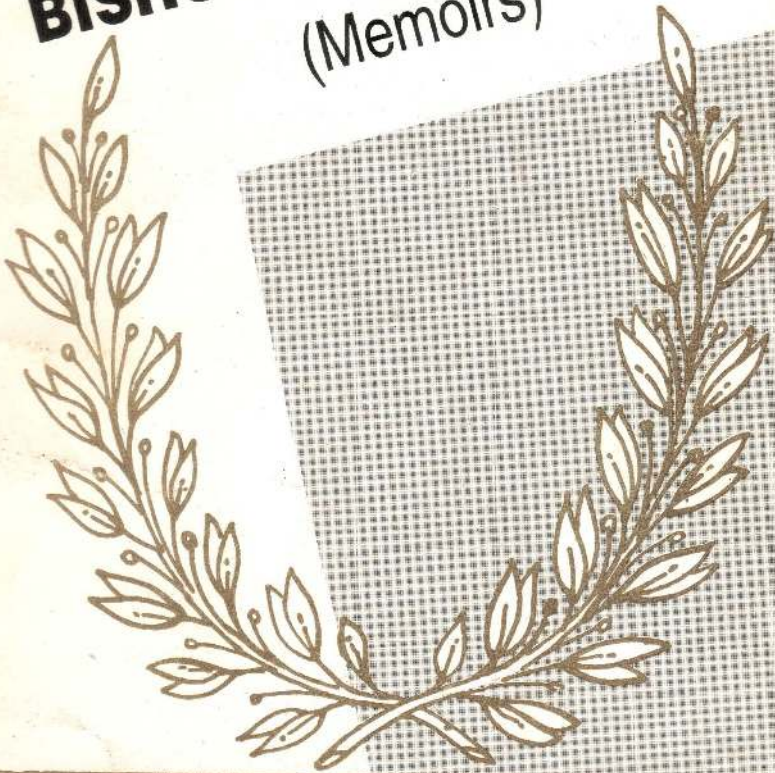


**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY  
OF  
BISHOP B. DEOGUPILLAI  
(Memoirs)**





*R. Pathmanaba Iyer  
27-B, High Street,  
Plaistow  
London E13 0AD*



**THE LIFE AND MINISTRY**

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**BISHOP B. DEOGUPILLAI**

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(New York)







## 1. MY FAMILY

Date of place and birth: 1917-04-09, Karampan (Kayts)  
Name: Deogupillai  
Name of father: Mariampillai Bastiampillai  
Name of mother: Anthonipillai Innesiapillai  
Date of Baptism: 18th April, 1917  
Minister of Baptism: Rev. Fr. John Bastiampillai

### Brothers and Sisters:

1. Santhiapillai
2. Mariapillai
3. Mariampillai
4. Anthonipillai
5. Manuelpillai
- 6 - 8. Three children died in childhood.
9. Catherinapillai (Sr. Mary Emilie)
10. Anthoniapillai
11. I was the last child



My Father



My Mother

## 2. MY SECULAR EDUCATION

**When** I and my two sisters were small children, after our noon meals my mother used to sing for us from memory some parts of *Aginesakanni Ammanai* and *Thommaippar Ammanai*. That is how I learnt to sing *Ammanai*. My father had acted for *Esthakiar* in *Esthakiar Nadagam*. Whenever we asked him, he used to sing some songs of this *Nadagam*.

**In** January, 1921, I was admitted to the Tamil Catholic School conducted by the Holy Family Sisters in Karampan. My sister Catherinapillai was the one who took me to school. She was about five years older than me. Rev.Sr.M.Louisa was the Superior of the Sisters. She was very kind to me.

**Due** to my mother's prayers and advice I welcomed the idea of becoming a priest. The sisters encouraged me by calling me "Sinna Swami" (சின்ன சுவாமி).

I did Standard IV on the insistence of Sr.M.Alban before going for English Education.

**In** January, 1925 I was admitted to St.Antony's College, Kayts. The Brothers of St.Joseph were in charge of the English school. Master T.Alfston John and Master J.Mariampillai were two of my school mates.

**In** 1929 I entered St.Martin's Seminary, Jaffna, on the recommendation of Rev.Fr.S.Hillary,O.M.I., the Parish Priest of Kayts, to study for the priesthood.

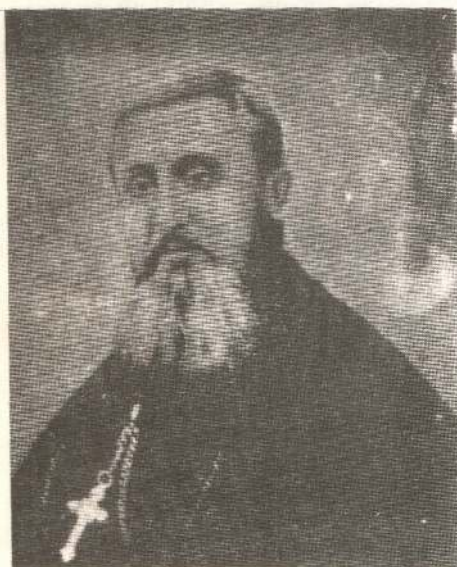
**In** January, 1929 I was admitted to Form I in St.Patrick's Colege, Jaffna.

**Rev.Fr.C.S.Mathews** O.M.I. was then the Rector of

St.Patrick's College . We had very good teachers in the college. In December 1932 I sat for the Junior Examination of the University of Cambridge and passed with Distinctions in History and Latin. In July, 1934 I sat for the Matriculation of the London University and obtained a Pass.

In September 1934 the late Fr.B.E.Alfred, O.M.I. and I were sent to St.Joseph's College, Colombo , to study for the Inter Arts Examination in July, 1935.

### 3. MY CLERICAL EDUCATION



Bishop Alfred Guyomar

In August, 1935 I was sent by His Lordship Dr.Alfred Guyomar, O.M.I., the Bishop of Jaffna, to the Pontifical College for the Propagation of the Faith, Rome, to do the clerical studies along with Bro .A. Soosai pillai. Rev.Fr.Manka, O.M.I. the Director of St.Martin's Seminary took us to Colombo to send us to Rome. Since the Italo - Abyssinian war had then begun, he ar-

ranged to send us in a Japanese ship called **Yasukuni Maru**. On board the ship he found a Jesuit Missionary from China going to Rome. So, he entrusted us to him. He took us to Naples and from there by train to Rome. Without the help of

this Jesuit missionary it would have been extremely difficult for us to reach Rome since we knew neither the country nor its language. We were very grateful to him.

**When** we arrived in Propaganda College, Rome, in September I found there Stanislaus Xavier whom I had known in St. Patrick's College, Jaffna. He was known there as Stanislaus by his father's name. Since we had no surnames we were registered under our fathers' names. So, Soosaipillai was called Anthonipillai and I was called Bastiampillai (Bro. Stanislaus after leaving



Bro. Deogupillai at 18,  
proceeding to Rome in Yasukini Maru



St. Bernard's Seminary, Colombo had joined the Diocese of Trivandrum in India.) In Propaganda College, I found also the following Ceylonese Brothers: Mervin Peiris, Joseph Vaz, and Justin Perera of the Archdiocese of Colombo. Propa-

ganda College contained seminarians from many mission countries of Asia and Africa and some from Australia, Balkan Peninsula, England, and even the USA. The Rector of the College at that time was Mgr. Pietro Parente. As a clerical



His Holiness Pope Pius XI

student in Rome I had the good fortune of visiting the great Basilicas and seeing the **Holy Father Pope Pius XI** often. **Propaganda College** is situated on a hill just opposite to **St. Peter's Basilica** and the Papal Palace in the Vatican

City. For our clerical studies we attended the **Pontifical Urban University**, which was situated next to our College. The Professors of this University were not only secular priests but also priests from many Religious Congregations.



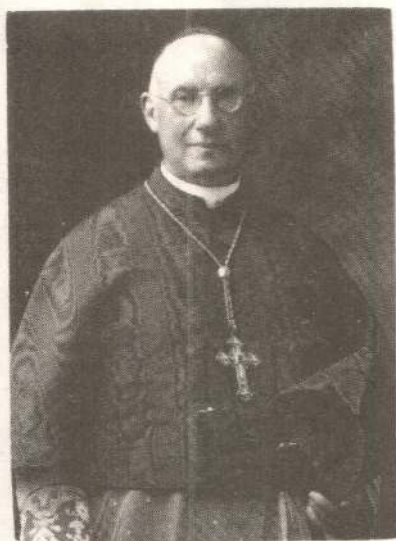
Propaganda College in Rome

I completed two years of Philosophy Course and obtained the Bachelorship "Summa cum Laude" in 1937. On the recommendation of the Professors I did one more year of study in Philosophy and obtained the Prolytatus or Licentiate "Summa cum Laude" in 1938.

In 1938 I began the Course of Sacred Theology. In 1940 I completed two years and obtained the Bachelorship in Sacred Theology "Summa cum laude", Then in 1942 at the end of the Sacred Theology Course, I obtained the "Prolytatus or Licentiate in Sacred Theology "Magna cum Laude".

I was ordained a sub-deacon by His Eminence Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi, the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Fatih on October 19th 1941 in the chapel of the Villa of the College at Castelgandolfo.

I was ordained Deacon on 30th November, 1941 in the College chapel by His Excellency Mgr. Traglia, Vice gerente of the Diocese of Rome. I was ordained a priest by **His Eminence Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi**, on 22nd

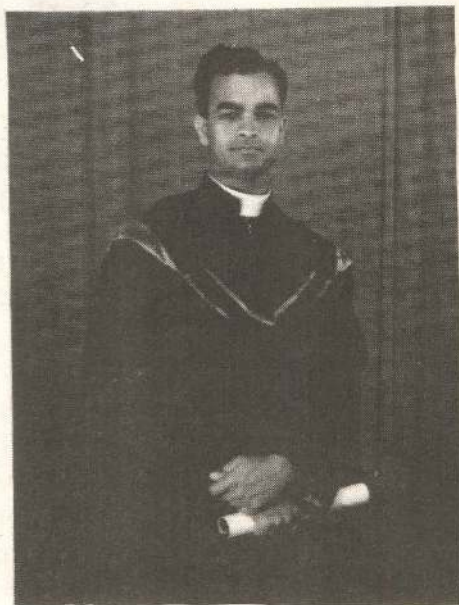


Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi

December 1941 in the College chapel along with my classmates Bro. James Robert Knox of Australia, Bro. William Gomes of Bombay and others. (Bro. J. Anthonipillai, my companion, had been ordained a priest on 24th February, 1941).

**Since** the World War was going on and there was no possibility of our returning home soon, I decided to do the Doctorate in Sacred Theology. For this purpose I wrote a Dissertation on the Theological Teaching of St. Thomas Aquinas and obtained the Doctorate "Summa cum Laude". His eminence Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi, honoured me by being present at my public exposition of my Doctoral Dissertation.

**In September 1943 I began to attend the Course on Missionary Canon Law. In July 1944 I obtained the Bachelorship in Missionary Canon Law "Summa cum Laude".**



Fr. B. Deogupillai in Rome

**His Holiness Pope Pius XII** saved Rome from destruction, by his diplomatic efforts. As a result, the German Army moved to the north of Italy and the British Army came to Rome peacefully.



His Holiness Pope Pius XII



Mr. Rasanayagam from Tellipalai, a military officer in the British Army

**In the British Army there was an Officer from Tellipalai in Jaffna called Rasanayagam.** He came to the College to meet the Ceylonese. We were then five, namely myself, Fr. Anthonipillai, Fr. Quintus Perera of Chilaw Diocese and Frs. Ignatius Perera and Mervyn Weerakkody of Colombo Archdiocese. He promised to help us to return to Ceylon.

**In the early part of December 1944** Mr. Rasanayagam informed us to get ready for our return to Ceylon. A military order was issued for our travel from Rome to Taranto in South Italy by train and we left by a military train with all our goods on



December 7th, 1944. I was suffering from coldness in my feet. So my companions nicknamed me "Cold Feet".

**The** train took us first to Naples and from there to Taranto on the Adriatic Sea. A few days afterwards we were taken by a military vessel to Alexandria in Egypt. From there we were taken by a military train to an army camp in Suez. Since Christmas was near, with the permission of the Commander of the Suez camp we went to Cairo for Christmas and visited the pyramids and other places of interest. At the beginning of January, 1945 we went in a military vessel to Aden and then to Bombay. From there we were sent in a military train to Mannar and then to Colombo. From Colombo Fr. Soosaipillai and I were able to come to Jaffna on the 11th of February. I went to Karampan and celebrated my first Mass there on the 12th February. Revd. Fr. B. Abraham was then the Parish Priest of Karampan.



## **4. MY MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF JAFFNA AS A PRIEST**

It was an immense joy for me to meet my aged parents. Due to the war I had no news about them for about six years and they too had no news about me, except about my Ordination as a priest. I was so happy to meet my brothers and sisters and their families.

On 19th of February I was appointed as assistant to the Parish Priest of Cathedral Parish, who was no other than Rev.Fr.S.Hillary, O.M.I. who had recommended me to the Minor Seminary in 1929. Since there was another assistant priest, more senior than me I was sent out often to help other priests in their parish work. Thus I got the opportunity to visit Eluvaitivu, Pungudutivu, Mandaitivu, Delft and other places like Chaddi, Allaipiddy etc., which I had never visited before. I really enjoyed these visits.

In April 1946 I was appointed moderator of St.Joseph's College, Anuradhapura and of the Boys' Hostel there. I took the place of Rev.Fr.J.Nicholas, O.M.I.. The Head teacher of the College was Mr.John Herat. He was an excellent teacher and a very good disciplinarian. St.Joseph's College had a very good reputation. Hence, not only Catholic parents but also Buddhist and Hindu parents from the North Central Province and other Provinces sent their boys to study in this College.

I was appointed a teacher with the London Inter Arts Certificate. Later I was accepted as a Graduate by the Education Department because of my Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy (Rome)

I really enjoyed my work in Anuradhapura. In the Hostel I had Catholic boys, some of whom became priests: e.g. **Rev.Fr.J.B.Devarajah** and **Rev.Fr.S.E.N.Gunaseelan**. Others became high Government officials; e.g. A.M.Somapala, who goes by the name of S.M.Adikari and was a Minister of the UNP Cabinet.



Fr.J.B.Devarajah



Fr.S.E.N.Gunaseelan

I wanted to do the B.A.Degree of the London University but could not obtain study leave from His Lordship the Bishop, because my Roman Philosophy Degree had been accepted by the Education Department.

**On January 19th, 1947, my eldest sister's daughter Mrs.Agnes Sebastiampillai who had been one of my play-mates in childhood died suddenly. Then on February 16th my dear mother died. My father could not bear this loss and he died of grief on March 15th 1947.**

**About** this time the General Manager of our schools sent Bro.Jeremias Arasarathinam of Pandateruppu as a teacher to our College. He had been studying Philosophy in St.Bernard's Major Seminary, Colombo, for the Jaffna Diocese but had been asked to leave the Seminary by our Bishop. Since he had the intention to join another Diocese, he came to Anuradhapura in cassock and helped me in the hostel also. I studied his character and after some time I recommended him to the Bishop of Tuticorin in South India for priesthood. He did his Theological study in India and was ordained a priest for the Tuticorin Diocese.

**About** this time there was a strong move among the Tamil priests to take Tamil names, e.g. Fr.Soosaipillai, O.M.I, of Ilavalai called himself Villavarasingam, Fr.Alfston called himself Mathuranayagam. Fr.Stanislaus Xavier in Tuticorin called himself Thaninayaga. Fr.A.Soosaipillai, my companion in Rome called himself Karunaharar. But I did not call myself by a new name.

**On** January 27th 1950 I underwent a surgical operation for appendicitis in the Jaffna Government Hospital. Then the Holy Cross Sisters of Menzingen were looking after the patients. Sr.Maria Tändler looked after me well after the operation and gave me very sound advice to avoid a hernia.

I took advantage of my convalescence to prepare myself for the London B.A.Examination. I appeared for it in June 1950 and obtained a Pass.

**In** 1950 His Lordship Bishop J.Emilianuspillai, O.M.I. took charge of the Diocese of Jaffna. At that time the diocesan priests were very few and Fr.B.Abraham was the unofficial leader. We, the Diocesan priests, met the

Bishop and congratulated him and asked for a clarification regarding St.Martin's Minor Seminary, namely, whether it was an Oblate Juniorate or a Diocesan Seminary. He told us immediately that it was a Diocesan Seminary and a few months later appointed Fr.T.A.J.Mathuranayagam as the first Diocesan priest in charge of it.



Bishop J.Emilianuspillai

**In** April 1951 I was appointed Principal of Sacred Heart College, Vathiry and Parish Priest of Karaveddi Parish.

**In** 1952, the Bishop asked me to do secretarial work in Bishop's House and appointed Fr.B.Soosaipillai, a newly ordained priest to act for me in the Parish and the College. I used to visit Vathiry from time to time to help Fr.Soosaipillai.

**In** July 1952, Fr.S. (Nicholapillai) Arulnesan and I were

sent by the Bishop to do the Diploma in Education at the Ceylon University, Colombo. Fr.Thani Nayagam was one of our Lecturers. When we finished the Diploma Examination in June 1953 and returned to Jaffna. I was appointed temporarily to St.Joseph's Training College, Colombogam, to act for Rev.Fr.L.A.Singarayer, O.M.I., the Principal, who was then ill in the Colombo hospital.

In August 1953 I was appointed a teacher in St.Henry's College, Ilavalai, and put in charge of the hostel there. At that time Rev.Fr.Jivaratnam, O.M.I. was the Rector of the College. In March, 1954 I was appointed Rector of St.Henry's College with Rev.Fr.Aiyathurai, O.M.I. as Warden of the Hostel.

During my Rectorship of St.Henry's College, the Prime Minister of Ceylon, Sir John Kotalawela paid a visit to Ilavalai and we gave him a warm welcome in the College Hall.



Fr.B.Deogupillai,  
The Rector of St.Joseph's Institute

In July, 1956, I was appointed the Director of St. Joseph's Institute (Teachers' Training College and Orphanage) Colombogam. Here too Rev. Fr.lyathurai, O.M.I. was appointed as my helper. Young

Teachers (men, Brothers, Sisters and young ladies from all over Ceylon) attended this Catholic Tamil Teachers' Training College. Training Catholic teachers was a very important task of the Church and I took great interest in performing this important task.



Sr.Emily, H.F.

**On the 18th December, 1957 my sister Rev.Sr.Mary Emilie celebrated the Silver Jubilee of her Religious Profession.** I and my relatives attended this celebration in Ilavalai Convent.

**In 1960, our Catholic schools were taken over by the Ceylon Government and the teachers who did not wish to work as Government teachers were**

given the option to retire from service with the right to a pension. I took the option and retired from service. Consequently, I had plenty of time at my disposal and I utilised it complete the Manual on Catholic Doctrine in 3 volumes (*Manavaar Christhava Pothakam, 1.2.3*) needed for the students of the Senior Form and they were printed by our Catholic Press.

**In July 1962, I had to undergo a surgical operation on my right knee in St.Michael's Nursing Home, Colombo.**

**In May 1963 I was appointed Parish Priest of Ilavalai. On 29th August 1963 I was appointed Vicar Forane of the District of Ilavalai.**

In November 1964 the International Eucharistic Congress was held in Bombay. I was sent to it by our Bishop as the official representative of the Jaffna Diocese. I arrived in Madras on 20th and went with Fr.L.R.Antony ,who too had been sent to Bombay, through Hyderabad. In Bombay I met my companions in Rome, the most Rev,Dr,James Robert Knox, the Apostolic Internuncio in New Delhi and Rt.Rev.Dr.William Gomes, the Auxiliary to His Eminence Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay.

**His Holiness Pope Paul VI** graced the Eucharistic Congress. It was the first occasion on which I saw Pope Paul VI whom I had seen earlier as a Monsignore when I was in Rome.



His Holiness Pope Paul VI



**After** the Eucharistic Congress I had planned to visit Goa and South India before returning to Jaffna. But, Rev.Fr.J.Pakianathar of the Rosarian Congregation, one of my companions in St.Martin's Minor Seminary, met me and Fr.L.R.Antony in Bombay and took us to his monastery in Ambikaipur in North India on 7th December. From there we left on 10th for Calcutta. After visiting Calcutta we left by train for Madras on 12th.

**Since** our plan to visit Goa was not fulfilled we went by plane to Goa and visited the places of interest connected with the life of the Ven.Joseph Vaz and had a look at the statue of Our Lady of Miracles, which had been in Jaffna. Then we travelled by bus through the whole of Kerala and visited Tuticorin, Pondicherry, Mylapore, Trichy and Madras. In Tuticorin I met Bishop Thomas Fernando, in Mylapore Bishop R.Sunderam and in Madras Mgr.R.Arulappa. These had been my companions in Propaganda College, Rome. Then when we returned to Colombo by plane from Madras there was a cyclone. Hence, our trip to Jaffna from Colombo by train was delayed in Vavuniya due to the damages to the Railway line and we reached Jaffna only on the eve of Christmas Day.

**On** 22nd December 1966 I celebrated the Silver Jubilee of my priestly Ordination and many priests of the Diocese attended the celebration.

**In** 1966 I recommended Master Lukespillai Philip of Ilavalai, one of my altar servers, to His Excellency Ignatius Glennie, s.j., Bishop of Trincomalee as a seminarian for his diocese. He admitted him to the minor Seminary in Trincomalee (Some years later, he was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Trincomalee)

**In** 1966 a rumour was spread about the appointment of an Auxiliary Bishop to the Diocese of Trincomalee. My name was one of those spoken of for this appointment.

**In** January 1967 Mgr. Storero of the Apostolic Nunciature of New Delhi paid a surprise visit to Ilavalai with Fr. Anton Rajanayagam of Bishop's House, Jaffna, and I welcomed him. (His intention probably was to take a personal look at me)

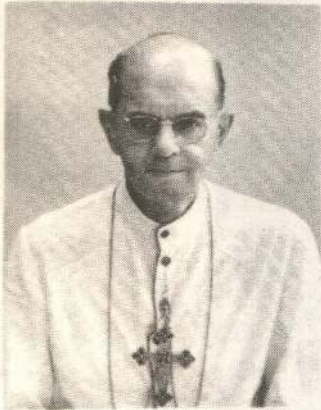
**On** 28th February I received a letter dated 23rd February from His Excellency Mgr. J.R. Knox, the Apostolic Inter-Nuncio in New Delhi, informing me that the Holy Father wished to appoint me Auxiliary Bishop to His Lordship Bishop Ignatius Glennie, s.j., Bishop of Trincomalee and asking my consent.

I communicated my consent and the news of the appointment was made public on 15th March. I remained in Ilavalai Parish till Easter (26th March) and I left for Trincomalee on 5th April.



## 5. MY EPISCOPAL MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF TRINCOMALEE - BATTICALOA

**Bishop Glennie** welcomed me in Trincomalee and we made a decision on the date of my Episcopal Ordination in Trincomalee. The date fixed was 11th May, 1967.



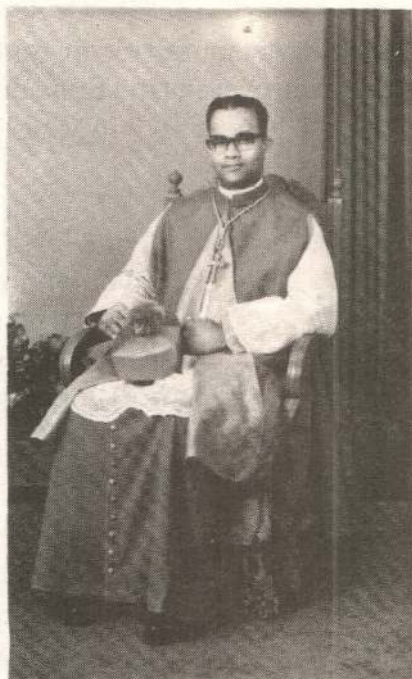
Bishop Glennie, s.j.

**Then** he took me to Batticaloa where I was joyfully welcomed by the Catholics of Batticaloa in St. Mary's Church. **Bishop Glennie** made suitable arrangements for my Episcopal outfit.

**On** 11th May 1967 I was ordained a Bishop on St. Joseph's College grounds, Trincomalee, by His Lordship Bishop Ignatius Glennie s.j. assisted by His Lordship Bishop J.Emilianuspillai, O.M.I. Bishop of Jaffna and His Lordship Bishop Frank Marcus Fernando, Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo. With the Ordination I became the Titular Bishop of Radiapoli and Auxiliary to the Bishop of Trincomalee.

**Since** my Episcopal Ordination took place in Trincomalee many of the priests and Religious from the Jaffna Diocese and many relatives and friends in Jaffna were able to attend the ceremony. It was a great day for me and I thanked God, the Holy Father Pope Paul VI, Bishop Glennie and the

Parish of Trincomalee. I took the following words of St. Paul as the motto and programme of my Episcopal life: "*Evangelizare investigabiles divitias Christi*". (Eph. 3,8)



Bishop Deogupillai - Auxiliary Bishop

**Bishop** Glennie took me to Batticaloa on May 13th and I celebrated Mass in Mary's Church, Batticaloa, on 14th of May, which was Pentecost Sunday. The Catholics of Batticaloa gave me a grand reception after the Mass.

**After** Vatican Council II Divine worship including Holy Mass could be celebrated in the native tongue of the people. Bishop Glennie who was appointed Bishop long before Vatican Council II did not know Tamil well enough and it was very difficult for him to learn this language to be able

to preach and celebrate Holy Mass in it. That is the chief reason why he asked for a Tamil-speaking Auxiliary Bishop. I was able to fulfill this spiritual need of the Catholics.

I visited the different Parishes of the Diocese on Feast Days, celebrated Holy Mass, preached in Tamil and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Glennie and the Catholics of the Diocese were very happy about it.

We were in need of priests for the Trincomalee Diocese. Hence with the approval of Bishop Glennie, I requested the new Bishop of Tuticorin, Dr.Thomas Fernando, whom I had known in Propaganda College, Rome, to send **Fr.Arasarathinam** of Jaffna, whom I had sent there some years earlier to the Trincomalee Diocese and he willingly did so.

On the 18th of April, 1968 I had the great joy of ordaining **Bro.A.S.Alexander** of the Blessed Sacrament Congregation, a priest in St.Philip Neri's Church, Colombo. He had been a student of mine in St.Henry's College, Ilavalai. This was my first Ordination to the priesthood.



Fr.J.Arasarathinam



Fr.A.Alexander

**On** the invitation of Archbishop R.Arulappa of Madras, I went to Madras and then to Coonoor and took part in the new translation of the New Testament into Tamil from April 22nd to May 14th 1968. Before returning to Jaffna I visited in Madras the Church of St.Thomas, Apostle, and the Little Mount, where he was killed.

**On** 17th July, 1968 I took part in the Episcopal Ordination of Rev.Frs. Oswald Gomis and Edmund Fernando, O.M.I. in the Colombo Cathedral. They had been appointed Auxiliaries to the Archbishop of Colombo.

**On** 21st November 1968 I took part in the Episcopal Ordination of Rev.Fr.L.R.Antony in the Jaffna Cathedral. He had been nominated Auxiliary to the Bishop of Jaffna.

**Between** 1968 and 1970 the name of the Diocese of Trincomalee was changed to Trincomalee -Batticaloa by the Holy Father.

**Between** 6th and 11th of April 1970 a Seminar was held by the East Asian Pastoral Institute in the National Seminary, Kandy, and I too attended it.

**A** meeting of Asian Bishops was arranged by the E.A.P.I. to take place in Manila, Philippines from 22nd to 30th November 1970. and I was sent as representative of the Sri Lankan Bishops' Conference. On the way I visited Kuala Lumpur and met the Archbishop Dr.Vendargon who is originally from Mathagal. Then I visited Singapore before proceeding to Manila.

**The** Holy Father Pope Paul VI visited Manila during the Asian Bishops' Meeting on November 25th and celebrated

Mass with the Bishops and gave us each a pectoral cross as a memorial of his meeting.

**Since** the Holy Father was to visit Colombo on his return journey to Rome. I came back immediately to Colombo on 2nd December through Hong-Kong.

**The** Holy Father came to Colombo on 4th December and was accorded a grand reception by the Government of Sri Lanka on the Galle Face Esplanade. I was given the honour of giving the Tamil translation of the Welcome Speech of the Bishops' Conference.

**My** 4th brother, B.Manuelpillai died on 18th April 1971 in Kayts. Due to troubles in Colombo. I could not attend the funeral in Kayts.

**His** Lordship, Dr.J.Emilianuspillai, O.M.I. Bishop of Jaffna died in Colombo on 17th July 1972. Bishop Glennie and I attended his funeral in Jaffna on 21st July, 1972.

**The** Silver Jubilee of the Episcopal Ordination of Bishop I.Glennie occurred on 21st September 1972. It was celebrated publicly by a concelebrated Mass and felicitation on the Batticaloa Esplanade on 22nd September. It was attended by all the Bishops of Sri Lanka.

**After** the Jubilee Celebration Bishop Glennie went on a vacation to his home land. On his way he went to Rome and submitted his retirement from his office to the Holy Father, Pope Paul VI. The Holy Father did not accept his retirement but thanked him for his long service to the Diocese and requested him to continue as Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa. So, Bishop Glennie returned to Batticaloa after

his vacation and told me that his plan to make me Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa was not successful. He further told me." Since the Bishop of Jaffna is dead, you are going to be taken to Jaffna as its Bishop".

**This** prediction of Bishop Glennie took place in December 1972 . His Excellency Dr.Carlo Curis, the Delegate Apostolic in Sri Lanka informed me by a letter dated 23rd December 1972 that the Holy Father had appointed me as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Jaffna. This news was made public on 27th December 1972. His Lordship Bishop L.R.Antony was appointed co-adjutor to the Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa with the right of succession.

I took charge of the Diocese of Jaffna on 9th January, 1973. Bishop Glennie accompanied me to Jaffna and concelebrated Holy Mass in the Jaffna Cathedral with me and Bishop L.R.Antony the Administrator of the Diocese.

I shall be eternally grateful to Bishop Glennie for all that he has done for me.

**During** my stay in Batticaloa, Mr.F.X.C Nadarajah gave me a copy of *Santhiogu Major Ammanai*, (சந்தியோகுமாயோர் அம்மாணை - the Folk poem on St.James the Major) and a copy of *Gnanapallu* (ஞானப்பள்ளு) and I studied them with interest. Mr.F.X.C.Nadarajah is a native of Karaitivu of Jaffna who got converted to Catholicism. After his conversion he went to Batticaloa and got himself trained as a Teacher by the Brothers of St.Joseph and got married in Batticaloa and was living there. He was interested in Catholic *Ammanaikal* (அம்மாணைகள் - Folk-poems and had made a collection of them.





## 6. MY EPISCOPAL MINISTRY IN THE DIOCESE OF JAFFNA

1973

**After** taking charge of the Diocese I paid an official visit to the President of the Republic of Sri Lanka Mr. William Gopallawa in his official Residence in Colombo on 21st January.

**The** Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Very Revd. Fr. Richard Hanley, O.M.I. paid a visit to Jaffna and concelebrated Mass with me in the Cathedral on 25th January, 1973. In the evening a public reception was held for him on the Cathedral grounds.

**On** 30th January I paid an official visit to the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Mrs. Srimavo Bandaranayake at her official Residence - "Temple Trees" in Colombo.

**As** Bishop of the Diocese I visited the Parishes, Churches and Institutions, celebrated Holy Mass for the Feasts and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation to children and adults. I opened new churches where necessary.

**On** 16th March, I visited the Island of Kachchativu with Fr. S.A. Michaelsamy, O.M.I. the Vicar General and Fr. J.B. Devarajah to decide whether priests could be sent there for the Feast of St. Antony, the Patron of the church there. A Navy Launch was arranged for us by the Jaffna Government Agent, Mr. Wimal Amarasekara. At that time there was a dispute between India and Sri Lanka as to which country that Island belonged. But it had always been a part

of the Jaffna Diocese. On this account India accepted that Kachchativu belonged to Sri Lanka. After the visit I decided to continue to send our priests for the Feast.

**On** June 30th His Excellency Most Rev. Dr. Carlo Curis, the Apostolic Delegate in Sri Lanka visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu for the first time and was given a grand reception. He presided at the Concelebrated Mass there for the Feast on July 2nd.

**On** September 26th I celebrated Mass in Karampan for the Golden Jubilee of the Wedding of my eldest brother, Mr. B. Santhiapillai and his wife.

**On** 22nd December, Revd. Fr. A. J. B. Antoninus, O.M.I. who was staying in Colombo died and his funeral took place there. I could not attend it. He had written the history of the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu.



**1974**

**On** 11th January, His Excellency Most Rev. Carlo Curis, the Delegate Apostolic, paid his first visit to Jaffna and was given a rousing welcome by the clergy, religious and faithful of the Jaffna City. On the 12th of January he solemnly blessed and declared open the newly erected Religious Education Training Centre for Catechists near St. Joseph's Catholic Press. On 14th January Rev. Fr. B. E. Alfred, O.M.I., who had been my class mate for many years, collapsed suddenly and died after a lecture in the new Catechists' training centre.

**On** January 14th Rev. Fr. J. B. Pakianathar, C.R. Prior of the Rosary Ashram, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his

Priesthood in Fatima Church, Panderteruppu and I attend the celebration and felicitated him.

**On** 19th I went to Batticaloa to bid good-bye to Bishop Ignatius Glennie, s.j. who recently resigned from the See of Trincomalee -Batticaloa. Bishop L.R.Antony became Bishop of that diocese.

**Since** this year was the Golden Jubilee year of the Coronation of the Statue of Our Lady of Madhu, we planned a Holy Year, (1975) Programme of Renewal and Reconciliation in the Diocese. In order to carry out the programme more easily we decided to take the Statue of Our Lady of Madhu to all the Parishes from March 16th to June 10th, as it had been done for the Silver Jubilee of the Coronation of the Statue of Our Lady of Madhu.

**On** 20th June, Fr.S.Emmanuel, O.M.I. uncle of Fr.Joy Chrysostom died at the ripe age of 93. He had been a great missionary.

**For** the Golden Jubilee of the Coronation of the Statue of Our Lady of Madhu His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Cooray, O.M.I., Archbishop of Colombo, presided over the celebrations at Madhu.

**On** July 21st, I left by plane for Rome to attend the meeting of the International Committee for the Holy Year, as the representative of the Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka. Fr.B.Gonsalez, O.M.I. who was going home to Spain for his vacation travelled with me to Rome. From 23rd to 25th July, I attended the meetings of the International Committee for the Holy Year (1975) in the Vatican City. On 25th

afternoon some of the Bishops and I visited the excavations under the Basilica of St.Peter. Professoress Marcherita Guarducci explained to us how she had discovered the actual relics of St.Peter and gave us each a copy of her book on the subject.

**On** 26th morning, I visited the office of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith and discussed the problems concerning the Diocese. In the evening I visited my 'Alma Mater', Propaganda College on the Janiculum and paid my respects to His Eminence Cardinal Rossi, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide, who was residing there temporarily.

**On** 28th I visited St.Paul's Basilica and then proceeded to Castelgandolfo to attend the General Audience of the Holy Father since he was not granting private audiences due to his poor health. Fr.Anton Rajanayagam of our Diocese, who was Vice-Rector in one of the Pontifical Colleges in Rome, drove me there in his car. Before returning to the Diocese I was desirous to visit the Shrine of St.James, the Major in Compostella in Spain, Fatima, Lourdes and Menzigen in Switzerland.

**So**, Fr.B.Gonsalez, O.M.I. took me by plane on 30th July to Madrid. There his relatives welcomed us. Since Fr.Gonsalez's aged mother (91 years old) was anxious to see him early we left for Leon by express bus on 1st August. I really enjoyed the cross-country trip. On arrival I was cordially welcomed by Father's family. The meeting of the aged mother and the missionary son, was a touching scene. I stayed in Father's home.



On August 3rd  
Fr. Gonzalez  
took me to  
Santiago de  
Compostella by  
train.

Bishop Deogupillai with Fr.B.Gonzalez  
in Santiago di Compostella

On the 4th  
we visited the famous Basilica of  
St. James the Major my patron Saint  
and celebrated  
Holy Mass in the  
crypt before the  
relics of the saint.  
Then we visited the  
excavations under  
the Basilica.



famous Basilica of St. James the Major

In Batticaloa I had read *Santhiogumajor Ammanai*  
(சந்தியோகுமாயோர் அம்மாளை - the Folk poem on St. James,  
the Major) given to me by Mr.F.X.C.Nadarajah but did not  
believe that the narrative was a true one, since there was no

record of it in the New Testament. Only after seeing the Basilica of St. James and the excavations under the main altar I believed that St. James the Major had actually gone to Spain to announce the Gospel of Christ and because of this his body was taken to Spain after his martyrdom by Herod and buried in Compostella.

**As** others had been buried round the tomb of St. Peter in Rome in the first century A.D. I found many buried close to the Tomb of St. James, the Major, in Compostella in the 1st century A.D.

**On** August 5th we went by car to Pontevedra on the Atlantic Coast about 50 miles from Santiago. This was called **Finis Terrae** (end of the earth) during the Roman times, because the Romans were not aware of the existence of the American Continent.

**On** August 6th Fr. Gonzalez took me to the Sanctuary of Our Lady in Fatima, Portugal. It is situated in a beautiful country side of hills and dales. Next day we celebrated Mass in the Basilica of Fatima and met the Rector of the Sanctuary. He generously donated a beautiful Statue of Our Lady of Fatima (2 feet high) for our Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at Pandateruppu.

**On** August 9th I visited the Holy Family Convent of Usurbil and met Mother Jean Marie, the co-foundress of the Rosarian Congregation. In the evening we visited Loyola and saw the Basilica and the castle of St. Ignatius.

**On** August 10, the Holy Family Sisters took us by car to Xavier to see the castle of St. Francis and other places of interest.

**On** August, 11th the Holy Family Sisters took us by car to Lourdes and I celebrated Mass in the crypt of the Basilica.

**On** August 12th I celebrated Mass at the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. After Mass Fr.Henri Gesland, O.M.I. who had come down from Paris to take me there met me. Fr.B.Gonsalez, O.M.I. was able to return to Leon for his family reunion on August 15th. I was so grateful to him for all the arrangements he had made to take me to Compostella, Fatima and Lourdes.

**On** the way to Paris Fr.Gesland took me to Chateau Neuf de Galaure to meet Fr.Finet and see his 'Foyer de charite'. On August 14th I celebrated Mass in the chapel of the Foyer. On August 15th Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady I celebrated Mass in Fr.Gesland's small church of St.Peter at Bonnieres, Port Villey (Paris) for some Catholics of Erlalai staying with him in a farm.

**On** August 16th Fr.Gesland took me to the Basilica of Mont Matre and the Convent and Basilica of St.Theresa of Lisieux.

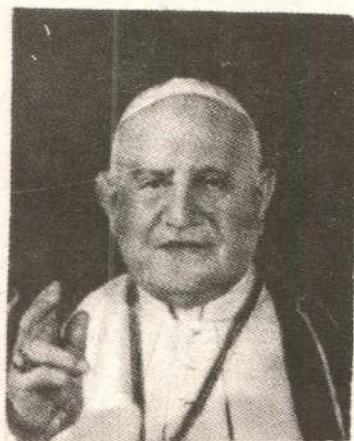
**On** August 17th I left by plane for Düsseldorf in Germany. Fr.S.J.Emmanuel who was holidaying there met me at the airport and took me to the Parish of Holthausen, where he had arranged accommodation for me. As arranged I concelebrated Mass with the assistant Parish Priest and Fr.Emmanuel in the Parish Church on August 18th. I wore the white cassock and was taken in procession to the church. The people were very happy to see a brown Bishop in white cassock.

On 20th August, Fr. Emmanuel took me to the famous Cathedral of Köln (Cologne) and to the offices of Missio and Misereor. I spoke to the officials-in-charge about help to the Diocese.

On 22nd August, I left Düsseldorf for Menzingen in Switzerland by train. Two Holy Cross Sisters from Menzingen met me at the Zürich Station and took me to Menzingen on 23rd morning. After visiting the different Institutions managed by the Holy Cross Sisters, I was taken in the afternoon to Einsiedeln to see Sr. John Deschamps, who had worked in Jaffna for many years and to visit the famous Shrine of Our Lady and the Benedictine Abbey. I was very grateful to Sr. John who had made the arrangement for me to see all the place of interest there within a short time and return to Menzingen.

On August 24th I was taken by the Sisters to Rorschach to meet the Mother General of the Holy Cross Sisters. Switzerland is a very neat and beautiful country. It is the best I have seen so far. I left for Milan by the night Express train from Zurich.

On the 25th morning Fr. Anton Mathias and some Italians from Bergamo, whom I had met in Lourdes met me at the Milan station and took me to see the 'Duomo' (Cathedral). Next day my Italian friends took me to Bergamo to visit the home and relatives of **Pope John XXIII**. From there they sent me by train to Rome.



His Holiness Pope John XXIII



**On** August 27th morning Fr.Anton Rajanayagam was at the Rome Station to welcome me. He took me to the Oblates' Casa Generalizia and I rested the whole day.

**On** 28th morning Fr.Anton Rajanayagam took me and Fr.Anton Mathias by car to Castelgandolfo for a Papal Audience. During the summer vacation the Holy Father was not granting private audiences due to his poor health. So we had to be satisfied with the General Audience. At the end of the General Audience the Holy Father invited all the Bishops present to bless the people with him. Then he admitted each of the Bishops for a few minutes of private conversation. He appeared to be very tired.

**On** August 29th I left Rome for Bombay by Air India with Fr.Anton Mathias. On 30th we went from Bombay to Poona by train to visit the Rector of the Papal Seminary and our seminarians there. On September 1st we returned to Bombay and continued our journey to Madras by plane. Our Seminar-ians in Madras Seminary were at the airport to welcome us. On September, 2nd I paid a visit to most Rev.Dr.R.Arulappa, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, to Fr.Emmanuel, O.M.I., Canjeeपुरam and to the Rosarian Convent in Peria Palayam.

**On** December 3rd I went alone by plane to Thiruchirapalli. Our Seminarians in Trichy Seminary were at the air - port to welcome me. Between the 4th and 6th I visited te Rosarian convents and Rosarian Brothers' Houses in Tuticorin, Trivandrum, Manatparai, Karumathur and Madura and returned to Trichy. Since Bishop Thomas Fernando, who had been transferred recently from Tuticorin to Trichy as Bishop, kindly lent me his car with the driver and Fr.A.Michael of the Tamil Literature Society as guide, I was able to do these visits so quickly. I was very grateful to him.

On 7th December I returned to Jaffna by air from Trichy. On 18th I celebrated Mass in St. Sebastian's Church Mannar for the Silver Jubilee of St. Xavier's Girls' College and presided at the Prize-giving in the evening.



1975

On February 8th Mr. J. R. Jeyawardena President of the United National Party paid a courtesy call to me in Bishop's House with his supporters in Jaffna.

On 12th April I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the Golden Jubilee of Wedding and Dramatic Activities of Mr. Poonthan Joseph, *Nattukoothu chakarawartha* நாட்டுக்கூத்து சக்கரவர்த்தி - King of Folk Drama).

On April 15th I presided at the first graduation ceremony of the voluntary catechists, who had followed the 3 months training course in our Religious Education Centre.

On 30th April, I declared open St. Patrick's College's 125 Anniversary Festival and the Exhibition organized by the Old Boys of the College to collect funds to provide further educational facilities to school leavers.

On May 27th I concelebrated Mass with Fr. Justin Sinnappu O.S.B. in St. Antony's Church, Chunnakam, for his Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee. He appeared to be very sick.

**On** July 26th Mr. Alfred Duraiyappa, the Mayor of Jaffna was assassinated at Ponnalai.

**On** 21st August our Diocesan Clergy Retreat began at the Retreat House, Pandateruppu. The preacher was the Rt. Rev. Dr. M. Arokiasamy, Bishop of Kottar, South India. He had been a companion of Bishop L. R. Antony in Propaganda College, Rome.

**On** 22nd August, I celebrated Mass in the Rosarian Convent at Vasavilan for the Silver Jubilee of its foundation.

**The** Clergy Retreat ended on 27th August. I thanked Bishop Arokiasamy for giving a good Retreat to my priests.

**On** 30th August, the public celebration of Fr. Gnannaprakasar's Birth Centenary was held at the open-air theatre, Jaffna, and it was presided over by Bishop Arokiasamy of Kottar. There was a great gathering of people. Bishop Arokiasamy preached also the Retreat of the Holy Family Sisters in Tamil from August 29th to September, 6th.

**On** 6th September I was the chief celebrant of the Mass for the Jubilee Celebration of some Holy Family Sisters at their Ilavilai Convent. The sisters entertained Bishop Arokiasamy and thanked him before bidding him farewell.

**On** September 9th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for Sr. Marie, the Superior of the Holy Family Convent, Jaffna, for the Silver Jubilee of her Religious Profession.

**On** September 22nd I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent, Jaffna, for Mother Maria Francesca and Sr. Iniga Dober, who were on a visit to Jaffna from Switzer-

land. They had looked after me last year when I visited Switzerland.

**On** October 15th I left for Rome by plane via Bombay with 40 persons forming the official Holy Year Pilgrimage from Sri Lanka. There were 33 lay people and 7 priests in the group. Frs.J.P..E.Selvarajah and S.A.Swampillai of Jaffna were two of the members. Frs.S.J.Emmanuel and Anton Rajanayagam were at the Rome air-port to attend to our needs. We were taken to a Hostel in via Giglio d'Oro arranged for us by the Central Committee of the Holy Year. On October 17th I celebrated Mass for the Pilgrimage group in the Basilca of St.John Lateran and the group then visited the Scala Sancta and the Basilica of St.Mary Major. In the evening we visited St.Paul's Basilica, the Colliseum and the church of St.Peter in Chains.

**On** October 18th after Mass in the crypt of St.Peter's Basilica I took the pilgrim group to the Sistine Chapel and to the Vatican museum.

**On** Sunday, October 19th, our pilgrim group assisted at the Holy Father's Mass in St.Peter's Square and at the Beatification Ceremony of Ven.Eugene de Mazenod, the Founder of the Oblate Congregaton. In the evening I attended with Fr.Anton Rajanayagam a celebration at the Oblates' General House in honour of the new Blessed.

**On** October 20th I took the pilgrim Group to the Catacomb of St.Callistus. There I met Fr.Cierpka, O.M.I. who informed me that Fr.E. De la Haye, O.M.I. had died suddenly in Paris on 18th October. In the evening I took the pilgrims to visit the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima at San Vittorino (outside Rome) to meet Bro.Gino, the supposed stigmatist.

**On** October 21st evening we attended a liturgical service of thanksgiving for the pilgrimage in the chapel of the Propaganda College. This was followed by a gathering of Sri Lankans in Rome in the crypt of the College. His Excellency Mgr. Mazza, the Secretary General for the Holy Year, the Sri Lankan Ambassador in Rome Mr. John Rodrigo and others were present. His Lordship Bishop Edmund Peries, O.M.I. who had come to Rome for the Beatification of Ven. Eugene de Mazenod also attended the get-together. We thanked everybody concerned for making our pilgrimage a reality.

**On** October 22nd evening we took part in the General Audience of the Holy Father in St. Peter's Square. Our group was fortunate to get a place quite close to the Throne of the Pope. He addressed a few words to our group also. After the General Audience the Bishops present were granted a short private audience in the Aula delle Udienze.

**On** 23rd October, we left Rome by *Alitalia* for Bombay. From there we flew to Colombo on 25th October. Fr. Kingsley Swampillai, who was working in the Apostolic Delegation, was at the air-port to welcome us back.

**On** November 22nd I presided at the Concelebrated Mass in the Jaffna Cathedral for the diocesan celebration for the Beatification of Ven. Eugene de Mazenod, the founder of the O.M.I. Congregation, whose members are still working in our Diocese.

**On** November 24th His Excellency Dr. Carlo Curis, the Apostolic Delegate celebrated Mass in St. Lucia's Cathedral, Colombo for the National Celebration in honour of Blessed Eugene de Mazenod, O.M.I. and I concelebrated with other Bishops of Sri Lanka and I preached the homily in Tamil for the occasion.

In December the Holy Father erected the North Central Province of Sri Lanka, which belonged partly to the Jaffna Dioese and partly to the Trinco-Batticaloa Diocese into a Prefecture Apostolic and appointed Very Rev.Fr.Henry Goonawardene, O.M.I. as its first Prefect.



1976

**On** January 14th I celebrated Mass in Manipay Convent and inaugurated the Convent of the Holy Family Contemplative Sisters.

**On** April 3rd I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.A.Singarayer, O.M.I. He died on April 2nd. He had been the Bursar of St.Patrick's College for many years and had been Parish Priest of Karampan also.

**On** April 29th I celebrated Mass for the funeral of Rev.Fr.J.A.Rajanayagam, O.M.I. in the Cathedral. He died on 28th. He had worked in the pagan missions with Fr.Gnanaparasar, O.M.I. and after his death .

**On** May 9th I concelebrated Mass in the Colombo Cathedral with His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Cooray, O.M.I who had retired from his office of Archbishop of Colombo. The other Bishops of Sri Lanka also concelebrated with him.

**On** 3rd July I celebrated Mass in St.Sebastian's Church, Mannar, for the farewell to Bro.Hilary Joseph, F.S.C, Principal of St.Xavier's Boys' School, Mannar, who had retired from service.

**On** 10th July I attended at Pandateruppu the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Priesthood of Rev.Fr.Jeremias

Arasarathinam of Trinco-Batticaloa Diocese. I had helped him to become a priest.

**On** August 5th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.A.R.Brown, O.M.I. who died on 4th August. He had worked with me in St.Henry's College, Ilavalai, when I was Rector of that College.



1977

**On** January 15th I celebrated Mass in the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna, for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr.Antonina, A.C., the Principal of St.John Bosco's School, Jaffna. She is the sister of Mr.A.S.Augustine of Puloly, who was a teacher under me in Anuradhapura and Karaveddi. He is now teaching in St.Patrick's College and is residing in the O.L.R.Parish.

**On** January 28th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.N.Joseph, O.M.I. who died on 27th January. He had been the Bursar of St.Patrick's College and of the Bishop's House for many years.

**From** February 25th to March 10th I attended the Symposium on the ministries of the Federation of the Asian Bishops' Conferences held in Hong-Kong. Fr.S.J.Emmanuel also attended the Symposium as a theologian from Sri Lanka.

**On** April 18th I celebrated Mass in St.Sebastian's Church, Karampan, for the Golden Jubilee of the Wedding of my brother B.Mariampillai and his wife. They are the parents of Sr.M.James A.C. and Sr.M.Angelina, H.F.

**On** April 26th Mr.S.J.V.Chelvanayagam, the Political Leader of the Sri Lankan Tamils, who had founded the Tamil Eelam Liberation Front, which was later changed to Tamil United Liberation Front and had advocated Independence for the Tamils, died. I attended the funeral in Jaffna town.

**On** May 14th I participated in the Episcopal Ordination of the new Archbishop of Colombo, His Grace Dr.Nicholas Marcus Fernando in the Colombo Cathedral. His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Cooray, O.M.I. was the chief ordaining Bishop and I was one of the ordaining Bishops.

**On** July 9th I celebrated Mass for the funeral of Rev.Fr.B.John, O.M.I. who died on 7th July. He had been a good Science teacher in St.Patrick's College. He was the one who baptized me.

**On** August 18th I celebrated Mass in St.Sebastian's Church, Karampan for the funeral of my dear sister Anthoniapillai, who died on 17th of August.

**On** August 22nd I celebrated Mass at the Tholagatty Rosarian Ashram for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of some of the monks.

**On** August 22nd I learnt about the sad death of Rev.Fr.M.J.Mariampillai, my cousin, in a motor accident in England on 19th. Since I had to go to Rome to attend the Synod of Bishops in Rome from September 30th to October 30th, I decided to go a few days earlier in order to visit England.



**On** September 18th I celebrated Mass in St.Hugh's church, Woking, Surrey, England, for the repose of Fr.M.J.Mariampillai and thanked the Parish Priest and the parishoners for all that they had done for the funeral of Fr.Mariampillai. He had worked in that Parish for about a month prior to his death.

**From** September 30th to October 30th I attended the Synod of Bishops in Rome as the delegate of the Bishop's Conference of Sri Lanka. The theme disussed in the Synod was: "Catechesis in the Modern World, especially of the children. His Holiness Pope Paul VI presided at the final session and admited all the Bishops one by one, for a few minutes of private audience. At this Synod, I met for the first time His Eminence Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, Archbishop of Krakow in Poland. He was one of the Directors of the Synod.

**On** December 27th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.Julien Brohan, O.M.I. He died on 26th December. He had been in charge of the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu and had been Bursar of Bishop's House for many years.



**1978**

**On** February 1st I blessed the Institute for Mentally Hadicapped Children in Uduvil named "*THE ARK*". The Holy Family Sisters are in charge of it. Mrs.Mary Jacob and her husband Dr.Jacob from Canada, who sponsored this Project financially, were present for the inauguration.

**On** February 2nd I celebrated Mass at the Rosarian monastery, Tholagatty, for the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of the Rosarian Congregation of Monks by Rev.Fr.B.A.Thomas, O.M.I.

**On** February 4th I celebrated Mass in the Convent of Our Lady of Lanka, Atchuvely. and offered special prayers for Mr.J.R.Jeyawardene, the Leader of the U.N.P, who, after winning the General Election in 1977 had become the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

**From** 13rd to 18th February, I attended a 'Live-in-Seminar' of the Bishops and Major Religious Superiors on National Harmony at the Retreat House, Tewatte.

**On** April 4th Rev.Fr.J.de Wit O.M.I, a Belgian Oblate who had worked in the Diocese for many years, died in his country and we prayed for the repose of his soul.

**On** April 13th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.S.Gomez, O.M.I. who had worked many years in the Jaffna Diocese. He died on 11th April.

**On** August 18th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the repose of His Holiness Pope Paul VI who had died in Rome.

**On** September 3rd I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for His Holiness John Paul I, the new Pope. On September 8th I celebrated Mass in the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna, for the Feast and commemorated the 50th anniversary of the completion of that church by Rev.Fr.H.Perrussel, O.M.I.

**On** September 30th I celebrated Mass for the repose of His Holiness Pope John Paul I in the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu. He had died suddenly.

**On** October 3rd, Rev.Fr.Charles Senthivel, O.M.I. the Administrator of the Madhu Shrine celebrated the 25th Anniversary of his Sacerdotal Ordination and I participated in the celebration.

**On** October 7th I celebrated Mass in the Amalivanam Convent for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of some Rosarian Sisters.

**On** October 22nd I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the Public Inauguration of the Ministry of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II. He is the Polish Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, whom I had met in Rome during the 1977 Synod of Bishops.

**On** October 29th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the Golden Jubilee of the Wedding of Mr. & Mrs Seemampillai, the parents of Fr.S.J.Emmanuel. He also participated .

**In** 1978 the U.N.P. Government got a new Constitution for Sri Lanka approved by Parliament. It was called "The Constitution of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka". It gave Sri Lanka a French style Presidential system. And so, the Prime Minister Mr.J.R.Jeyawardene became the first President and Mr.Premadasa became the Prime Minister.

**From** November 18th to December 29th I was a patient in St.Michael's Nursing Home of the Holy Cross Sisters

in Colombo. Dr.Ramachandran, the chief Physician of the Civil Hospital Colombo, treated me for dysentery and para-typhoid and the Sisters looked after me well. I am very grateful to all of them.



1979

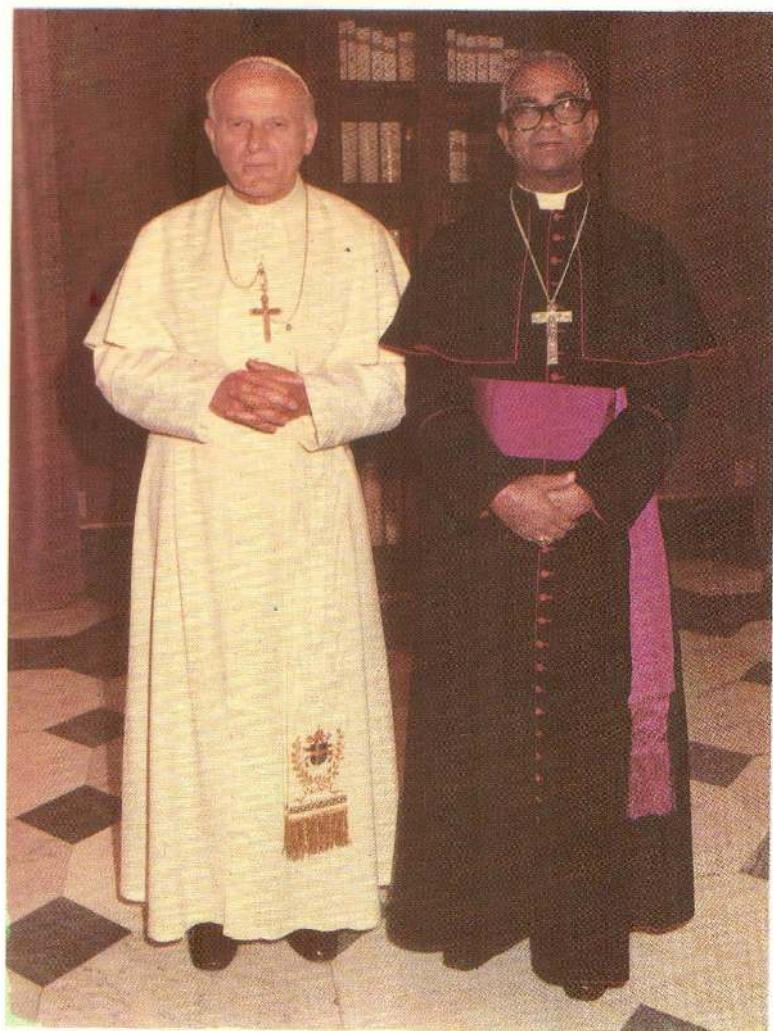
**On** March 15th I blessed the newly built chapel in the Government Hospital, Kayts and celebrated Mass for the 50th anniversary of the Religious Profession of Sr.Agathina of the Holy Cross Congregation, who had worked as a nurse for many years in this hospital.

**On** March 18th the new Apostolic Pro-Nunciio in Sri Lanka most Rev.Dr.Nicola Rotunno was accorded a grand welcome in St.Patrick's Ground on his first visit to Jaffna. He was the chief celebrant for the Mass offered there.

**Between** the 19th and 24th of March he visited many places of the Jaffna Diocese and I accompanied him.

**On** April 28th I went with the other Bishops of Sri Lanka to Rome for our 'Ad Limina Visit'.

**On** April 28th we had the **Audience with the Holy Father Pope John Paul II** . He was informal and quite cordial. At the end of the Audience he invited us to bless jointly Sri Lanka with him.



Audience with the Holy Father .John Paul II

**On** April 29th I went to Orvieto on the invitation of Fr.Bennet Constantine of Jaffna Diocese who was working in a Parish there and of the Bishop of the Diocese, with Frs.Kingsley Swampillai and Thomas Savundranayagam and celebrated Mass there. The Bishop of the Diocese joined us at lunch.

**Between** 3rd and 21st of May I stayed with the Holy Cross Sistes in Menzingen and Rorschach, Switzerland, for a short holiday and a medical check-up.

**On** June 23rd I participated with other Bishops in the Concelebrated Mass with His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Cooray, O.M.I., the former Archbishop of Colombo, in the Colombo Cathedral, for the Golden Jubilee of his Priesthood.

**On** July 9th Archbishop D.S.Lourdusamy, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples paid a visit to Jaffna and was given a rousing welcome. After that he addressed the clergy and Religious.

**On** July 16th I celebrated Mass in St.Joseph's Convent, Vasavilan, for some Rosarian sisters who had completed 25 years of Religious Profession in the Congregation.

**On** July 25th I celebrated the Festive Mass in St.James' Church, Ilavalai, for the Centenary Celebration of the church.

**On** August 4th Rev.Fr.A.Gurusamy, O.M.I celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his Priesthood in the Retreat House, Pandataruppu where he was residing.

**On** August 12th I celebrated Mass in St. Sebastian's church, Mannar, for the Golden Jubilee of Bro. Gregory and the Silver Jubilee of Bro. Michael of the De La Salle Congregation.

**On** September 7th I held Confirmation Service in St. Mary's Church, Kopay, and presided at the celebration of the 75th year of that church.

**On** September 15th I celebrated Mass in the church at Neerveli to commemorate the 75th year of its establishment. On November 23rd I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev. Fr. Guy F. Thuraisingam of the Voluntas Dei Institute. He died on 22nd.

**On** November 26th I presided at the Concelebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Fr. Louis Dessy, O.M.I., a Belgian Missionary who had laboured very zealously in the Diocese for more than 50 years. He built the new Church of Sillalai. He died on 25th.

**On** December 7th I concelebrated Mass with His Lordship L.R. Antony, Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa in the Jaffna Cathedral for the Silver Jubilee of his priesthood.

**On** December 18th I celebrated Mass for the Diamond Jubilee and the Silver Jubilee of some Sisters of the Holy Family at the Retreat House, Pandateruppu.

**On** December 27th Rev. Fr. P.J. Jivaratnam, O.M.I. celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his priesthood by offering Mass in St. Patrick's College chapel and I attended the celebration and congratulated him.



1980

**On** February 11th I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent, Jaffna, for the 50 anniversary of the arrival of the Holy Cross Sisters of Menzingen, Switzerland, in Jaffna to begin their apostolate in the midst of our people. They began their apostolate in the Government Hospital, Kayts.

**On** 21st February I celebrated Mass at the Rosarian Monastery, Tholagatty, for the 50th Anniversary of the Religious Profession of Brothers Thevasagayam and Amirthanathar.

**On** February 26th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral with Very Rev.Fr.Fernand Jetté, Superior General of the O.M.I. Congregation, who had come on a visit to the Jaffna Diocese..

**On** March 4th I celebrated Mass for the funeral of Rev.Fr.Leo Thuraisingam, O.M.I. who died on 3rd March. He had been a companion of mine in St.Martin's Minor Seminary.

**On** March 8th I celebrated Mass for the funeral of Rev.Fr.H.Le Coutour, O.M.I. who died on 6th March. He had worked in the Diocese for more than 50 years and had been the Vicar General of Bishop Emilianuspillai.

**On** October 4th I opened the Centre for Evangelization and the new Major Seminary of St.Francis Xavier.(the Pre-Philosophate only) with Rev.Fr.Philip Ponniah as the Director, in the buildings of our former Catholic Teachers' Training College, Colombogam, which had been returned to us by the Government, w.e.f.1.6.1980.



**On** October 25th I welcomed the Rt.Hon. Mr.R.Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, to the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, when he came there to declare open the water tank costing more than Rs.800,000/= built by the Government for the benefit of the Pilgrims. He was the first Prime Minister to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu.

**On** October 30th I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent, Jaffna, for the Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr.M.Bernarda of Switzerland. She had spent 40 years of her Religious life in Sri Lanka.

**On** November 15th I celebrated Mass in St.Martin's Minor Seminary for the Feast of its Patron. A special publication commemorating the Centenary of the foundation of St.Martin's Seminary was issued on that occasion.

**On** December 10th I participated in the concelebrated Mass by the Bishops in the National Seminary, Kandy, for the Silver Jubilee of its establishment.

**On** December 20th I celebrated Mass in St.Joseph's Church, Colombogam, for the Diamond Jubilee of Priesthood of Rev.Fr. P.T.James, O.M.I. who was residing at Amala Utpavam, Colombogam.

**On** December 22nd I celebrated Mass with Frs.S.S.Villavarasingam, O.M.I. and C.Mariampillai, O.M.I. in St.Martin's Seminary chapel for the Golden Jubilee of their Priesthood. Their Ordination was the first one I witnessed.



**On** January 17th I celebrated Mass in St.Patrick's College Chapel at the request of the O.B.A. of the College to inaugurate the Centenary Celebration of the Dedication of the College to St.Patrick.

**On** 30th January, Rt.Hon. Mr.R.Premadasa, the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, paid a visit to me and the Catholics of Jaffna gave him a cordial welcome in our Cathedral, because there was no other hall with seats available. By the New Constitution for Sri Lanka approved by Parliament in 1978 Sinhala and Tamil had been declared National Languages but Sinhala alone was made the Official Language (language of administration ) for the whole of Sri Lanka. Therefore, in my address of welcome I asked him why Tamil also could not be made an Official Language. He made no reply.

**On** May 21st I concelebrated Mass in the Cathedral with Fr.E.Pomycol, O.M.I. and A.Cierpka, O.M.I. two Polish priests, who have been working in our Diocese, for the Golden Jubilee of their Priesthood.

**On** May 22nd I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for Rev. Fr. S.Gnanaprakasara, O.M.I. on the occasion of the issuing of a commemorative postal Stamp in his honour by the Government.

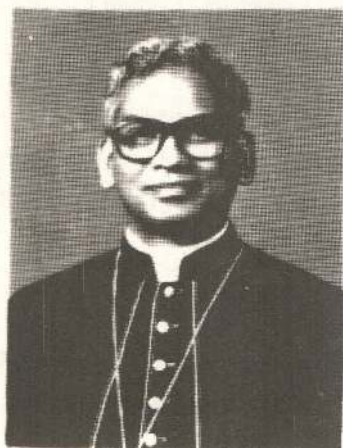
**On** May 27th I celebrated Mass in our Retreat House, Pandateruppu, for the Conference of the Major Superiors of the Religious Congregations in Sri Lanka for their first meeting in the Jaffna Diocese.

**On May 29th** I announced in Mannar the creation of the New Diocese of Mannar from the Diocese of Jaffna, (Comprising the Mannar and Vavuniya Districts) and the nomination by the Holy Father, the Pope, of Rev.Fr.Thomas Savundranayagam, who was doing special theological studies in Rome, as the First Bishop of the New Diocese. The Catholics of Mannar welcomed the good news.

**On June 1st** the Sri Lankan Armed Forces set fire to the magnificent Public Library of Jaffna and destroyed it completely. On June 2nd Rev.Fr.H.S.David, the Tamil Research Scholar and a former teacher of St.Patrick's College, who was spending his retirement in St.Patrick's College, when he learnt about the destruction of the Jaffna Public Library, died suddenly through shock and grief. His funeral took place on June 3rd after Mass in the Cathedral.

**On June 7th**, Pentecost Day, I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral to commemorate the 16th Centenary of the 1st Council of Constantinople in Union with the Holy Father, the Pope who was commemorating it in Rome solemnly with

representatives of the Bishops of the Catholic Church.



Rt. Revd. Thomas Savundranayagam

**On July 30th** I presided at the Episcopal Ordination of the **Rt. Revd. Thomas Savundranayagam**, Bishop - Elect of the new Diocese of Mannar, in the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu, with the most Rev.Dr.Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Archbishop of

Colombo and the Rt.Rev.Dr.Frank Marcus Fernando, Bishop of Chilaw as co-ordiners. His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Cooray, O.M.I. the Most Rev.Dr.Nicola Rotunno, the Apostolic Nuncio and the Bishops of Sri Lanka participated in the Ceremony. More than two hundred priests and 10,000 faithful and religious attended the ceremony. The very Revd.Fr.Pellegrino Tomasso Ronchi, OFM (Cap) the Rector of the Pontifical College in Rome where Bishop T.Savundranayagam resided for this theological studies, came all the way from Rome and attended the Episcopal Ordination.

**On August 2nd** I presided at the ceremony of Installation of the New Bishop of Mannar in the Cathedral of Mannar in the name of the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio.

**On August 6th** I concelebrated Mass with Rt.Revd.Dr.Anton Selvanayagam, Auxiliary Bishop of Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in St.Mary's Church in Sillalai. He is originally from Sillalai and had studied in St.Henry's College, Ilavalai when I was the Rector of that College. This is his first visit to Sillalai as Bishop.

**On August 15th** I presided at the August Festival for the last time. Henceforth the new bishop of Mannar will be in charge of the feasts celebrated at the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu.

**The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Rt.Hon. R.Premadasa** came to Madhu on the eve of the Feast and was accorded a warm welcome before the religious services.

**On** August 22nd I celebrated a Mass for the funeral of Rev.Fr. John Singarayer who died on the 21st. He had been a companion of mine in St.Martin's Minor Seminary.

**On** September 5th Bishop Thomas Savundranayagam, the Bishop of Mannar, celebrated Mass in the Jaffna Cathedral grounds on his first visit to Jaffna after his Episcopal Ordination and I concelebrated with him. After the Mass, he was given a rousing welcome by the Catholics, priests and religious of the Jaffna Diocese.

**On** September 27th I celebrated Mass in our Retreat House at Pandateruppu for twenty Catholics from West Germany. They gave an offertory gift of Rs.19,000/=.

**On** November 12th I wrote a letter to the President J.R.Jeyawardene proposing some measures deemed necessary to reestablish peace and harmony in Sri Lanka. I told him that it was absolutely necessary to establish legal equality among the citizens of Sri Lanka by making Tamil also, which had been already accepted as a National Language, an Official Language for the whole country. I sent a copy of this letter to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka.

**On** November 23rd I celebrated Mass in St.Joseph's Convent, Myliddy, for the Diamond Jubilee of Srs.Antoinette and Maris Stella and the Silver Jubilee of Sr.M.Matilda of the Holy Family Congregation.

**On** December 16th morning I celebrated Mass in Holy Family Convent, Ilavala for the Golden Jubilee of some sisters and the Silver Jubilee of some sisters who had been my students in St.Joseph's Training College, Colombogam. In

the evening I celebrated Mass in St. Joseph's Convent, Vasavilan for the Silver Jubilee of Sr. Francis, C.R.

**On** December 18th Frs.K.B.Santhiapillai and J.B.Devarajah celebrated Mass with me in the Bishop's House chapel for the Silver Jubilee (anticipated) of their priestly Ordination.

**In** December the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Sri Lanka issued a statement that **Tamil also must be made an Official Language and English could be made a Link Language.**



**1982**

**On** January 27th I celebrated Mass in the church of Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna, for the 1500th Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

**On** February 4th I attended the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Priesthood of Rev.Fr.J.B.Devarajah at the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu. He had been a student under me in Anuradhapura.

**On** March 4th I concelebrated Mass with the other Bishops of Sri Lanka in the Cathedral of Galle for the funeral of the Rt.Rev.Dr.Antony De Sarem.

**On** March 10th, the Prefecture Apostolic of Anuradhapura was made a Diocese and Very Revd.Fr.Joy Gunawardene, O.M.I., the Prefect Apostolic was named the

first Bishop of the New Diocese by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

**On** May 13th I celebrated the Festive Mass in our Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima at Pandateruppu and renewed the Consecration of the World to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in union with the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, who did it at Fatima after his attempted assassination and all the Catholic Bishops in their own dioceses.

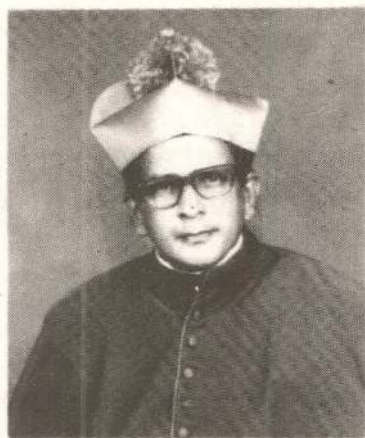
**On** May 15th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.P.T.James, O.M.I. who died on the 14th. As Parish Priest of the Cathedral Parish, he started the building of the New Cathedral.

**On** May 31st I celebrated Mass with the other Bishops of Sri Lanka in the Cathedral of Badulla for the funeral of His Lordship Leo Nanayakara, the Bishop of Badulla, who had died suddenly on May 27th. The Badulla diocese consists of the Uva Province.

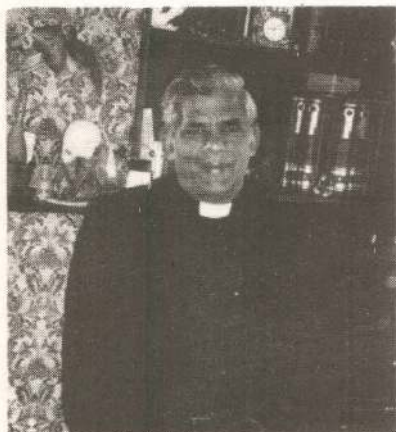
**On** June 25th I celebrated the Mass for the repose of Rev.Fr. A.Cierpka, O.M.I. who died in Mannar on 24th June. He was a Polish Priest who had worked in the Jaffna and Mannar Dioceses for nearly fifty years.

**On** July 9th I celebrated Mass in the Church of Christ the King, Murunkan, for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr.M.James, A.C., my niece, who was teaching in the school there. Sr.M..Angelina, her younger sister and Sr.M.Emilie, my sister were also present for the celebration.

On July 10th I participated in the Episcopal Ordination of **Msgr. Henry Joy Gunawardene, O.M.I., the first Bishop of Anuradhapura**, as one of the ordaining bishops. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Frank Marcus Fernando, Bishop of Chilaw and the President of the Episcopal Conference of Sri Lanka presided. His Grace the most Revd. Dr. Nicholas Marcus Fernando, the Archbishop of Colombo, was the third ordaining Bishop.



Bishop Joy Gunawardene



Rev. Fr. J.P.E. Selvarajah

On July 30th the Solemn Dedication of our new Cathedral was held. It was completed thanks to the indefatigable labours of **Rev. Fr. J. P. E. Selvarajah** from 1975 and the generosity of the funding agencies abroad. His Excellency Dr. Nicola Rotunno, the Papal Pro-Nuncio, their Lordships, the Bishops of Kandy, Trinco-Batticaloa, Mannar, and Very Revd. Msgr. Ferdinand Frank, the Gen-



eral Secretary of the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of Faith also participated in the Dedication services.

**On** August 29th I celebrated Mass in Ramanathapuram in Kilinochchi District for the Silver Jubilee of the Church of St.Roche there. On September 14th I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent for the Silver Jubilee of the Profession of three sisters and the final profession of Sr.Maria.

**On** October 4th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the 800th Birth Anniversary of St.Francis of Assisi. Rev.Fr.Peter, OFM was one of the concelebrants. The members of the third order of St,Francis of Assisi and some others participated.

**In** October President Jayawardene won the first Presidential election according to the New Constitution of 1978 by an absolute majority of votes.

**Between** 14th and 16th November, the priests of Jaffna, namely, Rev.Fr.A.Singarayer, O.M.I., Fr.P.Sinnarasa, the Parish Priest of Delft and Fr.Regis Rajanayagam, the Parish Priest of Naranthanai, were arrested by the police under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of 1979 which in March 1982 had been made a permanent piece of legislation. I visited them in their detention camp in Jaffna and found that they had been very badly treated. Fr.Regis Rajanayagam was released but the other two priests were sent to Welikada Prison in Colombo.

**On** November 16th I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent, Jaffna, for the Feast of Mother Edmonda,

the Provincial Superior and blessed the foundation for the Holy Cross Health Centre to be built on a land adjoining the convent.

**On** November 23rd I wrote to His Excellency the President, J.R.Jeyawardene, protesting against the arrest, detention and bad treatment of our Catholic Priests and sent a copy to the Catholic Bishops and Christian Bishops and other leaders. As a result they also wrote letters of protest to the President. The President acknowledged the receipt of my letter.

**On** December 11th I concelebrated Mass at the National Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka at Tewatta as one of the ordaining bishops at the Episcopal Ordination of Rev.Fr.W.Don Sylvester, the Bishop-elect of Galle. His Eminence. Cardinal Thomas Cooray was the chief ordaining Bishop and His Grace the most Revd.Dr.Nicholas Marcus Fernando, the Archbishop of Colombo was the other ordaining Bishop.

**On** December 18th I celebrated Mass in St. Raphael's Convent, Passaiyoor, for the Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr. M. Emilie, (my sister) Sr. Leoni (Sister of Fr.S.A.Swampillai) Sr.Celine and the Silver Jubilee of some other sisters. My sister is staying in this convent now.

**The** first Parliamentary Election under the New Constitution of 1978 was due in December, 1982. But the Government used its huge majority in Parliament to pass an amendment to the Constitution to extend the life of the Parliament until August 1989 without a general election.

The amendment required the approval of the majority in a referendum . The referendum was held on December 1982. The UNP Government won the referendum with 54.05%.



1983

**On** February 2nd I celebrated Mass in the Apostolic Carmel Convent for the 60th year celebration of the arrival of the A.C., Sisters in Sri Lanka.

**On** February 3rd, I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral with Frs.J.P.E.Selvarajah and S.E.N.Gunaseelan and Anton Rajanaygam for the Silver Jubilee of their Priesthood.

**On** February 14th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral with six priests, diocesan and oblates, for the Silver Jubilee of their Ordinations. I commemorated the ten years of my service as Bishop of Jaffna.

**On** March 28th I celebrated in the Cathedral the Mass for the Blessing of the Oils and officially opened the Jubilee Year of the Redemption in the Diocese.

**From** 5th to 8th April I attended in Colombo the meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference. During this period I obtained permission to visit the two Jaffna priests, Frs.A.Singarayer and P.Sinnarasa who were detained in the Welikada prison and they were very happy to meet me and told me that they had been very badly treated and had fortunately escaped death when some prisoners were killed in that prison.

**On April 30th** I celebrated Mass in St. Anne's Church, Ilavalai, for the Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Bros. David and Mariathas of the Society of St. Joseph.



Bishop Kingsley Swampillai

**On May 7th** **Rev. Fr. Joseph Kingsly Swampillai** of our Diocese who was working in the Apostolic Pro - Nunciature and had been nominated as the Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa by the Holy Father, was ordained Bishop in Rome by His Eminence Cardinal A. Rossi, the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

**On May 21st** I took part at Katugastota in the Episcopal Ordination of the Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph Vianney Fernando, the New Bishop of Kandy, as one of the co-ordinating Bishops. He succeeds Bishop A. Paul Perera who has retired from his office of Bishop of Kandy. He was the chief ordaining Bishop.

**On June 7th** I participated in the Installation ceremony of Bishop J. Kingsley Swampillai, the new Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa, in St. Mary's Co-cathedral, Batticaloa and celebrated Mass with him. Bishop L. R. Antony, the former Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa had retired. He too participated in the ceremony.

**On June 8th** the Bishop of Mannar, the Bishop of Trincomalee - and Batticaloa and myself wrote a letter to the Holy Father, the Pope about the political problem of the Tamils in Sri Lanka, so that he may be able to speak to the President of Sri Lanka, Mr.J.R.Jeyawardene when he paid an official visit to him during this month as officially announced.

**On June 19th** the Jaffna Diocese accorded a grand welcome to Bishop Joseph Kingsley Swampillai when he paid his first visit to the Diocese after his Episcopal Ordination.

**On June 22nd** I wrote a letter to the Rt.Hon.R.Premadasa, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka; and submitted some positive Proposals for a suitable solution to the problem of the Tamils in Sri Lanka. "What the Tamils are asking", I told him, "is nothing but justice and equality before the law and the use of their language for all purposes. But before the Sinhala Only Official Language law the Tamils are not equal to the Sinhalese. They have been reduced to the status of second-class citizens in Sri Lanka. Therefore, Tamil also must be made an Official Language of the country". I also requested that the "Draconian Prevention of Terrorism Act" which was used against the Tamils, be repealed forthwith.

**On July 13th** I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral, Jaffna, for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr.Cecilia Mary, A.C.

**On July 19th** the Leaders of the Christian Churches in Sri Lanka presented a letter to His Excellency

Mr.J.R.Jeyawardene, President of Sri Lanka, expressing great concern about the tension and the escalation of violence and unrest in our country and proposed certain steps to be taken to reestablish communal harmony. I was one of the Leaders who signed the letter. We proposed the following measures:

1. **Make** the Tamil Language an Official Language of the State and make English the Link Language.
2. **Withdraw** the Prevention of Terrorism Act. If it cannot be withdrawn, it should be suitably amended and justly implemented.
3. **Sinhala** Nationalism and Tamil Nationalism are legitimate aspirations of two peoples with historical traditions and roots in this country from time immemorial.

**But** we are not in favour of dividing the country into two separate sovereign States.

**Unity** in one State, however, is practicable only if the rights are guaranteed adequately. We believe that a genuine devolution of power and responsibility from the Central Government to the Provinces or Regions is required.

**On** 23rd July 13 Sri Lankan soldiders were killed in Tinnelvly and the Ethnic Riots started in Colombo and spread to the whole country.

**On** August 4th I wrote a letter to President J.R.Jeyawardene reminding him that he had requested me

to submit to him a memorandum on necessary and useful amendments to the Prevention of Terrorism Act, when the Christian Leaders met him on July 19th in his palace. So I submitted some amendments to the P.T.A. in order to make it conform to International Covenants on Civil and Political rights. The President replied to my letter on November 15th stating that he could not concur in the amendments I had suggested. He also added that the Prevention of Terrorism Act does not contravene the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights.

**On** October 3rd I inaugurated the Academic Year of our Major Seminary in Colombogam. Because of the anti-Tamil riots in the South of Sri Lanka we were compelled to organise the Theological Course also in our Major Seminary for our Seminarians.

**On** October 15th I celebrated Mass in St. Joseph's Convent, Myliddy, for the Jubilees of Sr. Esther (60 years) Sr. Eusebia (50 years) and Sr. Maurice (50 years) of the Holy Family Congregation.

**On** December 28th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev. Fr. B. Soosaipillai, Parish Priest of Atchuvely, who died suddenly on 26th December. He is the cousin brother Rev. Fr. T. A. J. Mathuranayagam, and uncle of Rev. Fr. R. H. Sahayanayagam.



**1984**

**By** our letter dated January 7th we, the Christian Leaders of Sri Lanka, thanked His Excellency President

J.R.Jeyawardene for the invitation he had extended to us to discuss with him matters concerning ethnic problem in the country and the proposed All-Party Conference. We took this opportunity to recall the contents of our letter dated 19th July, 1983, which we had sent to him.

**On** January 30th the Rt.Rev.Dr.Edmund Fernando, O.M.I. Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo was appointed Bishop of Badulla Diocese by the Holy Father Pope John Paul II.

**On** March 27th I celebrated Mass in St.Sebastian's Church, Karampan, for the funeral of my eldest brother Mr. B.Santhiapillai, who had died on 25th March.

**On** April 13th I celebrated Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows in the O.L.R. Church compound, Jaffna, for its Golden Jubilee.

**On** May 13th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the centenary Celebration of St.Aloysius Confraternity of Altar Servers.

**On** June 5th I sent to His Excellency, President J.R.Jeyawardene, a letter I had received a few days before in Sinhala from a Government Department without a Tamil translation. I told him in my covering letter that the only effective remedy against such a practice would be to make Tamil also an Official Language.

**On** June 28th the Bishops of Sri Lanka went to Rome for the 'Ad Limina Visit' and I too went with them.



**On** July 1st I celebrated Mass in the Holy Family Hospital in Rome for the Sri Lankan Tamil immigrants living in Rome.

**On** July 2nd I celebrated Mass on the Tomb of St. Peter the Apostle in Rome to fulfill my "Ad Limina" obligation.

**On** July 4th we had the audience with the Holy Father for the "Ad Limina Visit". He was very cordial to us. Each one of us, Bishops, had also a private audience with him.

**On** July 13th I celebrated Mass in the Holy Family Convent, Nanganallur, Madras, for Sr.M. Angelina my niece, for the Silver Jubilee of her Religious Profession, which was on June 18th. She was then the Superior of that convent.

**On** July 14th I celebrated Mass in Claret Bawan, Karumathur, the Centre of the Claretian Fathers in Tamil Nadu. From there Sr. Angelina took me by car to the Shrine of Our Lady of Velankanni.

**On** July 16th I visited St. Paul's Seminary, Thiruchirapalli and celebrated Mass there for our Seminarists.

**During** my stay in Madras in July, I met Fr.P. Sinnarasa and introduced him to the Archbishop of Madras. Fr.P. Sinnarasa and Fr.A. Singarayer, O.M.I. who were prisoners in the Welikade Jail had escaped from prison as a result of an armed attack on the jail and Fr. Sinnarasa had succeeded in going to South India.

**Mr. Anton Balasingham**, the adviser of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam met me in Madras. He had been a student in Karaveddi when I was Parish Priest there from 1951 to 1953.

**On September 22nd** I celebrated Mass in the Carmel Convent, Karaveddi, for the Silver Jubilee of its foundation.



**1985**

**On January 6th** Fr. Mary Bastian of the Jaffna Diocese, who was helping the new diocese of Mannar as Parish Priest of Vankalai, was killed by the Sri Lankan Army in the presbytery itself of Vankalai and his body was cremated by them in Mannar. The Catholics of the Mannar and Jaffna Dioceses protested vehemently against this misdeed of the Army. Catholics in the other Dioceses and non-Catholics also protested.

**On March 15th** I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev. Fr. P. J. Jivaratnam, O.M.I. a former Rector of St. Patrick's College who died on the 14th March. He had been also Rector of St. Henry's College Ilavalai and Rector of St. Antony's College, Kayts.

**In March**, His Excellency Mgr. Ambrose de Paoli, the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio, paid a visit to Jaffna and he was given a warm welcome by the clergy, Religious and the laity of Jaffna.

**On June 20th** I celebrated Mass in the Carmel Convent, Karaveddy, for the Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr. M. Rosina, A.C.

**On June 26th** I celebrated Mass for the funeral of Rev.Fr.J.B.Pakistanathar C.R., Superior of the Rosarian Ashram, Tholagatty, who died on 23rd. He had been a companion of mine in St.Martin's Seminary.

**On June 29th** I celebrated Mass in the Rosarian Convent, Vasavilan, for the Silver Jubilee of the Profession of Sr.M.Lourdes, C.R.

**On July 11th** I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.S.P.Alfred, who had died on July 9th in Bishop's House, Jaffna.

**On July 20th** I celebrated Mass in St.Mary's Church Navanthurai for the 75th year of the St.Vincent De Paul Society there.

**On July 27th** I celebrated Mass in the Carmel Convent, Karaveddi, for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr.Prudencia, A.C.

**On August 9th** I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the Golden Jubilee of Priesthood of Revd.Fr.S.A.Swampillai.

**On August 22nd** I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.Paul Bastian who died in Bishop's House on 21st August. He had been an Oblate of Mary Immaculate but left the Congregation and joined the Diocese of Tuticorin in South India. He spent his retirement in Bishop's House, Jaffna.

**On** September 8th I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent, Jaffna, for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr.Maria Goretti and her companions.

**On** October 5th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the Golden Jubilee of the 3rd Order of St.Francis of Assisi.

**On** November 23rd I celebrated Mass in the Home for the Elders, Colombogam, for its Golden Jubilee.

**On** December 31st I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr. C.Mariampillai, O.M.I. who died on that day. He was Procurator General of the Diocese for many years.



**1986**

**On** January 23rd I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.V.R.Tarcisius, O.M.I. who died on 22nd of January. He was a convert from Hinduism.

**On** 22nd February, I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the 50th year of the Legion of Mary in the Jaffna Diocese.

**On** March 8th I celebrated in the Cathedral a Mass of thanksgiving for the Centenary of the Birth of Rev.Fr.B.A.Thomas, O.M.I., Founder of the Rosarian Congregations.

**On** March 21st I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.G.A.Gurusamy, O.M.I., who died on 19th March. He was a Doctor in Canon Law and was for some-time General Manager of the Catholic Schools of the Diocese.

**In** April the Catholic Bishops of Tamil Nadu, India, sent a letter to the Indian Prime Minister, Mr.Rajive Gandhi urging him to stop the "the total annihilation of the Sri Lankan Tamil Community by the Sri Lankan Government" ..

**On** June 18th I presided at the Prize-giving of St.Patrick's College and stated the following in my address: "Bomb - blasts, rocket-blasts, shell-blasts, machine-gun fire etc have become everyday occurrences for us. We are being attacked from the land from the sea and even from the air. Hundreds of peaceful, unarmed Tamil civilians have been killed or wounded during such attacks carried out during the past few months by the Government Forces. The Government is intent on the annihilation of the Tamils in the Northern and Eastern Provinces. The citizens' Committees of the Northern and Eastern Provinces have appealed several times to the President of Sri Lanka against these inhuman measures taken against a peaceful, defenceless people but with no effect..... the time has come, I feel, for us to raise our voice and make an appeal to the United Nations' Organisation to take effective steps to halt the annihilation of the peaceful, defenceless Tamil civilians of the Northern and Eastern Provinces".

**On** September 1st I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the beginning of the 100th year of the Diocese of Jaffna.

**On** September 14th I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent, Jaffna, for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Srs. Anne Mary Zita and Martha.

**On** December 22nd I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev. Fr. L. A. Singarayer, O.M.I. who died in Mathagal on 20th December. He had been Principal of the Catholic Teachers' Training College, Colombogam, for many years and then Rector of St. Henry's College, Ilavalai, before his retirement.



**1987**

**From** January there was an economic blockade of the Jaffna Peninsula followed by military operations both in the Peninsula and in the Northern Province.

**On** March 6th the T.U.L.F. made an appeal to the Prime Minister of India to urge the Government of Sri Lanka to stop the genocidal attacks and the economic blockade against the Tamil population. They also made a specific request that India should as a humanitarian measure, send food and fuel to the starving Tamil population.

**In** April a flotilla of boats carrying food for Jaffna sent by the Indian Government was turned back by the Sri Lankan Navy and so India dropped food over the Jaffna Peninsula by air-planes.

**On** July 18th I participated in the Episcopal Ordination of Rev. Fr. Anthony Raymond Leopold Peiris of the Archdiocese of Colombo as the first Bishop of the new Diocese

of Kurunegala. This new Diocese was created by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II on 15th May, by detaching the District of Kurunegala from the Diocese of Chilaw. The new Bishop was appointed on the same day.

**On** July 29th the Prime Minister of India, His Excellency Mr. Rajive Gandhi and the President of Sri Lanka, His Excellency Mr. J. R. Jeyawardene, met in Colombo and made the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement to establish Peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka. The last article of this Agreement (2.18) was the following: "The Official Language of Sri Lanka shall be Sinhala. Tamil and English will also be Official Languages".

**On** the request of the Sri Lankan Government India sent in October an Indian Peace Keeping Force to bring about peace in Sri Lanka.

**In** August at the suggestion of the Holy Cross Sisters, I went to Switzerland for an operation on my left eye. I underwent an artificial lens implantation by Dr. Bischoff in the Kanton Hospital, St. Gallen, from 18th to 24th August. The operation was a success. I am very grateful to the Holy Cross Congregation for paying the Hospital bill for this operation.

**On** September 8th I proceeded to West Germany. On September 9th I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent, Altötting and met Sr. Maria Tändler there. She was the sister who looked after me after my appendicitis operation in the Jaffna Civil Hospital in January, 1950. I met also Rev. Fr. Nestmann, my companion and friend in Propaganda College, Rome. He was chaplain to that convent.

**On** September 10th Fr.Nestmann took me to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Altötting and I celebrated Mass in the Sanctuary. Then I went to Kohlschied, where my niece Nirmala (Baba) (2nd daughter of my sister Anthonipallai) wife of Yogeswaran, was staying with her two children and Irene Visithra, daughter of her sister.

**On** September 11th I celebrated Mass in the Church in Kohlscheid for my niece, her children and Irene.

**Between** 13th and 18th September, I visited the Tamils in Wüpertal, Neheim, Rheydt, Oberhausen, Bielefeld and other places. On September 19th I went to Amsterdam in Holland to visit my grand niece Lucilla who was staying there with her husband.

**On** 20th September Sunday I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral of Amsterdam for the Sri Lankans staying there.

**From** 24th September to 3rd October I was in England to visit my many nephews and nieces and their children there in Henden and Wembly.

**On** September 27th (Sunday) I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral, London. On October 5th I paid a visit to the Foyer Sacerdotal in Paris and on the 18th I paid a visit to Lourdes.

**Between** the 11th and 16th of October I was in Rome and was able to get a short Private Audience with the Holy Father. **Fr. A.J.Karunaharar**, who was on his way to



Canada and Fr.S.V.B.Mangalarajah, who was studying in Rome, were also admitted for the Holy Father's Audience.



Fr.A.J.Karunaharar

**On** November 16th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.G.T.Balasunderam, O.M.I. who had died on 14th November. He was the brother of Mr.G.G.Ponnampalam, the leader of the Tamil Congress Party and got converted to Catholicism when he was a student in St.Patrick's College and later became a priest of the Oblate Congregation.

**On** November 22nd I celebrated Mass in St.Sebastian's's Church, Karampan, for the funeral of my second brother, Mariampillai, who had died on 19th November. He is the father of Sr.M.James, A.C. and Sr.M.Angelina H.F.

**During** December, I learnt that Rev.Fr.H Gesland, O.M.I., who was staying in Paris, had died on 6th December. He had been a zealous missionary in the Jaffna Diocese. When I visited Lourdes in 1974 he came there to meet me and took me to Paris, where he was staying then.

**On** December 23rd I celebrated Mass in the Home for the Elders, Colombogam, for the funeral of my third brother, Anthonipillai, who had died there on 22nd December. He married a first cousin and all the children born to them died as babies. After the death of his wife, he married a second time. But this wife died in her child birth. Since he had no one to look after him in his old age, he was admitted to the Home for the Elders in Colombogam. The sisters looked after him well and he was very grateful to them. He was buried in the Jaffna cemetery.



**1988**

**On** January 3rd I celebrated Mass in the Rosarian Ashram, Jaffna, for the funeral of Bro.Thevasagayam, C.R.

**On** February, 2nd I celebrated Mass in the Rosarian Ashram for the 60th anniversary of the Founding of Rosarian Brothers' Congregation by Rev.Fr.B.A.Thomas O.M.I.

**On** February 8th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.S.A.Swampillai who had died on 6th February in Bishop's House.

**On** April 14th I sent a letter to His Excellency, Mr. Rajive Gandhi informing him that by the 16th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution, Tamil also had been made an Official Language but English had been made only the "Link Language". This, I told him, is contrary to Art. 2.18 of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement.

**On** May 3rd I celebrated Mass in St. Sebastian's Church, Karampan, for the repose of my eldest sister, Mrs. Mariapillai Joseph who had died on April 3rd. At that time I was in Colombo attending the Bishop's Conference meeting and so I could not preside at her funeral. I was extremely sorry because she had brought me up like a second mother and I was very much attached to her.

**On** June 13th I celebrated Mass in St. Antony's Church, Mathagal, for its centenary celebration.

**On** August, 2nd I celebrated Mass in St. John's Church, Chundikuli, for the 60th anniversary of the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Amirthanather.

**On** August 20th I celebrated Mass in the F.F.M. Convent chapel in Colombo for the 50th Anniversary of the Religious Profession of Sr. Mary Nativity, F.F.M. She was from Jaffna..

**On** August 22nd I celebrated Mass in the chapel of the National Seminary, Kandy, for the Centenary of the Society of St. Paul, the Apostle, that helps to educate Seminarists for the priesthood.

**On** September 8th I celebrated Mass in the chapel of Amala Utpavam Colombogam, for the 50th anniversary of the Religious Profession of Rev.Fr. J.Spampatti, O.M.I. who was spending his retirement there.

**On** October 24th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the Sisters of the Holy Family Congregation, for their 125 years of service in the Jaffna Diocese

**On** October 31st I celebrated Mas in St.Sebastian's Church, Karampan, for the 25 years of marriage of my niece Violet (my eldest sister's last daughter) and her husband Mr.Edward.

**On** November 3rd I participated in the mass in the Basilica of Our Lady of Lanka, Tewatta, for the funeral of His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Cooray O.M.I.



**1989**

**On** January 18th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Sr.M.St.Charles H.F. On February 19th (Sunday) I celebrated Mass for the people in the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at Mathalgal for its 50th year.

**On** February 22nd I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr. J.E.Bastiampillai. He was Parish Priest of Manipay and died on 21st February.

**On** April 22nd I celebrated Mass for the employees of the Bank of Ceylon, Jaffna Branch, in the Church of Our Lady of Refuge , Jaffna, for its 50 years of service.

**On** May 18th I participated in the Mass celebrated in the Cathedral of Kandy for the funeral of His Lordship Rt.Rev.Dr.Paul Perera, the retired Bishop of Kandy.

**On** June 20th I celebrated Mass in the Bishop's House chapel, Jaffna, for the 25th Anniversary of the marriage of my nephew J.Singarayer (Muthurarajah) and his wife Manuella. Mr.Singarayer is the second son of my eldest sister, Mariapillai.

**From** 1st to 14th I was in Rome with the other Bishops of Sri Lanka for our "Ad Limina" Visit". On July 7th we, the Bishops of Sri Lanka, celebrated Mass with the Holy Father, in the Vatican. Then we had private Audiences with him. He asked me what the Indian Army was doing in Jaffna.

**From** 15th to 20th July I was in England to visit my many nephews, nieces and their children in Wembly, Lewisham and Hendon.

**From** 21st to 26th July I was in Germany. I blessed the marriage of my grand niece Visithra to Mr.Thevarajah to Kohlscheid and then proceeded to Berlin to see "Mani" the sister of Rev.Sisters James A.C and Angelina, H.F. and her family. I met Fr.J.B.Devarajah, my one-time student in Anuradhapura, in Kohlscheid. I visited also Düren and Rottenberg.

**From** 27th July to 15th August, I was in Switzerland for the operation in my right eye. Between 1st and 3rd August, Dr.Bishoff performed the artificial lens implantation in St.Gallen Kanton hospital. The operation was a success and I am very grateful to the Doctor. I am also very grateful to the Holy Cross sisters of Rorschach for all the care with which

they looked after me and for meeting the expenses for this eye operation.

**On** September 7th I participated in the Mass celebrated in the Chilaw Cathedral by the Bishops of Sri Lanka for the funeral of Rt.Rev.Dr. Edmund Peiris, O.M.I., the former Bishop of Chilaw.

**In** the General Election held in Sri Lanka in 1989 the Prime Minister Mr.R.Premadasa was elected President of Sri Lanka.

**In** September, the Indian Peace Keeping Force started moving out of Sri Lanka, because the new President of Sri Lanka had requested the Indian Government to withdraw that Force.

**In** November three of our servants were killed by the E.P.R.L.F.

**On** December 1st I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.K.B.Santhiapillai, who had died on November, 29th. He had been a member of the Altar Servers' Confraternity of the Cathedral under me in 1945.



**1990**

**On** January 14th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Sr.Navatherese, H.F. of the Uduvil Convent.

**On** February 24th I celebrated Mass in St. Antony's Church, Karaveddi, for the 60th anniversary of the Religious Profession of Sr.M.Raphael, A.C.

**On** March 12th I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Sr.M.Gabriela, H.F.

**In** March His Excellency, Mgr. François Bacqué, the Apostolic Nuncio, paid a visit to Jaffna and he was given a warm welcome.

**On** 26th March Rev.Frs.Philip Ponniah and T.A.J.Mathuranayagam celebrated the 50th anniversary of their Ordination to the priesthood. They had been my companions in St.Martin's Minor Seminary.

**From** 16th to 21st April I was a patient in the Jaffna Civil Hospital.

**On** June 7th I celebrated Mass in the Amalivanam Rosarian Convent for the Silver Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr.Mary John Baptist, C.R.

**On** June 24th I celebrated Mass in St.John's Church, Periyavilan, for the centenary celebration of that church.

**On** June 29th I celebrated Mass in the Retreat House, Pandateruppu, for the 50th year of the Religious Profession of Sr.M.Laetitia H.F.

**On** July 15th the Leaders of the various Religions in Jaffna wrote a joint letter to the President of Sri Lanka and proposed the transforming of Sri Lanka into a Federal State by amending the Present Constitution of Sri Lanka suitably.

**On** 30th July a powerful bomb dropped by the Sri Lankan air-plane exploded at the door of our Cathedral, causing considerable damage to it, to St.Patrick's College and to the Bishop's House. On the night of 4th August at about 1.15 a.m. a very powerful bomb was dropped on Bishop's House smashing and destroying a good part of it. One building collapsed and every other building and every one of the rooms in the Bishop's House was damaged.

**On** 5th morning a bomb was dropped on the Refugees' camp of Passaiyoor Convent School next to the church, which is in Jaffna town, killing eight people and injuring many.

**On** 9th August the refugees' camp in St.Patrick's College, Manipay Hospital and other places were bombed and 25 people were killed. The Jaffna Railway Station was demolished.

**On** 13th September early morning when my servant boy, Selvam, was preparing the vestments for my Mass in my chapel in Bishop's House, a shell struck my chapel and fractured his right leg. Through the assistance of the International Committee of the Red Cross we were able to take the youngster to the Manipay Hospital and his fractured leg was adjusted and plastered. We are very grateful to the I.C.R.C. for the timely help they gave to Selvam.

**On** 16th October I celebrated Mass with Frs. Reggie Rajeswaran and Jesunesan, O.M.I. in the Bishop's House chapel for the Silver Jubilee celebration of their priesthood. Fr. Rajeswaran was ordained on October 3rd. Fr. Jesunesan, O.M.I. was ordained on December 21st.



**On** December 22nd I celebrated Mass in Amala Utpavam, Colombogam, for Fr.S.S.Villavarasingam, O.M.I. for the 60th Anniversary of his Sacerdotal Ordination. It was also the 49th anniversary of my sacerdotal Ordination in Rome. The Ordination of Fr.Villavarasingam and his companions in the cathedral in 1930 was the first Ordination I had the joy of witnessing. I was then a seminarian in St.Martin's Seminary. Fr.Villavarasingam was then known as Fr.Soosaipillai.



**1991**

**On** 26th February I celebrated Mass for Rev.Fr.J.Karunaharar for the 50th year of his priesthood. The actual date of his Ordination was 24th February. He and I were then students in Propaganda College, Rome. He was then known as Fr.Anthonipillai by his father's name.Fr.Karunaharar is now in Canada.

**On** 8th April I celebrated Mass in the cathedral for the repose of Mother Aloysia Roselli, H.C. who had died in Switzerland. She had worked for many years in the Jaffna Civil Hospital. She saved my life in the Jaffna Hospital in 1950 during my operation for appendicitis.

**On** 13th April I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Sr.M.Consolata, H.F.

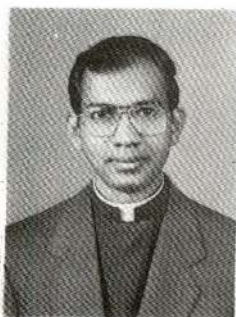
**On** 15th April I celebrated Mass in the Holy Family Convent, Jaffna, for the funeral of Sr.M.Scholastica H.F. I had known her in Anuradhapura.

**On** 18th April I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for Mr.Philipupillai Muthiah, the Catechist, in thanksgiving for his 60 years of service as a catechist.

**On** 7th May I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr .M.Rayappu, O.M.I. who died on 4th at Amala Utpavam, Colombogam. He had been helping our Major Seminary at Colombogam as a part-time teacher.

**On** 20th June, Minister Ranil Wickramasinghe during the discussion in Parliament on extending the Law of Emergency asked why Federalism , suggested by the Bishop of Jaffna and others, could not be given a trial to solve the ethnic problem.

**On** 1st July I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Rev.Fr.Spampatti, O.M.I. who died on June 30th. He had laboured for many years in the Diocese and was in retirement in Amala-Utpavam, Colombogam, at that time.



Fr.A.J.V.Chandrakanthan

**On** 10th July, **Rev. Dr. A. J. V. Chandrakanthan**, Head of the newly established Department of Christian Civilization in the University of Jaffna, arranged a lecture in the main auditorium of the Jaffna University to felicitate me for the

Golden Jubilee of my Priesthood and the Silver Jubilee of my Episcopate.

**He** presided at the meeting. The Felicitation Lecture entitled, "Christianity in Tamil Culture: An Inquiry into the 17th and 18th Centuries " was delivered by Dr.K.Sivathamby, Prof.of Tamil and Head of the Department of Fine Arts.

**Prof.C.Thuraiajah**, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jaffna ,and Prof.P.Balasunderampillai, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, also participated.

**The** Rt.Rev.Dr.Kingsley Swampillai, Bishop of Trincomalee-Batticaloa was a guest of honour at this function. It was attended by the members of all the Faculties at the University and by a large number of other students and the public.

**In** my reply I spoke about the *Ammanai* on St.James, the Major, written in 1647 in Tellipalai by Poet Pedro: "*Santhiogumajor Ammanai*"

**Rev.Fr.Chandrakanthan** is a son of Mr.Adaikalamuthu of Ilavalai. He was an altar boy under me there and I sent him to the Jaffna Seminary to become a priest.

**On** 6th August Rev.Fr.S.L.Joseph O.M.I. completed 50 years of his priesthood. We were companions in St.Martin's Minor Seminary. He spends his retirement in Amala Utpavam, Colombogam.

**On** 25th August I celebrated Mass in the Holy Cross Convent, Colombo, for Srs.Celine and three others for the Silver Jubilee of their Religious Profession.

**On 31st August** I participated with other Bishops of Sri Lanka in the Episcopal Ordination of Rev.Fr.Malcolm Ranjith. He had been appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Colombo by the Holy Father.

**On 29th September** I celebrated Mass in St.Michael's Church, Urumpirai, for the 75th anniversary of the beginning of mission work in Urumpirarai by Rev.Fr.S.Gnanapragasar, O.M.I.

**On 20th October** I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Sr.M.Jerome of the Holy Family Congregation.

**On 23rd October** I celebrated Mass for the repose of Rev.Fr.B.Gonzalez, O.M.I who had died in Spain on 10th October. After working many years in the Jaffna Diocese he had returned to Spain for his retirement. In 1974 he took me to the Shrine of St.James the Major in Santiago de Compostella in Spain.

**On 3rd November** I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the funeral of Sr.M.Helene of the Holy Family Congregation.

**On 12th December** I celebrated Mass in the Rosarian Ashram, Jaffna, for the funeral of Bro.Callistus, C.R.

**On 19th December** the Jaffna Diocese celebrated the 50 years of my priesthood (22nd December) and the 25 years of Priesthood of Rev.Fr.S.J.Emmanuel (16th December) and Rev.Frs.P.M.Emmanuel, Mahendran Rajanayagam

(He has gone to U.S.A.) Stanislaus Philips, O.M.I. and S.M.Selvaratnam, O.M.I. (21st December). We concelebrated Mass in the Cathedral and prayed for our people.

**On** 22nd December the 50th anniversary of my Sacerdotal Ordination in Rome. I celebrated Mass privately in Bishop's House and thanked God for all the graces He had given me during the 50 years.



**1992**

**On** 20th January I blessed the marriage of Miss M.Beatrice (sister of Rev.Fr. J.B.Antony) and Mr.Vijayarajah of Poiddy in the Church of Our Lady at Poiddy and celebrated Mass for them, because Fr.J.B.Antony who was in Delft, could not come to bless the marriage.

**On** 9th April, the 75th anniversary of my birth, I celebrated mass privately in the Bishop's House and thanked God for my parents, brothers and sisters and for all the graces He had given me during my 75 years of life.

**According** to Canon 401. s.1. of the Code of Canon Law, I had to submit my resignation from the office of Bishop of Jaffna to the Pope when I completed 75 years. Hence, I had written a letter to the Holy Father on 2nd January submitting my resignation from 9th April.

**On** April 20th I blessed the marriage of my servant boy Selvam and his bride Janette Mary in the Cathedral and celebrated Mass for them.

**From** 24th to 26th April the Christian Centre for Performing Arts which is directed by Rev.Fr.N.Maria Saverimuthu, held a three -days cultural Programme in honour of my triple Jubilee. The Programmes of the three days were dedicated to the three Catholic Tamil Scholars : Rev.Fr.H.S.David, Rev.Fr.Xavier Thani Nayagam and Rev.Fr.S.Gnanaprasad, O.M.I.

**The** third day's programme was presided over by Mr.K.Manikavasaar, Government Agent of Jaffna. In his speech he stated that I had championed amidst much opposition the basic principles of human dignity and equality. Pandit Miss Thangamma Appakuddi, manager of Thurkai Amman Temple of Tellipallai, extolled my contribution to Tamil Literature and Arts. These were followed by talks on Fr.S.Gnanaprasad, O.M.I. and on Tamil Folk Poems given by the Jaffna University Professors. Then followed poetry composed by some local poets and Drama by the Christian Centre for Performing Arts

**The** 11th of May was the 25th Anniversary of my Episcopal Ordination by His Lordship Bishop Ignatius Glennie, S.J. and other Bishops in Trincomalee in 1967. The Presbyterium, the Religious and the Catholics of the Jaffna Diocese had made arrangements to celebrate my triple Jubilee on that day. Invitations had been sent to the Catholic Bishops of Sri Lanka, other Religious Leaders and important persons.

**At** 4.00 p.m. a Concelebrated Holy Mass was celebrated in the Jaffna Cathedral. This was attended by His Grace, most Rev.Dr.Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Archbishop of Colombo and by their Lordships Bishop Don Sylvester of

Galle, Bishop Thomas Savundranayagam of Mannar, Bishop Kingsley Swampillai of Trincomalee-Batticaloa and Bishop Raymond Peiris of Kurunagala.

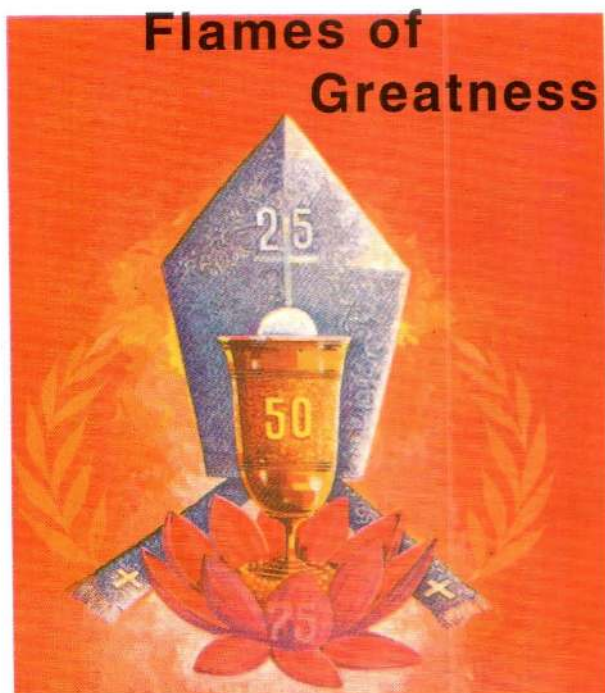
**After** the Holy Mass a Public Reception was held on the Cathedral Grounds. This was attended by the Bishops, other special invitees and the public. The Felicitation meeting was presided over by **Very Rev.Fr.S.A.Michaelswamy, O.M.I.**, the Vicar General of the Diocese.



Triple Jubilee Celebration  
11th May, 1992

**The** Chief speakers at this meeting were the following: His Grace, the most Rev.Dr.Nicholas Marcus Fernando, Archbishop of Colombo, Srila Sri Somasundara Paramachariar of Nallur Atheenam, Rt.Rev. Dr. D.J.Ambalavanar, Bishop of the Church of South India, Mr.K.Manikavsagar, Government Agent of Jaffna, Prof. A.Thurairajah, Vice Chancellor of the Jaffna University and

Mr.Yogaratnam Yogi of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Rev.Fr.G.A.Francis Joseph, Rector of St.Patrick's College issued the Commemorative publication named "Flames of Greatness"



திருமறைச் சுடர்

**In** my reply I thanked the members of the Jaffna Diocese for celebrating my triple Jubilee and thanked in a special way all the speakers and the invited guests who had attended the celebration.

**On** 31st May the Sri Lankan Air Force bombed the historical Thurkkai Amman Temple in Tellipalai and damaged it very badly. Many civilians, who according to the advice given by the Government to take refuge in the churches and temples had taken refuge there, were killed or injured.



**The Jaffna Diocesan Priests' Union** sent a letter of protest on 2nd June, to His Excellency Mr.R.Premadasa, President of Sri Lanka and appealed to him to spare temples, churches, schools, hospitals and refugees' camps from air attacks and artillery shellings.

**On 15th August** I celebrated mass in St.Mary's Church , Navanthurai , for the 25th year of the new church there. It was built by Rev.Fr.A.Charvet, O.M.I.

**On 22nd August** I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for Mr.Joseph (my driver) and his wife for the 25th Anniversary of their wedding.

**On 8th September** my resignation from the Office of Bishop of Jaffna, the appointment of the Rt.Rev.Dr.Thomas Savundranayagam as the new Bishop of Jaffna and the appointment of Rev.Fr.R.Joseph, Parish Priest of St.John's Parish, Jaffna , as the new Bishop of Mannar, were made public. I was appointed Administrator of the Diocese of Jaffna until the new Bishop of Jaffna took charge of the Diocese. These events were decided by the Holy Father, the Pope, on 6th July 1992.

**During my Episcopal Ministry in the Diocese of Jaffna, (1973-1992) I ordained 65 Diocesan Priests and 29 Religious Priests.**



Rev. Fr. Rayappu Joseph

**On** 20th October, **Rev.Fr.Rayappu Joseph**, the newly appointed Bishop of Mannar was ordained a Bishop by Bishop Thomas Savundranayagam and the other Bishops of Sri Lanka at the Shrine of Our Lady of Madhu. Due to my poor health I was unable to participate in this Episcopal Ordination. But I prayed for him and for the success of his new ministry.

**On** 5th November I celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for the Installation of Rt.Rev.Dr.Thomas Savundranayagam as the new Bishop of Jaffna. The Clergy, the Religious and the laity of the Diocese participated in this Mass and prayed for the new Ordinary of the Diocese.

**On** 26th November after handing over the Administration of the Diocese to the new Ordinary, I took up residence in St.Martin's Seminary.

**On** 7th December, Rev.Fr.Z.N.Croos O.M.I. died at Amala Utpavam, Colombogam. I prayed for the repose of his soul. He had been a companion of mine in St.Martin's Seminary and as a priest had worked for many years in the Diocese.

**On** 18th December I celebrated Mass in the Holy Family Convent, Jaffna, for the Diamond Jubilee of Sr.Emilie, my sister, and the Golden Jubilee of some other sisters.

**On** 24th December Rev.Fr.Christian Omloo O.M.I. died in Holland. I prayed for the repose of his soul. He had worked in the Diocese for many years.



**1993**

**On** 7th February, the Rt.Rev.Dr.Rayappu Joseph, the new Bishop of Mannar, paid his first visit to Jaffna and was accorded a warm welcome. I too participated in the concelebrated Mass in the Jaffna Cathedral.

**On** 7th March I celebrated Mass in the Church of Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna, for the funeral of my sister-in-law Mrs.Mariapillai Mariampillai, the mother of Srs.M.James A.C. and M.Angelina H.F.

**In** April the Christian Centre for Performing Arts brought out the 7th edition of the famous folk-drama *Esthakiar* which had been composed and published six times by Poet Thambimuthu, the foster - father of Rev.Fr.Gnanapragasar, O.M.I. in his Gnanapragasar Press in Achtuveli.

**In** 1905 and 1906 *Esthakiar Nadagam* was staged several times in Naranthanai. The chief actor was my father, whose home-name was Thambiah. He must have acted so

well that the people began to call him *Esthaki Thambiah*. When I was a small boy at home at the request of my self and of my sisters (Sr.Emilie and Anthoniapillai) he used to sing some songs from the *Nadagam*. I wrote an Introductory Note to the 7th Edition of *Esthakiar Nadagam*, in which I have stated the above mentioned facts. At the release of the 7th Edition of *Esthakiar Nadagam* by the Christian Centre for Performing Arts I mentioned again these facts.

**From** 7th -9th May a Festival of Folk Dramas (*Nattukoothu*) was held in Jaffna by the Christian Centre for Performing Arts. Nine different types of Folk Dramas were staged. On the last day I was presented with a Braided Shawl by **Rev.Dr Maria Saverimuthu**, Director of the Centre and honoured with the title of "Firm Guardian of Folk Dramas". ("நாட்டுக்கூத்தின் நற்காவலன்")

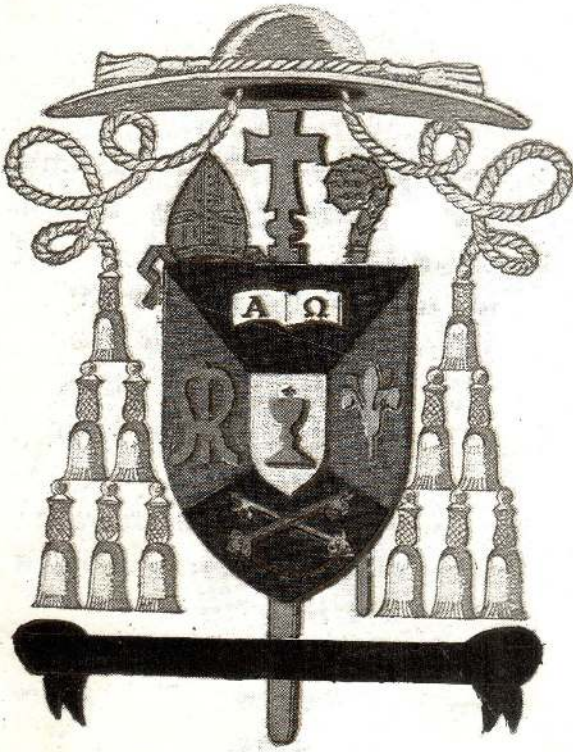


FIRM GUARDIAN OF FOLK DRAMAS









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*of*  
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