection.....

One day, a young boy came into a monastery and asked the Chief Monk, to give him some job and food. The Chief Monk asked him about his qualification, any experience in any job, and what he knows? The boy replied: "I have not studied in school. I have no proficiency in any work. I can do some stray jobs like washing dishes, cleaning up the cottage, etc. I do not know anything else". The Chief Monk asked: "are you sure you do not know anything else?" The boy replied: "Oh, yes, Sir, now I remember. I can play Chess". The Chief Monk said: "Oh that's good. Now I shall test you in your game". He asked another monk to come with a chessboard and coins and asked a table to be placed so that the game could start. Before the start of the game, the Chief Monk said: "Now see, I have a sword in my hand. If anyone is defeated, his nose will be severed". The boy became nervous. However, without any other way to go, he agreed. The game started. Initially, the boy made some mistakes in his moves. His position on the board became almost hopeless. He then concentrated completely on the game and improved the position to a winning level. Then he looked at the monk sitting opposite and playing. He was not quite nervous but obviously disturbed a little. The boy then thought: "I am a useless fellow in life. Nothing will change the world if I lose the game and lose my nose, but this monk, is a well-qualified person, doing meditation and is sure to attain spiritual heights. Why should he lose?" So, the young boy deliberately made a wrong move, so that the monk sitting opposite could take advantage and win the game! The Chief Monk suddenly flashed his sword on the table. All the coins flew in different directions. He then said: "The game is over. Boy, you are IN. You will be with us in the monastery hereafter". The boy did not understand. The Chief Monk explained: "I did not ask you to play chess to find out your calibre in the game. But I was looking for two essential qualities that are necessary for self-realization. One is the MAHA PRAJNA - **Great Awareness!** I found that in you. When your game became positionally bad, you put your entire concentration and attention on the game and improved your game. The second one is MAHA KARUNA - **The Great Compassion!** I found that also in you. When your opponent was about to lose the game, you looked at him with great compassion and deliberately made a wrong mistake so that he could win. These two qualities are adequate to do SADHANA and make Life Meaningful. Life isn't about winning or losing - there is nothing to win and nothing to lose". (Adapted from a story by Fr. George Stephen, SJ)

With every good wish and prayer,

Paul Cherukoduth, C.P.  
Vice Provincial

UPDATES

FEBRUARY

Birthdays

Fr. Sebastian KX 21

Ordination

Fr. George 10

Fr. Siby 14

Fr. Antony J 16

Fr. Antony X 19

Fr. Sony 25

Feast

Commeration of the Passion 25

St. Gabriel Pos-senti 27

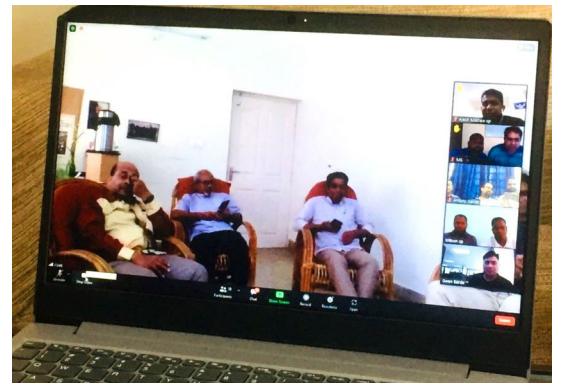
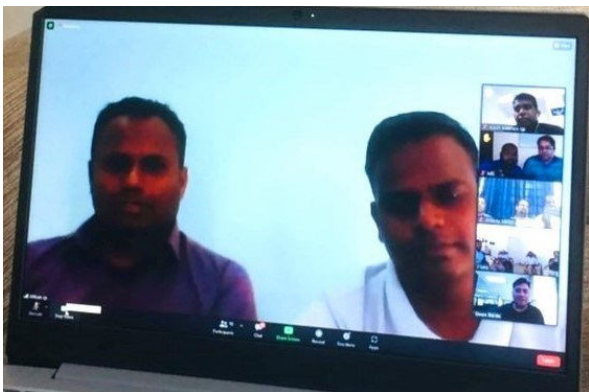


Congratulations dear Fr. Binod Kisku CP on your Ordination to Priesthood. The Ordination ceremony took place at Mariyam Pahari in the Diocese of Bhagalpur.



Fr. Binod and the dignitaries were given a traditional welcome prior to the Ordination Ceremony.





**THOM– Vice Province celebrates Pre-Congress Online, Fr. Gwen Barde CP, General Consulor for PASPAC facilitated the meeting from the Philippines. (Above)  
Kochi community celebrates Pongal. (Below)**





**Members around Bangalore came together at Carmelaram community to celebrate Pongal. (Above Left)  
Students of minor seminary are waiting to receive St. Sebastian festal procession  
at the gate of Ashram JXP, Kochi. (Above Right)**



**Silver Jubilee Couple of Palliport Parish were felicitated by Most Rev. Joseph Karikasery at Kottapuram. (Above)  
Special Blessings for the cattle on the occasion of Pongal Celebration at Randham Mission. (Right & Below)**



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Verba volant, scripta manent!**