

Dear Fathers, Brothers and Sisters!

With love and gratitude we receive the New Year 2016. I wish a Happy and Prosperous New Year to everyone. May our Saviour Jesus Christ who was born on Christmas day and the Mother of God whom we remember today bless you all and accompany you.

Pope Francis in his message to the World Day of Peace wishes all the people with God's blessings and the affection of our Lady. He begins his message:

God is not indifferent! God cares about mankind! God does not abandon us! At the beginning of the New Year, I would like to share not only this profound conviction but also my cordial good wishes for prosperity, peace and the fulfillment of the hopes of every man and every woman, every family, people and nation throughout the world, including all Heads of State and Government and all religious leaders. We continue to trust that 2016 will see us all firmly and confidently engaged, on different levels, in the pursuit of justice and peace. Peace is both God's gift and a human achievement. As a gift of God, it is entrusted to all men and women, who are called to attain it.

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#### Maintaining our reasons for hope

Sadly, war and terrorism, accompanied by kidnapping, ethnic or religious persecution and the misuse of power, marked the past year from start to finish. In many parts of the world, these have became so common as to constitute a real "third world war fought piecemeal". Yet some events of the year now ending inspire me, in looking ahead to the New Year, to encourage everyone not to lose hope in our human ability to conquer evil and to combat resignation and indifference. They demonstrate our capacity to show solidarity and to rise above self-interest, apathy and indifference in the face of critical situations.

Here I would mention the efforts to bring world leaders together at COP21 in the search for new ways to confront climate change and to protect the earth, our common home. We can also think of two earlier global events: the Addis Ababa Summit for funding sustainable development worldwide and the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aimed at ensuring a more dignified standard of living for all the world's peoples, especially the poor, by that year.

With the present Jubilee of Mercy I want to invite the Church to pray and work so that every Christian will have a humble and compassionate heart, one capable of proclaiming and witnessing to mercy. It is my hope that all of us will learn to "forgive and give", to become more open "to those living on the outermost fringes of society fringes which modern society itself creates", and to refuse to fall into "a humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine which prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism!"

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He speaks of several kinds of indifference:

Clearly, indifference is not something new; every period of history has known people who close their hearts to the needs of others, who close their eyes to what is happening around them, who turn aside to avoid encountering other people's problems. But in our day, indifference has ceased to be a purely personal matter and has taken on broader dimensions, producing a certain "globalization of indifference".

Indifference shows itself in lack of concern for what is happening around us, especially if it does not touch us directly. Some people prefer not to ask questions or seek answers; they lead lives of comfort, deaf to the cry of those who suffer. Almost imperceptibly, we grow incapable of feeling compassion for others and for their problems; we have no interest in caring for them, as if their troubles were their own responsibility, and none of our business. "When we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure... Our heart grows cold. As long as I am relatively healthy and comfortable, I don't think about those less well off."

Peace is threatened by Global indifference:

Indifference towards God transcends the purely private sphere of the individual and affects the public and social sphere. As Benedict XVI pointed out, "the glorification of God and human peace on earth are closely linked". Indeed, "without openness to the transcendent, human beings



easily become prey to relativism and find it difficult to act justly and to work for peace. Disregard and the denial of God, which lead man to acknowledge no norm above himself and himself alone, have produced untold cruelty and violence.

On both the individual and communitarian levels, indifference to one's neighbour, born of indifference to God, finds expression in disinterest and a lack of engagement, which only help to prolong situations of injustice and grave social imbalance. These in turn can lead to conflicts or, in any event, generate a climate of dissatisfaction which risks exploding sooner or later into acts of violence and insecurity.

Indifference and lack of commitment constitute a grave dereliction of the duty whereby each of us must work in accordance with our abilities and our role in society for the promotion of the common good, and in particular for peace, which is one of mankind's most precious goods. On the institutional level, indifference to others and to their dignity, their fundamental rights and their freedom, when it is part of a culture shaped by the pursuit of profit and hedonism, can foster and even justify actions and policies which ultimately represent threats to peace. Indifference can even lead to justifying deplorable economic policies which breed injustice, division and violence for the sake of ensuring the wellbeing of individuals or nations. Not infrequently, economic and political projects aim at securing or maintaining power and wealth, even at the cost of trampling on the basic rights and needs of others. When people witness the denial

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of their elementary rights, such as the right to food, water, health care or employment, they are tempted to obtain them by force.

Moreover, indifference to the natural environment, by countenancing deforestation, pollution and natural catastrophes which uproot entire communities from their ecosystem and create profound insecurity, ends up creating new forms of poverty and new situations of injustice, often with dire consequences for security and peace. How many wars have been fought, and how many will continue to be fought, over a shortage of goods or out of an insatiable thirst for natural resources?

## From indifference to mercy: the conversion of hearts

One year ago, in my Message for the 2015 World Day of Peace, with the motto "No Longer Slaves, but Brothers and Sisters", I evoked the first biblical icon of human brotherhood, that of Cain and Abel (cf. *Gen* 4:1-16). I meant to draw attract attention to how from the very beginning this original brotherhood was betrayed. Cain and Abel were brothers. Both came forth from the same womb, they were equal in dignity and created in the image and likeness of God; but their relationship as brothers was destroyed. "It was not only that Cain could not stand Abel~ He killed him out of envy." Fratricide was the form of betrayal, and Cain's refusal to acknowledge Abel as his brother became the first rupture in the family relations of fraternity, solidarity and mutual respect.

God then intervened to remind man of his responsibility towards his fellows, as he had also done when Adam and Eve, our first parents, ruptured their relationship with him, their Creator. "Then the Lord said to Cain: "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" But the Lord replied: "What you have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground" (*Gen* 4:9-10).

Cain said he did not know what had happened to his brother, that he was not his brother's keeper. He did not feel responsible for his life, for his fate. He did not feel involved. He was indifferent to his brother, despite their common origin. How sad! What a sorry tale of brothers, of families, of human beings! This was the first display of indifference between brothers. God, however, is not indifferent.

In the same way, in Jesus his Son, God has come down among us. He took flesh and showed his solidarity with humanity in all things but sin. Jesus identified with us: he became "the first-born among many brethren" (Rom 8:29). He was not content merely to teach the crowds, but he was concerned for their welfare, especially when he saw them hungry (cf. Mk 6:34-44) or without work (cf. Mt 20:3). He was concerned not only for men and women, but also for the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, plants and trees, all things great and small. He saw and embraced all of creation. But he did more than just see; he touched people's lives, he spoke to them, helped them and showed kindness to those in need. Not only this, but he felt strong emotions and he wept (cf. Jn 11:33-44). And he worked to put an end to suffering, sorrow, misery and death.

Jesus taught us to be merciful like our heavenly Father (cf. Lk 6:36). In the parable of the Good Samaritan (cf. Lk 10:29-37), he condemned those who fail to help others in need, those who "pass by on the other side" (cf. Lk 10:31-32). By this example, he taught his listeners, and his disciples in particular, to stop and to help alleviate the sufferings of this world and the pain of our brothers and sisters, using whatever means are at hand, beginning with our own time, however busy we may be. Indifference often seeks excuses: observing ritual prescriptions, looking to all the things needing to be done, hiding behind hostilities and prejudices which keep us apart.

Holy Father goes on to invite us to build a culture of solidarity and mercy to overcome indifference. Solidarity, as a moral virtue and social attitude born of personal conversion, calls for commitment on the part of those responsible for education and formation.

Thus peace is the fruit of the culture of solidarity, mercy and compassion. This peace has to be obtained in the sign of the Jubilee of Mercy. In the spirit of the Jubilee of Mercy, all of us are called to realize how indifference can manifest itself in our lives and to work concretely to improve the world around us, beginning with our families, neighbours and places of employment.

We join the Holy Father to work in solidarity towards Justice and peace in the world.

On 29, January 2016, as we have planned earlier, we will conclude the Year of Consecrated Life. We thank the Lord for the gift of abundant religious personnel to our diocese.



We are certainly grateful to their presence and mission. May the Lord continue to bless them and strength them. On 31 January we will certainly celebrate the feast of Don Bosco. I certainly bless all our Salesian fathers, sisters and everyone of Salesian family. Special love, concern and prayer for all our young people.

Once again I wish a very Joyful New Year 2016.

Yours in Christ Jesus **+Most Rev. Dr. P. Soundararju, SDB.,** Bishop of Vellore

## **Bishop's Programme**

01-03	5	Madha TV, Chennai
04	Mon E	Priestly Ordination, Chengam
05	Tue	Youth Commission, Trichy
06-08		Medical Checkup
09	Sat M	RCM Teachers' Retirement Function,
		Vellore
14	Thu	Salesian Chapter, Citadel, Chennai
16	Sat M	Chingleput
	E	Chennai
20	Wed	Wedding, Chennai
21-23	6	TNBC meeting, Madurai
25	Mon	Sagayathottam
29	Fri	Conclusion of the Year of Consecrated
		Life, Vellore

#### +Most Rev. Dr. P. Soundararaju, SDB.,

Bishop of Vellore

### VICAR GENERAL'S OFFICE

# Monthly Recollection and Concluding Celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life.

As it is already planned the concluding celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life will take place on Friday, 29 January 2016. The recollection for the clergy will be on the same day in the morning. In the afternoon we will have the concluding celebration and felicitation with the Religious followed by Solemn High Mass in the Cathedral. Hence all the Priests are expected to take part in the whole day program without fail.

The program will be:

9:30 am	-	Arrival & Coffee
10:00 am	-	Talk
11:00 am	-	Break
11:15 am	-	Adoration and Confession
12:15 am	-	Announcements
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	-	CRI gathering inside the
		Cathedral
4:00 pm	-	Теа
4:45 pm	-	Bishop and the Council, CRI
		President and executive
		members meet with Generals
		and Provincials
5:30 pm	-	Public Program (Outside the
		Cathedral)
6:15 pm	-	Solemn Eucharistic Celebration
		followed by a fellowship meal

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#### Rev. Msgr. I. John Robert

Vicar General

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## **PROCURATOR'S OFFICE**

#### **MISSION SUNDAY COLLECTION - 2015**

S.No	Parish	Amount
1	Kasthambadi	3000
2	Kaniyambadi	65085
3	Sipcot	10000
4	Thachambadi	33440
5	Sanipoondi	10000
6	Zamin Gudallore	70000
7	Viruduvilanginan	7480
8	Narasingapuram	7000
9	Chetpet	80000
10	Devikapuram	5000
11	Chengam	11140
12	Yelagiri Mission Station	30000
13	Alapakkam	16740
14	Arakkonam	156000
15	Pallalakuppam	6500
16	Semmiamangalam	2150
17	Kilnathur	1650
18	Pallikonda	8900
19	Gengapuram	1000
20	Nallur	2500
21	Arcot	2720
22	Cheyyar	10750
23	Melpudupakkam	5525
24	Mosavadi	2000
25	Koviloor	5000
26	Shenpakkam	10200
27	Vettavalam	20755
	Total	584535



S.No	Religious	Amount
1	St.Joseph Girls Hr.Sec.School - Jolarpet	30000
2	Infant Jesus Mat.School - Jolarpet	10000
3	St.Joseph Girls Primary School - Jolarpet	5000
4	D.M.Convent - Koottar	1000
5	D.M.Convent - Udayarkuppam	1000
6	Carmel Madha Health Centre-Eleyankanny	1000
7	D.M.Convent - Eleyankanny	4000
8	Little Flower Convent - Ranipet	5000
9	Little Flower Convent - Ammoor	5000
10	S.D.Convent - Sennathur	1000
11	St.Charles Convent - Jolarpet	1000
12	St.Charles Convent - Thirupattur	5000
13	Sacred Heart TTC - Vandavasi	3000
14	Lourdu Madha Mat.Hr.Sec.School -	
	Thandarampet	3800
15	Annai Velankanni School - Malikapuram	2500
16	St.Charles Mat.School - Yelagiri Hills	1000
17	St.Charles HSS School - Yelagiri Hills	1000
18	St.Charles Primary School - Yelagiri Hills	1000
19	Cluny Convent - Kaveripakkam	5000
20	Carmel Sister - Avoor	1000
	Total	87300

Thanks for your generous contribution for Mission Sunday Collection. Those who have not yet sent Mission Sunday Collection

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Kindly send to us as early as possible.

## Fr. A.Kulandesu

Procurator

## **VELLORE SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY**

17.12.2015 வேலூர் மறைமாவட்ட ஆயர் மேதகு பெ.சௌந்தரராண அவர்கள் தலைமையில் VSSS கிறிஸ்து பிறப்பு மற்றும் புத்தாண்டு விழா சிறப்பிக்கப்பட்டது. இந்நீகழ்வில் மறைமாவட்ட முதன்மை குரு, வேலூர் மறைகோட்ட முதன்மை தந்தை, வந்தவாசி மறைகோட்ட முதன்மை தந்தை, அரக்கோணம், திருப்பத்தூர் மறைகோட்ட முதன்மை தந்தையர்களும், TVMSS இயக்குநர், RCM பள்ளிகளின் மேலாளர், மேய்ப்புபணி நிலைய இயக்குநர், மறைமாவட்ட பொருளாளர், ஆயர் அவர்களின் செயலர் மற்றும் அருட்தந்தையர்கள் பங்கேற்றனர். மேலும், கோல்பிங் குடும்ப உறுப்பினர்கள், மகளிர் குழுக்களின் உறுப்பினர்கள், பெண்கள் பணிக்குழு மாற்றுத்திறனாளிகள் மற்றும் வெள்ளத்தால் பாதிக்கப்பட்டோர் அனைவரும் கலந்துக்கொண்டு சிறப்பித்தனர்.

இந்நிகழ்வின்போது ஆயர் அவர்கள் இரக்கமுடையோர் பேறு பெற்றோர் என்ற வாக்கின் அடிப்படையில் VSSS இயக்குநர் தந்தையின் பணிகளையும், சேவைகளையும் பாராட்டினார். கிறிஸ்து பிறப்பின் நிகழ்வின் முதற்கட்டமாக 10.12.2015 அன்று மறைமாவட்ட முதன்மை தந்தை I.ஐான் ராபர்ட் அவர்கள் தலைமையில் வெள்ளத்தால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட 50 குடும்பங்களக்கு நலத்திட்ட உதவிகளும் இரண்டாம் கட்டமாக 17.12.2015 அன்று மேதகு ஆயர் அவர்களால் 50 குடும்பங்களுக்கு நலத்திட்ட உதவிகளும் வழங்கப்பட்டது. கோல்பிங் இயக்கம் சார்பாக

வருமான பெருக்கு திட்டம்	9,00,000/-
கறவை மாடுகள்	60,000/-
കல்வி உதவி	40,000/-
வீடு கட்டும் திட்டம்	2,50,000/-
மகளிர் குழுக்களுக்கு சுழல் நிதிக்கடனாக	9,91,000/-

வேலூர் மறைமாவட்டம் முழுதும் வழங்கப்பட்டது. மாற்றுத் திறனாளிகளுக்கு நலத்திட்டம் வழங்கப்பட்டது.

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January 2016

VSSS திட்ட மேலாளர் திரு. பேட்ரிக் அவர்கள் VSSSன் பணிகளை திட்ட அறிக்கையாக தொகுத்து வழங்கினார்.

அருட்சகோதரி அந்தோணி ராணி வரவேற்புரை நல்கினார். கோல்பிங் குடும்பம், மகளிர் அமைப்புகள், பெண்கள் பணிக்குழு உறுப்பினர்களால் கிறிஸ்து பிறப்பு பாடல், நடனம் போன்ற கலை நிகழ்வுகள் நிகழ்த்தப்பட்டது. அனைத்து நிகழ்வுகளையும் தொகுத்து திட்ட மேலாளர் திரு. பேட்ரிக் மற்றும் திரு. இராஸ் லூயிஸ் அவர்கள் வழங்கினார்கள். திருமதி. P.S.செலின் நன்றியுரையை வழங்கினார்கள்.

செய்தி தொகுப்பு தருமதி. **P.**செலின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர்கள் வேலூர் சமூக சேவை சங்கம்

அருட்தீரு. **A.R.**அந்தோணிசாமி இயக்குநர், வேலூர் சமூக சேவை சங்கம்

#### ഥനിഡന്ധിത് சേതത

25.11.2015 அன்று புதன்கிழமை மாலை 4.00 மணியளவில் வேலூர் கொமித்சியமும் நேரடி பிரசிடியங்கள் 10ல் இருந்தும் ஒல்டுடவுன் ஆரோக்கியமாதா கல்லறை தோட்டத்திற்கு சென்று இறந்த அனைத்து ஆன்மாக்களுக்காகவும் யாரும் நினையாத ஆத்துமாக்களுக்காகவும் எரியும் மெழுகுவர்த்திகளை பவனியில் எடுத்துச்சென்று சிறப்பு ஜெபமாலை சொல்லி ஒப்புக்கொடுக்கப்பட்டது.

13.12.2015 மரியாயின் சேனை கொமித்சிய கூட்டம் காலை 11 மணியளவில் நடைபெற்றது. இதில் நேரடி பிரசிடியங்கள் 8ம் கியூரியாக்கல் வந்தவாசி, சேத்துப்பட்டு மற்றும் காட்பாடியில் இருந்து பங்கேற்றனர். இது இவ்வருடத்தின் கடைசி கூட்டமாகையால் அனைவரும் அன்னைக்கு நன்றி கூறி கிறிஸ்துமஸ் நல்வாழ்த்துக்களை பகிர்ந்துகொண்டனர். வரும் புத்தாண்டில் உற்சாகத்துடனும், தெபமும், சேவையும் நம் குறிக்கோள் என்ற முடிவுடன் இன்னும் உற்சாகத்துடன் பணிகளை தொடர்ந்து ஆற்ற கொமித்சிய தலைவியால் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்பட்டு மதியம் 12.30 மணிக்கும் கூட்டம் நிறைவு பெற்றது.

திருமதி. ரத்னாமேரி கொமித்சியத் தலைவி

# Birthday

Rev. Fr. S. Clement Rosario Rev. Fr. M. John Nicholas Rev. Fr. R. Fathimanathan Rev. Fr. S. Jacob Rev. Fr. S. Jacob Rev. Fr. K. Arockiaraj Rev. Fr. S. Jose Enchackal Rev. Fr. M.A. John Velankannan Rev. Fr. A. R. Anthony Samy Rev. Fr. R. Anthony Samy Rev. Fr. S. Arul Prabakaran

# Ordination day

Rev. Fr. S. Irudayaraj Rev. Fr. A. Robert 10.01.2003 31.01.1996

05.01.1966

09.01.1959

10.01.1950

12.01.1976

14.01.1979

20.01.1949

22.01.1960

27.01.1970

26.01.1952

30.01.1980

# Intentions

Let us pray that sincere dialogue among men and women of different faiths may produce the fruits of peace and justice.

Let us pray that by means of dialogue and fraternal charity and with the grace of the Holy Spirit, Christians may overcome divisions.

## Calender

01	Fri	B.V.M., Mother of God, Sol
03	Sun	Epiphany of the Lord, sol.
10	Sun	Baptism of our Lord, Feast
17	Sun	2 <sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Sunday
21	Thu	St. Agnes Virg.Mr. Mem.
24	Sun	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Ordianry Sunday</b>
25		
20	Mon	Conversion of St. Paul AP.,
25 26	Mon Tue	Conversion of St. Paul AP., SS. Timothy and Titus Bps, Mem
		,

# Necrology

Rev. Fr. Venantius Villanova SDB	03.01.1988
Rev. Fr. Joseph Sandanam SDB	05.01.1987
Rev. Fr. K. M. Sebastian	07.01.2011
Rev. Fr. Theo M. Andreas SDB	08.01.1968
Rev. Fr. I. Gnana Manickam	11.01.1985
Rev. Fr. K. S. George	13.01.2000
Rev. Fr. Eligius Cinato SDB	15.01.1964
Rev. Fr. A. Thomas	17.01.1989
Rev. Fr. Joseph Jeswanthraj SDB	24.01.2007
Rev. Fr. P. Periyanayagam	26.01.2006
Rev. Fr. K. C. Mathew	29.01.1980
Rev.Fr.Guezou Francis, SDB	29.01.2009
Rev. Fr. Consantine Vendrame SDB	30.01.1957
Rev. Fr. Bagavantharaj SDB	31.01.1995

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