

## Priory of the Most Holy Trinity ♦ India



*Miss Josephine Caleb allowed her house to be used as the first priory in India from 1986 until 1990. Her house is still a Mass Centre for about 100 faithful.*

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

This year, the Mission celebrates the 25th anniversary of its establishment in India. The foundation was made on 23rd September 1986 in Tuticorin in the house of Miss Josephine Caleb. The history of the mission over the last 25 years has been one of high adventure: great successes and sad losses, rapid expansion and slow attrition, munificent blessings and dashing disappointments. Of late we have had

more blessings than disappointments: a son of the parish, Fr. Therasian Xavier, was ordained on 17th June in Winona and celebrated his first Mass at Palayamkottai on 9th July. His first posting will be at the priory here. It is a great blessing, but please keep him in your prayers.

India is not an easy field of the apostolate. It is a unique place—a young country with an ancient, insular and tenaciously pagan culture. The number of

Catholics has remained obstinately low at 2% of the population since the time of St. Francis Xavier and there is no great evangelisation in sight.

Indeed, since the implementation of the ‘spirit of the Second Vatican Council’ in the Catholic Church, the need for evangelisation is not really an issue anymore—social justice is all that matters. Last year, for example, the priests at the priory were invited to an ‘International Seminar on Transgenders’ organised by a Jesuit priest to promote awareness of the social injustice suffered by such unfortunates!

The Catholic faithful until now have adhered to traditional Catholic devotions (the rosary, litanies, pilgrimages, fasting etc.), but their meaning is slowly being evacuated by the growing ignorance of both faith and morals (just like the West) due to the neglect of Catholic education by the clergy. When the average modern Catholic is presented with the doctrine and liturgy of traditional Catholicism, the reaction is usually one of bewildered incomprehension.

Our progress in the apostolate is made no easier by the success of U.N. and World Bank sponsored government family planning policies. Contraception, sterilisation and abortion are widespread even among Catholics (perhaps over 90% of them). The new church rarely preaches against artificial family planning and even **implies that unrestricted “Natural Family Planning” is virtuous. Indeed, the anti-life mentality is now so much part of the culture in India that many of our own families in tradition cannot imagine having more than two or three children.** In the external forum alone, the alarming consequence of this low birth rate is that some

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of our satellite Mass centres will simply cease to exist in 30 years unless there is a change of culture.

In the face of these obstacles, our plan is to grow organically by developing a truly Catholic world around the priory, school and orphanage at Palayamkottai. Already it is a beacon for all our other centres and for the local Catholics and clergy. Our mission is to make our children strong Catholics before they are exposed to the paganism and materialism of the outside world.

There is indeed much work to be done and, as is also traditional, there are never enough labourers for the harvest. In India there are three and a half SSPX priests and two and a half helper priests (with an average age of 82) to look after 15 Mass Centres spread over the area the size of Western Europe!

But Providence seems to approve of our plan so far. Veritas Academy has been granted legal recognition, and thanks to you, our benefactors, we are about to **finish a splendid new boys' dormitory and study hall. On the girls' side, the Consoling Sisters have completed the foundations of a massive phase 2 of the girls' orphanage** (it will accommodate 50 orphans and perhaps 10 elderly).

Our future success, however, depends more on our spiritual lives than on our bank balances. Please continue to support us with your prayers, for, unless we have a spark of holiness in ourselves, we cannot hope to enflame the hearts of our faithful.

In Jesu et Maria,  
Rev. Robert Brucciani

### CHRONICLE (extract)

June 2011

5th: Fr. Laisney, our District Bursar, left India after three months of devoted apostolate. He will be back in October hopefully...better get the accounts in shape.

6th: Veritas Academy began its new Academic year with 58 pupils.

11th: Fr. Albert Ghela was next on the Indian carousel; he arrived for a three month spell to look after the apostolate of the north.

23rd: The Corpus Christi procession took place at the orphanage again this year. The sisters and girls worked very hard to turn a building site into a sanctuary fit for the King of Kings.

July 2011

7th-13th: Fr. Le Roux and Fr Couture visited India for Fr. Therasian's first Mass.

16th-21st: Fr. Gregory took the new ferry service from Tuticorin (about 50km from the priory) to Colombo, Sri Lanka together with 100kg of books.

19th-31st: The annual Singamparai Festival took place; it becomes more Catholic every year!

August 2011

18th-20th: Fr. Gregory led the 4th Annual Bus Pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Alphonsa plus many other places. 53 pilgrims left the priory on Thursday evening and returned in the early hours of Sunday morning. The local faithful clearly love pilgrimages.

24th: Fr. Xavier-Ignatius (a helper priest) celebrated the 60th Anniversary of his ordination. A Solemn High Mass was celebrated in Tuticorin on 27th.

28th: Fr. Ghela left India after much travelling. He will be back in January. Ω



*"Tradidi quod et accipi. I delivered that which I also received" (I Cor 15:3) says Fr. Francis on the eve of his departure from India to return to the Philippines.*



*A dramatic baroque altar nears completion at St. Thomas' Chapel, Nagercoil. Marble is relatively inexpensive in India which means that that priestly dreams like this can come true.*



*The boys' new study hall and dormitory is also near completion. It will eventually accommodate 48 boys.*





DIVINE PROVIDENCE :  
IT ALL WORKS IN THE END

While trying to repair the photocopier in the staffroom at school, I ventured to ask one of the volunteers, "How is Standard E going?" Standard E is the class for those children who are above eight years old and who are either new to English or are struggling with their studies.

She looked up from behind her pile of unmarked books and poured out her soul. "I really don't know what to do. So many of these children need one-to-one tuition. Take Andrew for example, he can concentrate for only thirty seconds; he is twelve years old, but I have to hold both his hands while I read with him otherwise

his mind wanders off. You have to be so patient. It's hard because you don't see any progress either. What will happen when I leave? If there is no-one else to continue with him and the others, they will be dragged through the years, suffering all the way, and then be left to an uncaring world. Nobody else will look after them. It really frightens me. Will everything we are doing come to nothing when we are gone?"

"Oh there is progress," I said, "You just need to be here longer than six months. In fact it's wonderful to see the transition from child to young adult over time. Some of the children have come a very long way. As Archbishop Lefebvre said about the faithful of his mission, 'You

can see the grace working in them.'

"Also, you have to remember that, perhaps all we do might actually come to **nothing!** But it doesn't matter; we glorify God in our *trying* rather than in the results of our work. He can use whatever instruments He likes to produce the results that He likes; all we have to do is give Him our everything and Providence will take care of the rest. 'To them that love God all things work together unto good.' (Rom 8:28)."

"Yes, I suppose you're right Father, but I'm still afraid for them, and I don't want to leave."

"Me too." I thought to myself and then the photocopier burst into life again.

Ω



*Pupils and Staff all pulling together (in opposite directions) during the school sports day.*