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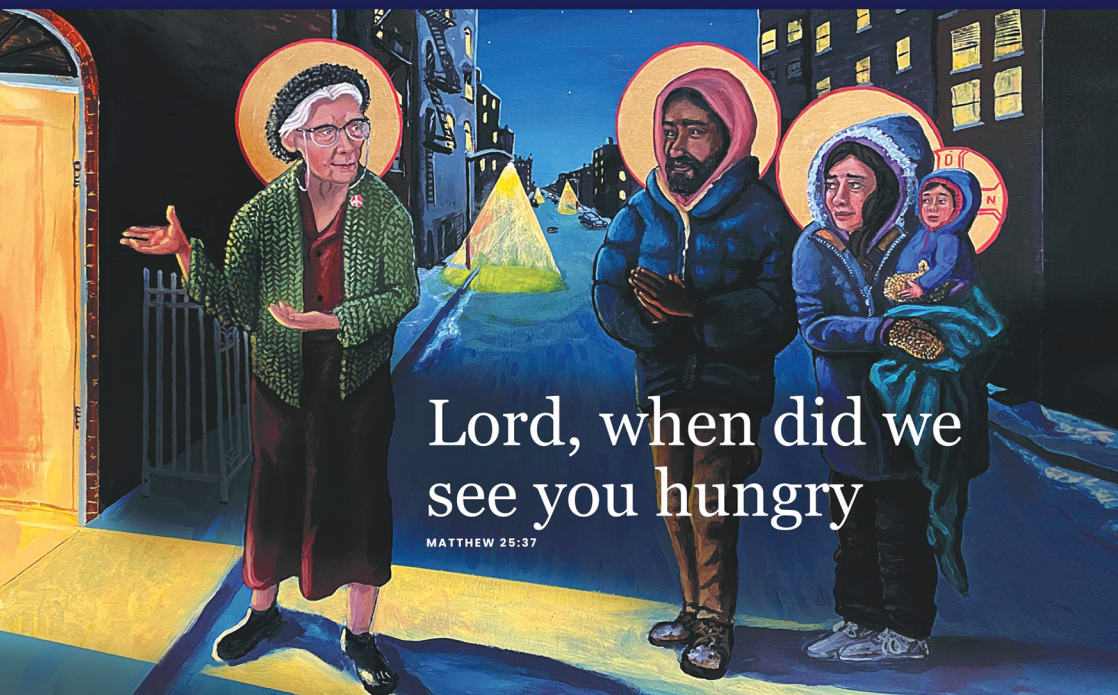
UBI CARITAS ET AMORIBI DEUS EST



DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE

SEPTEMBER 2024

Catechetical Sunday - 22.09.2024



Lord, when did we
see you hungry

MATTHEW 25:37

"The Catechism was not written to please you.
It will not make life easy for you,
because it demands of you a new life."

Pope Benedict XVI



Closing ceremony of the one-month Residential Catechists' Training at Madhu Shrine organized by the North - East Bishops' Council - 03.08.2024



Grand Parents Day celebrations at Orr's Hill Parish - 04.08.2024



Grand Parents Day celebrations at Alles Garden Parish - 04.08.2024



Feast of St. Mary's Cathedral, Trincomalee - 15.08.2024



Bishop's Message



My Dear Fathers, Sisters and Brothers,
Greetings in the name of Jesus!

Among many programmes for the month I like to highlight two important events, namely “Jubilee Year 2025” and National Catechetical Sunday.

1. “Jubilee Year 2025”:

It has been declared by the Holy Father Pope Francis that 2025 will be Jubilee Year titled “Pilgrims of Hope”. Pope John Paul II announced at the end of Great Jubilee 2000 that children will become leading players at the next Jubilee in 2025. Catholic Church has been celebrating every 25 years as Jubilee Year with the sole purpose of renewing Herself. This idea emerges from the scripture.

The process was initiated by Pope Francis with the Papal Bull of convocation “*Spes non Confundit*” on 9th May 2024, the solemnity of the Ascension of Our Lord. Pontifical Council for the Promotion of New Evangelization was given the task of preparing the agenda and programmes for the Jubilee Year 2025. Jubilee Year programmes will be inaugurated with the opening of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica by the Holy Father on 24th December 2024.

In our diocese we already had an initial meeting preparing the stage for an in-depth discussion. Second meeting with all priests will be held on 10th September and programmes and activities will be finalized. Responsibilities will be shared among priests, religious and laity. It is a Year of Hope. We are pilgrims of Hope. As leaders of the church, we have to be beacons of Hope. Our people are with spiritual and material needs. Let us as diocesan family take extra effort to help our faithful and people in need meet these needs.

We have our parish programmes, feasts and organized liturgy to guide our people spiritually. I have been asking all parish priests to form and activate parish Social Action Group. This Social Action Group is supposed to identify people in need and explore possibilities to help them come up in life. Let us actively take part in giving our people Hope in Jesus and Hope in the Church during the “Jubilee Year of Hope 2025”.

2. National Catechetical Sunday:

National Catechetical Sunday will be celebrated on 22nd September. It is an occasion to appreciate and boost our catechists in all parishes. Catechesis is the effort of the church to make disciples of Christ, involving doctrinal instruction and spiritual formation through practice of the faith. It is the systematic presentation of the fundamentals of Catholic Doctrine regarding faith and morals. Their sources are Sacred scripture, tradition, the magisterium, writings of Fathers and Doctors of the church and Liturgy. In the 16th century Council of Trent mandated publication of the Roman Catechism. In 1992 new Catechism of the Catholic Church was published. They are useful sources to guide our faithful. Catechesis is an ecclesial act, a mandate given by the Lord (cf. Matthew 28: 19 – 20) to proclaim his passion, death and resurrection. It is accompaniment, education and formation in the faith and for the faith. It can be seen as pre-evangelization, first proclamation, catechesis and on-going formation. Our cordial dealings with non-Christian brethren, our social action towards them in the form of education, supply of relief items, livelihood, renovation and construction of houses etc. do not go beyond pre-evangelization. We remain in the comfort zone without openly preaching the WORD. Yet we have systematic programme on catechesis and ongoing formation.

Catechesis is an ongoing formation. It is a living encounter with Christ. Jesus called his disciples, led them to the mysteries of the Kingdom, taught them to pray, proposed gospel values, initiated into the life of communion with him and among themselves and into the mission. This teaching and guidance molded the life of Christian community as we see in Acts 2: 42 – listening to the teachings of the apostles, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers.

Through Baptism and Confirmation all are called to witness the Gospel, proclaim it by word and example of Christian life. There are multiple ministries and services with which the Church realizes her mission of evangelization. Among them ministry of catechists play a significant role. Catechist is a witness of faith and keeper of the memory of God. He/she is also an effective accompanier and educator of those who are entrusted to him/her by the church.

“The Bishop is the first preacher of the Gospel by his words and by the witness of his life” (John Paul II, Pastores Gregis). He is to promote catechesis and provide different forms of catechesis necessary for the faithful in the diocese. The priest is Bishop’s first co-worker and first catechist in the parish community. He has the responsibility of bringing to life, coordinating and directing the catechetical activity of the community that has been entrusted to him (Directory on the Ministry and Life of Priests). Similarly deacons and consecrated persons are to collaborate with parish and diocesan catechetical programmes. Lay persons – parents, women, grandparents, teachers also play a vital role in transmitting Christian faith by their word and life of witnessing. Finally we have our volunteer lay catechists who spend a few quality hours every week teaching our children gospel values and accompanying them throughout the week. Catechetical centre is established to attend to their education and formation. The Diocesan Director of Catechetical Apostolate together with his team organizes and conducts programmes for catechists and children.

We thank and appreciate everyone involved in forming our children in Christian faith and values. All are entrusted with this task. Let us appreciate and support one another to create a beautiful Christian atmosphere in our communities. As usual we expect every parish to organize this National Catechetical Sunday in a meaningful manner.

God bless,



✠ **Rt. Rev. Dr. Christian Noel Emmanuel**

Bishop of Trincomalee.

Remembering with Gratitude

Birthdays:

- 04.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. E. A. J. Soyza
- 20.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. J. Gerald (OMI)
- 21.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. X. I. Rajeeva
- 21.09.2024 - Rev. Sr. M. Nivedha (AC)



Ordination Anniversary:

- 05.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. S. S. Johnpillai (22 Years)
- 05.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. X. I. Rajeeva (22 Years)
- 05.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. Eugene Paul Jonathan (22 Years)
- 07.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. A. Rohan Bernard (25 Years)
- 15.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. A. Arulanandam (53 Years)
- 21.09.2024 - Rev. Fr. E. A. J. Soyza (52 Years)



Feast Day:

- 21.09.2024 - Rev. Sr. M. Nivedha (AC)



Congratulations

We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful, extend our warmest greetings and congratulations to Very Rev. Fr. A. Christurajan (FC) for being elected for the second term as the Regional Superior of the Brothers of Charity.

Pope's Prayer intention for the month of September 2024

For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live. Itatimium publinverfec





Role of Priests in Catechesis

(This is an address given by Cardinal Late Castrillon Hoyos, the then Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy on November 14, 1998 to those participating in a seminar on implementing the 1997 General Directory of Catechesis – this is only a part of the address).

This is an interesting topic and one which currently has a certain urgency. It pains me to have to say that a severe examination of conscience is required in its regard.

Let us begin with *Lumen Gentium*, 28: “Priests are ordained to preach the Gospel, feed the flock and celebrate divine worship.”

This duty derives from the sacrament of orders which the priest has received. The General Directory for Catechesis emphasizes this aspect more forcefully than the Directory for the Ministry and Life of Priests:

“The function proper to the presbyterate in the catechumenal task arises from the sacrament of holy orders which they have received. ‘Through that sacrament priests, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are signed by a special character and so are configured to Christ the priest in such a way that they are able to act in the person of Christ the head.’ In virtue of this ontological configuration to Christ, the ministry of the priest is a service which forms the Christian community and coordinates and strengthens other charisms and services. In catechesis the sacrament of holy orders constitutes priests as ‘educators of the faith.’ They work, therefore, to see that the faithful are properly formed to reach true Christian maturity” (GDC, 224).

In light of the above, the priest’s first duty is to preach the Gospel. This he does in various ways (cf. *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 4). His ministry is one of:

- Primary proclamation (cf. *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 52), directed to nonbelievers and those who are far from the faith.
- Catechesis, which seeks to ground the faith in those who desire to follow Christ.
- The homily, which is continuing nourishment for community on its journey.

All three forms of transmitting the Gospel are necessary since each in due course accompanies the birth, growth and development of faith. While these are not the only forms of transmitting the Gospel, they are the most basic. The table of the word is provided with many different foods that provide apt nourishment for man in his different situations. In the community, the priest guarantees the unity of what the Gospel offers.

Courtesy: <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=791>.



Bishop's Diary

September - 2024

- 02 – 05 Sept.** - South Asia Conference (FABC) -Negombo.
- 09th Monday** - Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 11th Wednesday**- Catechist's Programme, Linganagar.
- 12th Thursday** - 160th Anniversary Holy Mass at St. Mary's College.
- 14th Saturday** - Feast - Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Mass at Holy Cross Convent and National Gathering of Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
- 21st Saturday** - Feast – St. Mathew – Apostle and Evangelist.
- 22nd Sunday** - National Catechetical Sunday.
- 27th Friday.** - Seminar for G.C.E. O/L students at St. Antony's M. V. Muthur. Memorial – St. Vincent de Paul.
- 28 – Saturday** - Seminar for G.C.E. O/L students at St. Mary's College, Trincomalee.
- 29 – Sunday** - Festive mass at Guadalupe Church.
- 30 – Monday** - Memorial – St. Jerome – Priest and Doctor of the Church.



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2024

THE MESSAGE OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE IN SRI LANKA

We the members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Sri Lanka wish to address the Catholic faithful and all peace-loving and patriotic citizens of Sri Lanka prior to the forthcoming Presidential Elections to be held on 21st September 2024 when the Sri Lankan voters' maturity and genuine concern for the nation will be put to the test.

In the first instance, it is our contention that the country needs a leader who safeguards the independence of the three pillars of democracy in our country, namely, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Indeed, we have seen how attempts have been made to interfere in the freedom of the Judiciary by the powers that be. Thus, it is important that the valued vote is to be used judiciously to change the political culture that has been protecting corrupt individuals and promoting others.

The voter must display the desire to see that justice is meted out to the citizens after proper investigations into robbery of the country's assets, the politically motivated abductions, disappearances and killings of persons, the crimes committed during the protracted war in the North and East, the civil-unrest in the South and the senseless massacre that took place on Easter Sunday 2019 with a most horrendous bomb attack. All those culpable must be found and dealt with according to the laws of the country and no one should be allowed to interfere in the process of seeking justice for the 274 victims killed and the 500 or so persons injured, some very seriously.

Prevention of waste and mismanagement of human, natural and material resources in the overall development of the country ought to be a concern of the voter. It is important to ensure that meritocracy, a characteristic of democracy, is practiced in governance. The widening gap between the rich and the poor needs to be addressed and remedied. The Church teaches that "the State is the steward of the people's resources which it must administer with a view to the common good." (Pope John

Paul II, Message for the 1998 World Day of Peace, No. 5). The privatization of profit-making ventures must not be seen as the only solution to the economic problems in the country.

The necessity to change the political culture that drives people to crave for positions of power and authority for their selfish interests and agendas at the expense of people's welfare and development of the country cannot be overemphasized. The Sri Lankan nation needs a wise and courageous leader to make the long awaited system-change to eradicate corruption and its related ills.

The candidates for the Presidential election are solicited to desist from deceiving the voter by offering allurements, favours and making false promises, and to check on the organizers and supporters of their campaigns in this regard. Those who violate election laws cannot be trusted to govern the country with integrity and justice.


We call on all registered voters to cast their vote to elect the leader who would govern the country according to the democratic and moral principles based on the values of the four main religions in the Island, respecting also the cultural ethos of the people.

As religious leaders, we invite the candidates vying for the Presidency to find inspiration in the sacred axiom of Jesus: "not to be served but to serve" (Mk.10:45). It is an invitation to put power into practice as service.

We kindly appeal to all concerned to conduct a free and fair Presidential election and thereafter work towards a united Sri Lanka as we invoke God's blessings upon our beloved motherland.

We call upon our dear faithful to pray intensely for the Nation and its well-being and for the wisdom needed for all our citizens to choose wisely, Sri Lanka's next leader.

May God bless Sri Lanka!



+ Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera.

Bishop of Kurunegala.

President, CBCSL



+ Rt. Rev. Dr. J D Anthony

Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo

Secretary General, CBCSL



Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sahayapuram, Muthur Parish - 18.08.2024



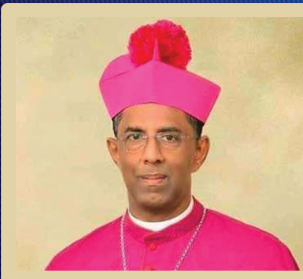
Opening of the newly constructed Church of St. Anthony of Padua at Kallarawa, Kutchchveli Parish - 19.08.2024



Seminar for the Holy Family Associates and Families of Palaiyoothu and Anpuvalipuram Parishes - 19.08.2024



Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Kantalawa Parish - 25.08.2024



Best Wishes

We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the diocese extend our hearty wishes and prayers to the newly appointed Administrator of the Diocese of Batticaloa, Most Rev. Dr. Anton Ranjith (Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Colombo) and we also wish good health and fruitful retirement years to Most Rev. Dr. Ponniah Joseph (Bishop Emeritus).

Ad Multos Annos - Hearty Congratulations

We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the diocese extend our warmest greetings and best wishes on our Silver Jubilarians of Priesthood, Rev. Fr. A. Rohan Bernard of Trincomalee Diocese (07.09.2024) and Rev. Frs. Alex Robert, Antony Jeyaraj, Geron Delima and Pethuru Jeevaraj of Batticaloa Diocese (02.09.2024).



Ad Multos Annos - Hearty Congratulations



We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the diocese extend our warmest greetings and best wishes on our Golden Jubilarian of Priesthood, Rev. Fr. Anthony Leo of Batticaloa Diocese on September 20, 2024. He has served 36 years in Trincomalee out of his fifty years of priestly ministry.



Rest in the Lord

We, the Bishop, Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful of the Diocese, join with family members of Rev. Fr. V. George Dissanayake, Parish Priest of Kantalawa Parish who lost his beloved mother, Mrs. Mary Agnes Dissanayake on July 31, 2024 and pray for her eternal reward.

PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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