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## Mammoth Meeting Bids Farewell to Madhu Matha at the Local Marina

### Unprecedented Display of Ancient Faith

#### A Century of Oblate Labour at its Zenith

On Sunday the 2nd inst., Jaffna the capital of the North, saw another glory of a religious character which was the event of the century and for several centuries to come. It was the farewell accorded to Our Lady of Madhu who had been touring the Diocese of Jaffna for the past one month and a half visiting every township and hamlet, preaching with silent eloquence the two cardinal activities of the Catholic Church Prayer and Penance.

The last halt was at the Cathedral Church of Our Lady of Conceigo and the procession towards the Reclamation Grounds started at 5 p.m. The head of the procession was at the Jaffna Jetty while the statue wended its way through a seething mass of Our Lady's clients in front of the Seminary. We leave it to our readers to imagine the number when the procession consisted of Catholics four deep for that distance of more than a mile. Even behind, Our Lady was followed by a large number of Catholics who were late or too modest to form a part of the procession proper. Apart from these the procession was flanked by a pressing crowd of other religionists all of whom raised yearning aspirations of "Amma and Achchi."

Practically all nations were represented. French, English, American, Irish, and Pole—all mingled with Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims in one common praise of the Divine Mother. No triumphal march of any mighty conqueror was ever so whole-hearted, fervent or filial. It was undoubtedly a happy day, a blessed day, a day of divine favours. The Oblates

had given of their best to the people of Jaffna. A better gift can hardly be imagined.

Confessors and spiritual directors alone know what a flood of blessings had been opened to the souls of the wayward and negligent Catholics. Men and women who had lived outside the enlivening grace of the Faith they received at baptism for ten, twenty years knelt humbly on the confessional and got up rejuvenated. On that side Mary's Mission had ended in an unqualified success. Our Faith had been demonstrated in the most unequivocal manner and the fruits thereof will be seen for many a long day to come.

At the Reclamation grounds a lovely Pandal in Greek pattern was erected to receive Our Lady. His Lordship the Bishop, the Visitor of the Oblates, the Vicar of Missions, the Vicar-General and Superior of the Fathers were among the throng of priests who had assembled for the finale. The people who had patiently and prayerfully preceded or followed the statue spread themselves out in a fan shape in front of the Pandal which was brilliantly lit. A gentle breeze was blowing from the sea. Vespers, Sermon, Dedication, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessing with the statue—all took the best part of two hours which seemed but two minutes. We had seen a flash of the supernatural and incidentally Jaffna at its very best.

We end up by extending our thanks to our Bishop and the clergy who bore the heat, the sweat, the blood and the tears.

## AU REVOIR ! MOTHER !

This quaint old town of Jaffna has just witnessed one of the most soul-stirring and epoch-making events in all its ecclesiastical history, the Visitation of Our Lady of Madhu, an event that has left behind an indelible mark, in the hearts of many thousands of men, women and children, which the brazen hand of time will take long to erase. The seeds of Prayer and Penance have been sown deeply in our souls. It is our duty to nurture them, and watch over the young crops diligently. Let us fulfill the task that Our Mother so lovingly has entrusted to our care. Verily it can be said that she came, she saw, she converted. Is there a greater testimony needed to the success of Our Lady's Mission, than the glorious instance of thousands of her children, some of whom had, for many years, refused and renounced the shelter and refuge of the confessional, breaking their rebellious spirits and revolting nature, to go once again with beaded knees and cupped hands, bravely, triumphantly, into that very same confessional, which for sometime their estranged feelings had shunned, to tear open their contrite hearts to Our Lord and Saviour, so that He might once more enter into them? If we have heard of the prodigal son before, we have seen him now. Is there any grea-

ter evidence needed of the soaring success of Mary's Mission than the unabated streams of perfect sorrow and true repentance, gushing forth with torrential force out of our penitent hearts, smashing the very dams that our mundane desires had so readily erected therein to hold us back forcibly from our onward voyage to that eternal source and infinite ocean of mercy? If we have heard of the fury of the sea before, we have seen it now. Is there a greater proof necessary for the success of this 'Grand Retour' of Our Lady than the sight of thousands of humble, repentant sinners, swarming like bees, to sip the honey heavy-dew that flowed unendingly from the Immaculate Heart of Our Mother, pierced by our own swords, or the moving spectacle of waves of humanity, kneeling in silent meditation in front of Our Lady's Statue, on the grassy lawns, under the canopy of midnight stars, with their hands outstretched, thumping their heads away, while from their lips there issued forth the sweetest melody that Our Lady had ever heard—the soft music of the Holy Rosary? If we have been told before that there was music in the Rosary, we have heard it now. Yes, Our Mother's Mission has been a success; and if we hereafter fail in the many deter-

## The Oblate Centenary in Ceylon

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PAST CENTURY

[BY D. J. B. KURUPPU]

I. UNDER MGR. SEMERIA

It was not a propitious time for embarking on an ambitious building programme. Nevertheless, besides constructing a community chapel, building the English school, making a good start with the Convent (on a scale which had to be later modified) and providing accommodation for his orphans, the Ceylonese Brothers, etc. Mgr. Semeria was also responsible for the erection of six or seven beautiful churches and presbyteries in various parts of the vicariate.

We have already referred to the Bishop's work for the promotion of religious, educational and charitable institutions. A few words may now be said about what he did for the development of Catholic life generally in parishes.

"Mgr. Semeria's great love for the Most Blessed Sacrament and his tender confidence in Mary urged him to establish and encourage as much as he could the pious practices connected with these two great Catholic devotions. The month of Mary and her gracious feasts, the weekly Benedictions and frequent expositions of the Blessed Sacrament, the magnificent procession of Corpus Christi, daily visits to the Eucharistic King—all these are now (at the end of Mgr. Semeria's episcopate) well established and have quite intensively taken the place of unauthorised and fruitless practices which an unlightened piety had perpetuated among the people." (Mgr. Bonjean in his review of Mgr. Semeria's work).

Flourishing also were the Confraternities of the Immaculate Conception, for women, St. John the Baptist, for men, (for the prevention of drunkenness) the Associations of the Propagation of the Faith and of the Holy Childhood, which had been established in different centres at various times, especially at the close of the Missions. The

Oblates were perhaps pioneers in introducing the practices of early Communion (for children) and of frequent Communion. They were also most assiduous in giving catechetical instruction, to both grown-ups and children. By the close of Mgr. Semeria's administration the number of Catholics had increased by eight to ten thousand. The number of confessions averaged 50,000 a year and the Easter Communions 30,000. In Mgr. Bonjean's words, when Mgr. Semeria died, "everywhere (within the Vicariate) there was life and progress."

#### HANDICAPS

No estimate of Mgr. Semeria's work would be accurate if no account were taken of the difficulties he had to overcome and the trials he had to endure.

Apart from the hardships incidental to every pioneer undertaking, apart from those which every Missionary has to be prepared to face when he goes out to a strange land where the climate is uncongenial, the means of travel primitive, and conditions of living trying (Mgr. Semeria never quite got used to the country's food), apart from all these, Mgr. Semeria both before and after his accession to the Vicariate had two major calamities to deal with:

From the middle of 1849 to 1855 and again from 1866 to 1868, cholera raged within the vicariate in epidemic form. The first visitation which was the more virulent threatened to decimate the population—it ceased only after a triduum of intercession to Our Lady, in honour of her Immaculate Conception (then recently made an article of Faith) conducted by the Oblates in Jaffna. The second claimed 20,000 to 30,000 victims. On both occasions the Missionaries were practically the sole refuge of the people—Government could do little and nothing was done by the Ministers of other religions. The Oblates did not spare themselves and two of them, young and promising missionaries, died of the disease contracted whilst attending on the stricken.

Then there was the ever present danger of internal dissension among the Catholics, due to the attitude of some of the Goanese Fathers. On account of the dissolution of the Oratorian Congregation in 1833 some secular priests from Goa had been invited to work in Ceylon. Some of these priests had imbibed the spirit of hostility to the newly appointed Vicars Apostolic, which was then rife in South India. For the sake of peace Rome had decided—in 1857—that Goanese priests in Vicariates Apostolic who were in missions that had been subject to the Archbishop of Goa in 1837 should continue to remain his subjects. This led to double jurisdiction within the same area, and this became the fruitful source of many disputes (for instance any congregation with any imaginary grievance could call in a Goanese priest) some of which had to be settled in courts of justice. Through all these troublesome times Mgr. Semeria guided his Vicariate with a sure hand, and in his dual capacity as Ecclesiastical head and Religious Superior laid well and truly the foundations of the Diocese of Jaffna and the Oblate Vicariate of Ceylon.

(To be Continued)

minations that we may have made, can it be the failure of Our Lady in her duty? No. We have started our journey afresh, with a firm tread and steadfast purpose, equipped with all that is necessary for its end. Knowing that that end will surely come, when it will come, let us complete it manfully and heroically. It is not the load that bears us down, it is the way we carry it.

Jaffna has witnessed perhaps the longest and the most edifying procession in all its history. Contrary to all entreaties that money should not be squandered unnecessarily on costly and colourful decorations, the hearts of the people dictated otherwise. They could not let the Queen of Heaven and earth, of angels and saints, walk their dusty roads without expressing to her, even in a very meagre measure, their undying and effervescent love for Her, their happiness at her presence in their midst; with what joy and care does she welcome us, when we visit her in her jungle home! Is it not then, in the fitness of things that we give her an even more rousing reception? The many gaily coloured streamers and bunting, festoons and flags, that danced and dipped merrily in the sunlight, all along the processional route were but poor external manifestations

(Continued on Page 4)

Church Calendar

MAY 1948

FRI. ... 7 S. Stanislas B.  
 SAT. ... 8 App. S. Michael.  
 SUN. ... 9 S. Gregory Naz.  
 MON. ... 10 S. Antoninus.  
 TUES. ... 11 Our Lady of Mercy.  
 WED. ... 12 S. Nereus.  
 THUR. ... 13 S. Robert Bel.  
 FRI. ... 14 S. Boniface.

The Catholic Guardian

MAY 7TH 1948

JAFFNA'S GREAT MONTH

"We have come to the end of a memorable month, easily the most memorable month that any of us can remember. For many, the memories will be of the intensely personal kind as Mary will have, true to her function, brought forth Jesus again in their souls. There will be always the memory of the way Our Lady appealed to the non-Christian and non-Catholic and the unprecedented manner in which they responded to that appeal. At last Sunday's farewell function there were at least 30,000 people present and a good half of that immense throng was non-Christian. Nothing could have been more impressive than their whole bearing during what was admittedly a long function lasting as it did from 6-15 p.m. to 8-45 p.m.

There was above all for the Catholic the thrill of having the Madhu Matha come into his personal, everyday life in a way that even she had never hitherto done. The daily round of work has now taken on a new freshness and a new dignity for the spirit of Nazareth will have, please God, come to stay. One heard even complaints that the final function was not long enough!

We cannot believe that this visit of the Pilgrim Virgin has been a mere flash in the pan. Her presence always means the communication of Jesus as we learn in the Gospel story of the Visitation and a visit such as the one concluded this week has been obviously and patently potent in benedictions.

For His Lordship the Bishop and for the devoted clergy some of whom have been with Our Lady throughout the month in what can only be considered a protracted endurance test, our most sincere thanks are due. There was no letting up for them as the Confessionals were thronged till late at night and in some cases till the early hours of the morning.

They deserve congratulations too on the way they evolved a practical, impressive programme in spite of the fact that such a procession had been without precedent in our history. Not a single hitch, not one untoward incident marred the harmony of that wonderful month.

The clergy will, we feel, be concerned about making any future celebrations well-nigh perfect and will also be concerned to reap the full harvest of Our Lady's plenteous sowing.

To our Catholic people must go the final word of praise and thanks. They have vindicated their claim to the Madhu Matha, their Matha and surely no Queen

regnant has ever received such a welcome as has been hers during our month, our Madhu month. It has made clear what saintly souls have been emphasizing in increasing measure that this our time is to be in the Church's history 'the age of Mary' not merely in the Church in general but here and now in our own Jaffna.

May our gratitude to His Lordship take a practical turn? May Jaffna's gratitude not unreasonably be practical? May we with a lively sense of favours to come hint that this visit should not be considered the final one? She must come into our lives again at least on the big occasions. His Lordship's coming Silver Jubilee is surely such an occasion and her presence would be the fitting crown for the jubilee of an episcopate that has been so single-minded in its determination to bring Mary into her own.

Thoughts for the Month of May

1. The name Mary signifies: "God born of my race", also enlightened and "enlightening", which is most fitting, as Our Lady was so replenished with the light of grace from the first moment of her life, that she knew the creator and all creatures. The name Mary also signifies: "Imitator of God." She imitated God perfectly, in the love God bears towards men, in His goodness His liberality, His mercy, His purity, Sanctity, and other perfections. The word Mary lastly signifies "Lady." She was Sovereign Lady of Heaven and Earth, of men, of angels and of all other creatures.

2. Mary's power is three fold; First by her title of eldest daughter, and consequently heiress to all the estates of the Eternal Father; second by her title of Mother of God, having been chosen by the Son of God to be His Mother. Third, by her title of Spouse of the Holy Ghost, as endowed with all the rights of Spouse of the Sanctifier.

3. We should revere the admirable Virgin, because her life was a continual exercise of adoration, prayer and love towards God. She was full of grace, therefore she gave more glory to God by the smallest action than the saints by the practice of the most heroic virtue.

4. According to St. Alphonsus Liguori the sublime name of Mary was invented neither on earth, nor given and selected at the choice of man. The name came down from Heaven and was given to the Mother of God at the command of the Lord, Thomas a Kempis says that the name of Mary should be highly esteemed by all pious persons. It should be embraced by religious, recommended to seculars, preached to sinners, whispered to the sorrowing and invoked by all men in times of danger.

5. According to St. Bonaventure, the name of Mary means: "Bitter sea, Mistress, Star of the sea." Mary is like a sea on account of the vastness and fulness of graces she received from God. St. Augustine says that God called the immeasurable ocean of graces, Mary. To her are applied the words of Ecclesiasticus: "In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue."

6. "Bitter" indeed was the Sea in the sufferings of Her Son when the Sword of sorrow pierced her soul. Mary is our Mistress. All Christianity calls her Queen of Angels and Saints, and the Princes of heaven pay homage to her; Jesus, the King of Kings was subject to her.

7. Mary also signifies "The Star of the Sea." St. Bernard says that Mary is indeed the glorious star, which shines in the Heavens which consumes vice and enkindles virtue; that Star radiates virtue and teaches chastity. We should keep our eyes fixed steadily upon it, if we would escape being engulfed by the waves.

8. He continues that when we are assailed by the fury of temptations, we should look upon Mary and invoke her. If we sigh over the yoke of pride or jealousy, we should call on Mary. If we are burdened down by the weight of our sins, if the enormity and horror of our vices frighten us, if we shudder at the thought of judgment, or if we find ourselves on the verge of despair, we should call on Mary who will surely save us.

C.W.M. Series.  
(To be Continued)

To Our Lady of Madhu

Come, Oh Pilgrim Virgin from Thy Madhu Shrine,  
 Welcome God's dear Mother, bring us grace divine,  
 Show thyself a mother, help thy erring child,  
 Lead the way to Heaven, virgin great and mild.  
 With dew and grace from heaven, touch our hearts of stone,  
 Far from thee and Jesus, careless we have grown,  
 Grant us true repentance, lead us to His feet,  
 Help us serve and love Him, mother, we entreat.  
 Loving heart of Mary, come and bless us all,  
 With a mother's kindness, raise us when we fall,  
 Then, refuge of Sinners, guide us lest we stray,  
 With the blood of Jesus, wash our sins away.  
 When our days are over, and we reach that shore,  
 Tender mother keep us, and we fear no more;  
 He will show his mercy, pardon we shall gain,  
 Mary's children never, sought her help in vain.

A LADY CLIENT.

Some Impressions of the International Catholic Missionary Congress at Louvain, Belgium

By Our London Correspondent

More than 50 university student delegates from the various Universities of Europe and Great Britain attended the International Catholic Missionary Congress which started on 31st March and ended on 3rd April at Louvain. There were no less than 40 nationalities represented at this congress. The lectures and discussions were carried on in French and a summary of each item was given in English by an Indian priest. The congress was formally opened by Mgr. H. Van Waeyenberg, the Rector of the University of Louvain. In the course of his opening address he said, "Pax Romana and its Missionary Section in particular are a great cementing factor in the world of today. The divisions of national and linguistic territories disappear when as now Catholics of many lands are united together with the aim of stressing the Catholic message to the world. The spreading of the reign of Christ is the great purpose which has brought us together and fittingly we have opened the Congress with Mass said in the war-torn Church of this University town and the prayer "Pater Noster" which we have said just now."

"Every Christian has a missionary duty and chiefly every intellectual. The role of the missions is to plant the church and to make it grow until it covers the whole of our planet.

"Pontifical documents can be quoted to any extent to prove that Missionary action is the duty of every Christian. "Missionary devotedness is a work of love."

Then reports of the University Students' Activities in India, Great Britain, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Nigeria, Latvia, Netherlands and Malta were submitted by the delegates. From these one could discern the tremendous amount of work being done in these countries to spread the Church of God

in non-Christian lands. The next reports to be read were those of the various Lay Missionary Associations in various countries. These outlined the origin, the nature and scope of their work, their progress and the problems both in the home countries and abroad. To mention just a few, organisations such as A.U.C.A.M. and A.L.M. of Belgium, A.K.S.C.O. of Holland, Ad Lucem and the Circle of St. John the Baptist of Paris, S.K.A.M. B. of Switzerland were supplementing the work of the Missionaries in non-Christian lands by training lay Catholic workers who go out to these missions as doctors, nurses or educators. The chief fields of these lay missionary associations extend so far as Japan, China, Burma, Indonesia, India, the Belgian Congo and Nigeria. The lay workers work under the direction and often under the immediate supervision of the Bishops or priests of these non-Christian countries.

The next most impressive part of the Congress was the set of lectures delivered by people who were connected with these missionary associations as founders, directors or workers. The speech of R. P. Charles, S.J., founder of the A.U.C.A.M. was both illuminating and inspiring. So were those of M. L'Abbe Spani and M. le Chanoine Glorieux.

The Congress which was largely attended throughout these three blessed days was honoured by the presence on Friday 2nd April of the Papal Nuncio in Belgium. His Excellency expressed the intense joy he felt on seeing many university under-graduates and graduates planning to spread the kingdom of Christ on earth. His Excellency exhorted the delegates to return to their respective countries filled with zeal for the salvation of non-Catholic souls. Having thanked the organisers of the Congress, he imparted his special blessing to all those who participated in the Congress deliberations.

A.M.D.G.

SOME FINDINGS OF THE DELIBERATIONS

1. The missionary problem is at present one of the most acute problems of the Catholic Church.
2. More than one thousand million men are in search of salvation.
3. An admirable army of missionaries, priests, religious men and women of all Congregations are giving themselves to this huge task.
4. The harvest is very promising but the reapers are far too few. What is my contribution to this great conquest?

LOCAL & GENERAL

**Catholic Teachers' Union Meet Minister.**—A deputation from the Roman Catholic Teachers' Union of the Diocese of Chilaw met the Minister for Education on April 30, and placed certain grievances of the Sinhalese and Tamil teachers of Assisted schools before him.

The deputation asked that the same treatment and privileges that were given to Sinhalese and Tamil teachers in the Government schools be given to those in Assisted schools.

**A Request.**—Rev. Fr. J. de Wit O.M.I. requests the prayers of the clergy and faithful for the repose of the soul of his father, Francois de Wit who died on Saturday, April 24th. Prayers are also requested for his mother his brothers and sister in their bereavement.

**Matugama M. P. Retains Seat.**—Mr. Justice Nagalingam delivered judgment on May 3, upholding Mr. Wilmot A. Perera's election to the Matugama Seat in the House of Representatives, and dismissing the charges of general intimidation, undue influence, treating and bribery which formed the basis of petition filed by Mr. P. T. D. D. Tharolis Appabamby, Mr. Thomas de Silva, both of Kalutara, and Mr. W. A. R. Fonseka, of Haltote, Kalutara.

The Judge fixed the costs payable to Mr. Perera at Rs. 8,000.

It will be recalled that Mr. Wilmot Perera successfully contested this seat against Dr. C. W. W. Kannangara, former Minister for Education.

**Sugar Distribution to be De-controlled.**—The Food Ministry, it is reliably learned is considering the question of de-controlling the distribution of sugar in the near future. The average

monthly consumption of sugar in the Island is approximately 8,000 tons at present.

A Government spokesman said that this move is being contemplated in view of the fact that future supplies of sugar from Mauritius and the United Kingdom are assured and will be adequate to meet the demand.

"The Government will, of course, continue to import sugar," he said, "but we are definitely considering the question of lifting the control on distribution."

**M. P. Dies After Heart Attacks.**

—Mr. Simon Abeywickrema, M. P., for Baddegama and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Transport and Works, died in his home on Sunday morning, following two heart attacks.

Mr. Abeywickrema who returned from Karachi on April 16, had apparently been in good health. On Saturday evening he returned home after visiting a friend but did not complain of illness then. During the early hours he got the first attack, and immediately a leading physician from Galle was summoned. Mr. Abeywickrema recovered from the first attack but succumbed when a second attack came on at 11 a.m.

**Improving Postal Service in the Northern Province.**

—The remote areas of the Northern Province are assured of the daily delivery of letters, according to the arrangements, already completed, to link up these places by an extensive network of Sub-Post Offices.

In the Vavuniya electorate, postman deliveries have been established at Odduchuddan, and steps are being taken to start similar deliveries at Vudunkenni and Mulliyawalai.

In other backward places where a door-to-door delivery is not warranted arrangements are being made to open receiving offices, while in the Jaffna Peninsula steps are being taken to establish post offices at Sarasalai, Mallagam, Inuvil and Mathagal.

It is also proposed to start deliveries at Pooneeryn, Mirusuvil, Championpattu, Elephant Pass and Sandilipay. The Post Office strength at Chavakachcheri and Kaithady has been increased so as to bring in more areas under postman delivery.

**Ceylonese Popular at Shanti Niketan.**—Mr. V. V. Wazalwar, Professor of Classical Vocal Music at Shanti Niketan has arrived in Ceylon with five Ceylonese students from Shanti Niketan to spend a two-month holiday here.

Professor Wazalwar, who thinks that Ceylonese should take a keener interest in Indian music because of the cultural links between the two countries, said that Ceylon students at Shanti Niketan had created a great impression there. Shanti Niketan was proud of them.

**Scot Saves his Fare.**—Captain Alexander Mc. Robbie, a Scottish immigrant who set out to walk the 2,400 miles from Perth to Melbourne, has been reported to have covered about half the distance, after three months' steady tramping.

Arriving in Perth from England in December, McRobbie rebelled when told the cost of crossing the continent by rail or air. He bought a wheelbarrow to transport his 60 pounds of baggage and set off to walk the distance.

A motorist driving from Melbourne to Perth recently said that McRobbie was nearing Ceduna, the half way point. His wheelbarrow had broken down and had been abandoned 800 miles from Perth, and the ex-Army officer was carrying his belongings in a haversack. He had refused all offers of lifts from motorists.

**A Chivalrous Truce.**—On Good Friday a tacit truce between Arabs and Jews was observed in Jerusalem, while a procession of Roman Catholic clergy and a few hundred laymen walked the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross) through the narrow cobbled streets of the old city.

Flanked by Arab National Guards with Tommy guns, pistols and hand grenades, the clergy and pilgrims, singing hymns walked the shadowy winding way Christ walked with blood stained feet carrying the cross from where he was condemned to death by Pilate to Calvary.

Not a single shot was heard in the Holy City from the beginning to the end of the pilgrimage which finished in

the Church of the Holy Sepulchre built over the rock of Calvary.

**Hungarian Crown to be Restored to the Vatican.**—The American State Department has finally rejected a repeated Hungarian demand to hand over to the present Hungarian Government the Crown of St. Stephen, which was left in the American zone of Germany in 1945 by retreating Hungarian troops.

The State Department has decided instead to hand the crown to the Vatican. It was Pope Silverster II who crowned St. Stephen, the first King of the first Christian Kingdom of Hungary, with it in 1001.

The crown, which symbolises the accession of Hungary to Christendom, thus returns to the safe keeping of the institution by which it was originally bestowed.

**Not Afraid of Communism.**—Catholics are not afraid of Communism, for the Church has been fighting 'isms' since she was founded, but as citizens we "have good reasons to be troubled," declared Auxiliary Bishop Stephen J. Donahue of New York at a conference held by New York State Court, Catholic Daughters of America.

**OBITUARY**

**LATE MRS. G. S. PUVIRAYESINGHE**

It is with the deepest regret we have to record the death of Mary Rasamma beloved wife of Mr. G. S. Puvirayasinghe, Retired Engineer, which took place on Wednesday the 28th April at 6 p.m. at her residence "Rasamere", Russell Square, Jaffna, fortified by the last rites of the Holy Church. She was ailing for a long time as the effect of puerperal muritis she had contracted in 1920, which she bore up with Christian resignation to the last. During this period she had taken treatment from the best of Doctors and eminent Sinhalese and Tamil native physicians.

A client of St. Joseph she had made the family imbibe a great devotion to St. Joseph. Her end was very peaceful and calm. Just a few minutes before her death the Revd. Fr. S. Soosainather, O.M.I., blessed her and offered the prayers for the dying and imparted the Papal blessing. Her nearest and dearest were gathered together round her in prayer when Mother Annunciation and Mother Evangelist of the Holy Family Convent joined them and were leading the prayers. Finding the end was nigh the Mothers placed the plenary indulgenced Cross on her lips to kiss saying the indulgenced prayer and one of her dearest calling out in her ear the ejaculation "Sweet Jesus forgive me my sins", she peacefully breathed her last to meet her Maker. Death had lost its pang in this happy departure. May the good Almighty grant her eternal rest.

Of a very mild and genial temperament she was beloved of every one she came in contact. The scion of a very old and respectable family she was the youngest daughter of the late Jacob A. Tisseverasinghe, Notary Public and a lineal descendant of Don Nicholas Tisseverasinghe, Mudaliyar, Thoombu-Holder known in his days as Peria Thamber, the founder of the Dharma Madam in front of the main entrance to St. Mary's Cathedral and a son in law of Thomaipulle Anthonyvulle, the first President Mooppu of the Cathedral.

The funeral which took place the next evening was well and largely attended. The coffin was of polished teak with heavy silver plated mountings. The hearse was drawn by two white steeds. Nila pavadaï was spread from the house all along the route to the grave a privilege enjoyed by the family from ancient days. The Parish Priest assisted by two Priests all in Copes officiated at the residence and at the grave. The Cathedral was fully lit and the Catafalque and precincts were draped in black. The Vicar General assisted by several Priests presided at the ceremonies at the Cathedral. At the grave as the Coffin was lowered the hymn "Nearer my God to Thee" was feelingly rendered.

Mr. Peter Mortimer J.P., Mudaliyar R. C. Proctor, Chevalier S. Arulanandam and Mr. A. Homer Vanniasingham acted as pall-bearers.

The chief mourners were Mr. G. S. Puvirayasinghe husband, Mr. & Mrs. J. L. C. Puvirayasinghe son and daughter-in-law, Mr. M. J. J. Puvirayasinghe son,

**AIR-CEYLON**  
**NON-SCHEDULE FLIGHT TO TRICHY**  
**ON 11-5-48**

A Special Non-Schedule flight to Trichynopoly will be operated by Air-Ceylon on the above date via Kankasanturai. The return will be direct to Colombo. Transport will be provided from Traffic Office, Jaffna to Air Port, Kankasanturai.

Colombo	Dep. 8 a.m.	Trichy	Dep. 2-30 p.m.
K.K.S.	Arr. 9-20 a.m.	Colombo	Arr. 4-20 p.m.
K.K.S.	Dep. 9-50 a.m.		
Trichy	Arr. 10-40 a.m.		

**FARES**

Colombo	... K.K.S.	... Rs 35/-
Colombo	... Trichy	... Rs. 65/-
K.K.S.	... Trichy	... Rs. 40/-

For Reservations apply to :

Traffic Booking Office,  
No. 11, Victoria Road, JAFFNA.

**NOTICE**

We remind all our Fatima friends that the anniversary of the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin of Fatima on the 13th of May will be celebrated in the Church of the Immaculate



Heart of Mary, at the place called IRASA-MURUK-KADI at Pandateruppu.

A preparatory triduum will be preached by Revd. Father LOUIS DESSY, O.M.I. That triduum will start on Sunday evening, 9th of May.

On Wednesday 12th evening the ceremonies will start at 6-30. After the Rosary and sermon the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed till midnight. At 12-30 in the night a Solemn High Mass will be celebrated. After the High Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed again till the morning Masses.

From every village, we are confident, pious pilgrims will flock to our little shrine to adore Jesus in

His Sacrament of Love, to thank the Blessed Virgin for Her wonderful Fatima message and to promise Her to make that message the rule of their lives.

The Mass at night will be celebrated by His Lordship the Bishop.

Henri Gesland, O.M.I.,  
Parish Priest.

**TENDER NOTICE**

**CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY**

The Chairman, Way and Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of Six sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Nawalapitiya.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30th April, 1948.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.  
Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

**NOTICE**

**DEMONSTRATIONS ON TRACTOR PLOUGHING**

A demonstration on Tractor ploughing will be held at Mr. Cunanavagam's Estate, Puthuikkadu Junction, Thalaiyaddy, Pallai, on 8-5-48 beginning from 9 a.m.

Those interested are kindly requested to attend.

Sgd. S. K. THURASINGHAM,  
D.A.O., N.D.

Kilinochchi, 24th April, 1948.

**AUCTION SALE**

260 logs of palu, satin, Margosa, mill, halmilla, and Hulanbik will be sold by Auction on Saturday 15th, May 1948 commencing from 9 a.m. at the Forest Department Timber Depot, Jaffna Customs, Jaffna. Further particulars of the sale can be had from the Divisional Forest Officer, Northern Division, Jaffna, H. E. C. LUSHINGTON, Conservator of Forests, Colombo, 3rd May 1948.

**TENDER NOTICE**

**CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY**

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of One Set of Workmen's Dwellings at Manampitiya.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.  
Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

## Au Revoir! Mother!

(Continued from Page 1.)

of a greater, nobler internal sentiment, locked up like a treasure in the hearts of her beloved children—the sentiment of filial love, warm gratitude, and boundless joy, which must have touched a happy chord in the Sacred Heart of Her Divine Son, as He looked down upon them from His Heavenly throne that memorable Sunday. As Jesus had entered the portals of Jerusalem two thousand years ago in triumphal procession, so did Our Lady enter the capital of the Northern diocese on Tuesday, and on Sunday she was leaving us. As lepers and blindmen on the byways of Galilee touched the garment of Him that passed by, so did we; spiritually leprous and blind, touch her feet as she passed by along our roads. He had come into the world amongst pagans to preach to them the message of Prayer and Penance; so, did she come to us, Catholic and non-Catholic to preach the message of Prayer and Penance. Having fulfilled that for which she had come, He had to go away; so, having fulfilled that for which she had come, she had to go away. Time was flying fast, but if we had a clock in our hearts, it would have stood still.

As the last rays of the setting sun still glimmered over the murmuring waters of the lagoon, and dusk began to settle silently over the Reclamation grounds, the statue of Our Lady of Madhu, preceded by a gigantic procession, which had gradually filtered into the grounds, was at last borne amidst hushed silence and sobbing imprecations to a very beautiful pandal erected for the occasion. Many thousand devotees of Our Lady, both Catholic and non-Catholic, had thronged the entire area, and everyone's attention was riveted to the deeply moving religious ceremonies that were being conducted by His Lordship the Bishop, assisted by the priests of the diocese. It was very significant that Our Lady's arrival had not been heralded by the din of crackers nor the glamour of colourful fireworks, not by the rhythmic beat of tom-toms, nor by the shrill blast of a bugle, but she was welcomed, as she would have wished it, in devout silence and deep meditation. Like Her Divine Son, who after His Resurrection, went about the Hills of Judea and Samaria for forty days preaching prayer and penance to the population, so did our mother go about in the torrid sun for full forty days amidst her children, urging them to greater acts of prayer and penance while she herself pleaded with Her Son, Our Saviour for our resurrection and redemption.

The time had come for us to part. I know parting brings sorrow even to the most callous heart, but I wonder how many of us would have ever felt in the whole compass of our lives the bitter agony and the dreadful torment that assailed our hearts that night. When hearts are full, speech is well nigh impossible, and that night many, many hearts were overflowing with sorrow. The silent zephyr that had gently wafted across space from distant Mannar forty days ago had gathered momentum, to rage like a tornado within our hearts, tearing away from their very roots the numerous trees of evil that we had so readily planted therein. The mighty oak and the little reed—both fell to this raging tempest. And, in their stead, there had been planted the sweetest roses and scented jasmynes of prayer, peace, penance, hope, faith, charity. It had been all our lady's noble work, but we are her gardeners, and so, let not a single rose wither, a single jasmine fade, due to our negligence. As she stood there high on that altar, she seemed to whisper softly into our ears: "My children, yet a little while and you will see me no more." How perfectly true! Parting time had arrived. How can I describe to you the final scenes? It must be FELT not WRITTEN. The Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was over, Our Lady had given her final blessing to the silent multitude. One by one, the events were drawing to a close. The trailer had been hitched to the waggon. The whole congregation had gone down on its knees, prostrate before the sad Mother. Tears welled in our eyes. Our tongues stuck dumb in our throats. Our whole being quivered as

the claws of excruciating sorrow clutched at our hearts. We breathed hard and sobbed heavily, as through veiled eyes we beheld our beloved Mother placed in the repository. The soft strains of "Ave Maria" came floating sorrowfully to our ears. And then at last came the final..... I do not know what to call it. Sorrow, anguish, pain, torment, lamentation, agony—call it what you will; these are very insufficient words. It was all these and something more. The car began its move. Our lady was going and going fast. And as the last notes of "Ave Maria" receded slowly into the distant horizon, that leaden lump in our bosoms, that had blocked the very breath from our lungs burst forth with a mighty tremor.....and when next we looked back to catch a last lingering look of that Immaculate Lady, she had vanished into the blackness of the night. Her mission was over, where ours starts. So, farewell to thee, Mother, farewell.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macal-lum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 18th May, 1948 for the construction of Three Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at China Bay.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.  
Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macal-lum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of Two Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Valaichchenai.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.,  
Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macal-lum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 21st May, 1948, for the construction of Three Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Debiwala.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 23-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.,  
Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macal-lum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 14th May, 1948 for the construction of Eighteen Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Nawalapitiya.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 16-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.,  
Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

Tenders will be received by the Government Agent, Northern Province, up to 12 noon on Tuesday, May 23, 1948, for clearing silt and regrading Kailankamakulam Channel, in Sanguveli, in Valikamam West Divisional Revenue Officer's Division, Northern Province. Tenders should be made on forms

obtainable on application from the Kachcheri, Jaffna, where all particulars can be obtained. Tender forms will be issued up to 12 noon on Friday, May 21, 1948, only on production of receipt for Rs. 25 deposited for each form at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

Tenders will be received by the Government Agent, Northern Province, up to 12 noon on Tuesday, May 25, 1948, for clearing silt and regrading Keerai-kulam Channel in Valikamam West Divisional Revenue Officer's Division, Northern Province. Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application from the Kachcheri, Jaffna, where all particulars can be obtained. Tender forms will be issued up to 12 noon on Friday, May 21, 1948, only on production of receipt for Rs. 25 deposited for each form at the Jaffna Kachcheri.

### NOTICE

#### IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

In the matter of an application for guardianship and curatorship over the person and property of Theresammah Chrysothem of Chundikuly, Jaffna. Minor.

Guardianship Jurisdiction No. 368/G

Mariampillai Chrysothem of Chundikuly

Guardian and Curator.

Whereas by an order of this court the guardian and curator abovenamed was authorised to sell the land described in the Schedule hereto and belonging to the minor abovenamed.

Whereas the highest bidder shall be declared the purchaser of the said land and whereas tenderers are hereby invited to forward their bids to my address "F. L. T. Martyn Proctor, Main Street, Jaffna" or to the Secretary of this court within three weeks from the date hereof.

#### SCHEDULE

Land situated at Karaiyoor in the parish of Chundikuly in the division and district of Jaffna Northern Province called "Santhan-thoddam alias Tharai and Rasasinga Kottan-

pulam" in extent 1 Lm. v. c. and 11 7/8 Kls. but according to possession and survey in extent 1 Lm. v. c. and 14 1/2 Kls. with house, well, palmvrahs, cultivated plants and bounded on the east and west by lane, north by the property of Victor Johnpillai and south by the property of Thuraijajab and shareholders. Of the whole hereof as undivided half share with one fourth share of the house standing thereon.

This 26th day of April, 1948.

Sgd. F. L. T. MARTYN,  
Proctor for Guardian and Curator.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macal-lum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday 4th June, 1948 for the construction of One Set of Workmen's Dwellings at 7 miles 37 chains, Matale Line (Katugastota).

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 7-5-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
Maradana.

### TENDER NOTICE

#### CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 4th June, 1948, for the construction of Two Sets of Workmen's Dwellings near 3 miles 26 chains Matale Line (Kandy).

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 7-5-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,  
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

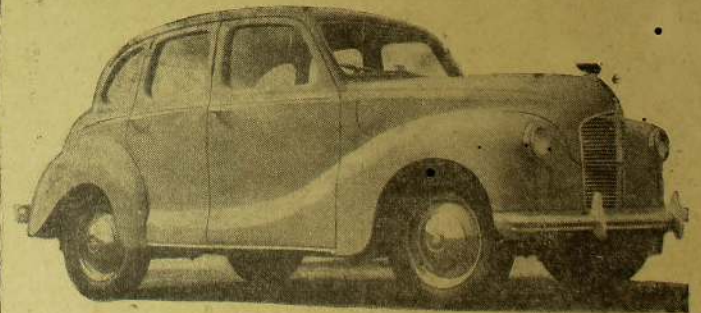
Chief Engineer's Office,  
Way & Works, C.G.R.,  
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