
Priority of the Most Holy Trinity, India



These men mean business. Our own Rev. Mr. Theresian Babu is flanked by fellow Winona seminarians, Mr. Adam Beck and Mr. Peter Fortin in front of the priory. All three worked at the priory for their summer apostolate.



Mr. Adam Beck assisted by the boys in the repair of a screen wash motor.



Mr. Peter Fortin shows Anthony how to cut corners for the new school desks.

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

*If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:
etc.*

Most men who have read the poem *If* by Rudyard Kipling, would dearly like to have a friend such as the poem describes, or secretly, while alone with their thoughts, might wish to resemble such a man.

The poem was first published in 1895 and has been so well loved over the years as to become fashionably unfashionable. To some critics it is merely a dated portrait of stoicism; to others it describes the ideal man, the apogee of natural virtue.

Now, reading the poem shortly after reading Bishop Tissier de Mallerai's biography of His Lordship Archbishop Lefebvre, it occurred to me that all of Mr. Kipling's conditions for manliness (except perhaps equanimity in gambling) were admirably fulfilled in the

Archbishop. From the moment of his fall from favour following the death of Pope Pius XII, the Archbishop exhibited manliness—especially prudence and perseverance—in heroic measure.

There is one moving episode in particular, recounted by the then seminarian, Paul Aulagnier, which gives us some idea of the suffering and hence the heroism of the Archbishop's perseverance.

It was in 1969 at the Foyer Don Bosco in Fribourg where the Archbishop had begun his "Saint Pius X Association for Priestly Training" (the precursor to the Society of Saint Pius X). He had been forced to resign as Superior General of the Holy Ghost Fathers the previous year in very disagreeable circumstances and for the last seven years had watched the auto-destruction of his order and the rest of the Church with horror—all occasioned by the revolutionary Second Vatican Council. It was now or never that something must be done for the Catholic Priesthood.

Returning home after a wearisome and unsuccessful trip to Sion to seek the permission of the Bishop, Nestor Adam, to either send his seminarians to his diocesan seminary or allow him to open a seminary at Ecône, the Archbishop had obtained permission only for a first year at Ecône:

'Paul Aulagnier prepared the Archbishop's vestments for him and asked about the success of the trip and the possibilities it might represent for the little group. He later said: "Just then I saw him weep from discouragement. While I knew how serious the situation was, my morale was high, doubtless by the grace of God. I respectfully shared my optimism with the Archbishop Lefebvre: 'Your Grace, we're not going to stop now; we have to continue! He looked doubt-

Priory of the Most Holy Trinity, India

ful, but I think in the end he was deeply touched.”

He did of course persevere in the end and the 40th anniversary of the Society of St. Pius X gives ample testimony to this. The secret of the Archbishop’s perseverance, however, was not just natural manliness or natural virtue, it was because his soul was elevated by *supernatural grace* and his actions were *informed* by divine charity. These are the pre-conditions of real manliness that escaped the mind of Mr. Kipling, for, without grace and without charity, a man cannot be even naturally perfect.

Looking back, the achievement of Archbishop Lefebvre was not just the founding of a society which now numbers over 500 priests, it was greater than this; it was the preservation of the Catholic Priesthood. It was a heroic act of love of Our Lord and His Church and the millions and millions of souls it must lead to there. His motto *“Et nos credidimus caritate”* “We have believed in charity,” was not just a pious sentiment, it underpinned everything he did and made him the real man that he was.

If only I could be more like this...

In Jesu et Maria,
Father Robert Brucciani

PILGRIMAGE TO KERALA

*The 3rd Annual Pilgrimage for Vocations
12th—14th August*

It was on 11th August towards midnight that 46 pilgrims gathered at the Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity to begin their 3rd Pilgrimage to Kerala (the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu) with the prayer of the *Itinerarium*. The special



*“Don’t worry Joseph,” says Sr. Maria Pia as she mixes some cement, “we won’t feel a thing!”
Dr. Susan Nagle popped over from Ireland for nine days to examine and treat 130 sets of teeth.
She must have slept for the entire return flight.*

intention for this pilgrimage was the increase of vocations in the Asian District.

The following morning, the pilgrims visited the house of St. Alphonsa (1910-46) at Kudamanur. It was in this house that St. Alphonsa was born and brought up and also received her vocation to the

religious life. It was also in this same house that she burnt her feet in order to refuse the marriage proposal which was forced upon her so that she might give up her desire of becoming a nun which she later did become. Thus bringing to our minds that, despite every vocation being a



*Miss Miriam Martello, a qualified nurse from Australia, was delighted to assist Dr. Nagle.
Here, John-Peter undergoes an examination under the spotlight.*

Prory of the Most Holy Trinity, India



Blessing a well before drilling commences. The first attempt was a failure—even as deep as 300 ft.

At the second attempt, in a different spot and after more fervent prayers, we found water at just 60 ft. Moses would have been jealous. Deo gratias.

gratuitous gift, each one requires protection and nurturing (n.b. the self mutilation in this case was due to a pardonable excess of zeal).

The next stop in the afternoon was at Mannanam where there is a church which was built by Blessed Kuriakose Chavara (1805-1871), founder of the missionary order, The Carmelites of Mary Immaculate. Here Fr. Valan and Fr. Gregory offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The place around the church is flooded with various educational institutions numbering around twenty five. In the evening the pilgrims recited the rosary and other devotional prayers at Ramapuram which was the apostolic field of Blessed Augustine Thevarparampil (1891-1973). He was instrumental in teaching the rudiments of Faith to the local children who used to gather around him. In order to depict this, the parishioners have made a classroom of wood with the effigies of local children with Blessed Augustine in the act of teaching catechism. Does not the Faith come by hearing? But how will they hear if there is no preacher? Hence the urgent need for prayers for vocations.

After this we went to Bharanagmam

where St. Alphonsa lived as a nun and where there is now a museum. Here we were able to glimpse something of her life. Her motto was "After a very hard struggle God has brought me to the convent, but what's the use of it if I don't become a saint." In this museum many of the things that she used are preserved like the religious books, her habits, bed, etc.

In the afternoon we prayed the Way of the Cross by climbing a steep mountain which took nearly an hour in the hot and humid conditions. At this place which is called Malayatoor on Mount Kurusa Malai (meaning Mount of the Crucifix) there is a tradition which tells us that the Apostle Thomas came and prayed there. Here he left the mark of his knees. On this very spot today there stands a chapel to honour his zeal in faithfully observing Christ's command - "Going therefore, teach ye all nations: baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost." (Mt. 28:19)

As most priests end their sermons with Our Lady, so also our pilgrimage ended with the visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Ransom at Ernakulam. Having been spiritually nourished and refreshed **the pilgrims departed to their homes. Ω**

CHRONICLE

▪ 3rd June: The Corpus Christi Procession was held at the new orphanage. The sisters, volunteers and the girls worked very hard to honour the Blessed Sacrament.

▪ 5th June: Volunteers Misses Bridget Bevan, Monica Marshall and Catherine Parkes (all from UK) arrived to help at Veritas. This is the second tour of duty for Miss Bevan and Miss Marshall. The ladies who come to teach now live in a bungalow on the school property as there is no room left at the new orphanage.

▪ 11th June : Volunteer Mlle. Alix Dusausoy (France) arrived also for her second tour of duty at Veritas Academy.

▪ 13th June: Volunteers Oliver Alderson and Joshua Coward (both from UK) arrived. Oliver will teach and Joshua is a much needed professional groundsman.

▪ 29th June: Five altar servers were raised to the position of acolyte and one to the position of MC during the Mass of this wonderful feast.

2nd July: Volunteer Miss Miriam Martello (Australia) arrived at Veritas.

▪ 3rd July: Seminarians Rev. Mr. Therasian Babu, Adam Beck and Peter

Priory of the Most Holy Trinity, India

Fortin arrived from Winona for their summer apostolate. Mr. Beck and Mr. Fortin were unstoppable in their enthusiasm for fixing and building things with the boys. They also supervised homework time, sport and organised the boys choir.

Rev. Mr. Therasian, the deacon, was panicked by being ordered to preach the sermons every Sunday as befitting to his new office. His first sermon was given in front of his family, after which, his loving sister said, “Therasian, it would have been better if you had just photocopied the text and given it out.” A bit harsh perhaps.

▪ 21st July: Herr Josef Huber of Bavaria arrived at the priory to help. Leaving behind his understanding wife and family for six months, his greatest desires are to work for the Blessed Virgin Mary and improve the efficiency of the priory. So far he has completed the new Lady Altar, built shelves and repaired everything he can find. He is also teaching carpentry to a group of the older boys and organising a football team. Divine Providence ever smiles upon us.

▪ 26th – 27th July: The boys went on a trip to Christurajapuram for the half-term break together with the American seminarians, Adam Beck and Michael Fortin. While at the beach, the astonishing extent of the coastal erosion all along the south coast could be seen. In one village the sea has advanced about 200 ft in three years taking with it the front row of houses. I wonder if this a chastisement of the Catholic villages for abandoning the faith.

▪ 27th July: The American seminarians left after four weeks of sterling work.

▪ 10th August: Gladys the goat (kept at the school by Mr. Deveraj, the watchman) gave birth to four kids surrounded by a crowd of pupils and staff. The kids

were named Lawrence, Hippolytus, Tibertius and Susanna. All are well. Hippolytus and Susanna are now being bottled by the boys at the priory. Woe to the garden.

Dr. Susan Nagle, a dental surgeon from Ireland, arrived for a nine day visit. She attended to all the children and most adults of the school and orphanage, together with 45 patients at Singamparai. While Dr. Nagle was pulling teeth, the children have been given lessons in oral health care (i.e. brushing teeth).

Fr. Brucciani narrowly avoided crashing into an elephant at night on his way back from the orphanage.

▪ 12th – 14th August: Fr. Valan and Fr. Gregory and about forty faithful took part in the annual pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Alphonsa.

▪ 24th – 26th August: Frs. Tim & Joe Pfeiffer visited the priory to say hello and to participate in the 59th anniversary Fr. Xavier-Ignatius’ ordination on 24th August. The sisters, the rest of the choir,



Herr Joseph Huber of Bavaria, Germany with young Peter. Herr Huber has not stopped making and repairing things at the priory since he arrived in July.

the priests and seminarian went to Tuticorin for the celebration which included a sung Mass, long speeches and meal.

▪ 31st August: Rev. Mr. Therasian Babu departed for his final year at Winona after spending seven weeks at home and in the priory. Please pray for him during his last year of preparation to receive the greatest gift that God can bestow on a man—the Catholic Priesthood.

▪ 31st August: Work began on our “temporary” dormitory and study hall. It may even be finished by Christmas.... Ω



On the occasion of the beginning of Fr. Xavier-Ignatius’ 60th year of priesthood on the feast of St. Bartholomew, there was a gathering of all the priests of the Indian Mission: Fr. Valan, Fr. Joseph Pfeiffer, Fr. Tim Pfeiffer, Fr. Xavier-Ignatius, Fr. Gregory, Fr. Brucciani and Fr. Methodius.