

Priory of the Most Holy Trinity ♦ Palayamkottai ♦ India



The New Boys Dormitory & Study Hall thanks to our benefactors.



New solid furniture thanks to Josef Huber of Bavaria who took over a local carpenter's shop.



New vestment drawers thanks to Joseph Martin of U.K.



New chess moves for Moses thanks to John Bosco.

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

2012 : Year of the Family

At a meeting of priors of the District of Asia last November, the District Superior, Fr. Daniel Couture, amid deafening applause, decided to make the year of grace 2012 a time for promoting the ideals of Catholic family life. The family is not only the most important institution for the preparation of individual souls for heaven, it is also the building block of society. But now, as never before, the family is an institution under attack and is suffering as a consequence.

Modern Problems

A few years ago (2006), a book was published by a Mrs. Sue Palmer with the title *Toxic Childhood: How the Modern World is Damaging Our Children and What We Can Do About It*. (ISBN 0752873598) In the book, as the title suggests, the authoress attempts to expose in a systematic way the tragedy caused by our modern society in relation to children. She elaborates upon the harmful effects

- of poor diet on mental and physical development;
- of too few hours of sleep on health and learning;
- of electronic media (television, computer games, mobile phones, internet [and now social media]) on the development of cognitive processes and social skills;
- of the absence of the mother from home;
- of buggies that face forwards instead of backwards towards the mother (because the mother should be her child's prism through which the world is observed);
- of consumerism and advertising;
- of lack of conversation, communal meals and family activities;

- of the cataclysm of divorce.

....among other things.

Inadequate Modern Solutions

The book is interesting for the catalogue of woes it lays out, but it fails both in identifying government legislation and practice as a primary cause of damage to the family (tax & benefits regimes, promotion of sex education in schools, feminism, homosexuality, family planning, abortion etc.) and it falls short in the solutions it offers. Yes, we should obviously think about avoiding junk food, going to bed early, getting rid of the television, spending quality time with the children etc.. The book gives many superficial material solutions to modern ills, but it fails entirely in rooting those solutions in anything more substantial than a vague notion of what seems to be good, (ie. what seems to be natural) and what is imagined to be feasible.

For the Catholic or truly natural reader (they are one and the same thing), what is missing in the book is any notion of the existence of God and of the order inscribed by God in human nature (and hence in the family). There is no notion of objective right and wrong consequent to our nature and our relation to God, and there is no notion of love by which a soul sacrifices itself to strive for its perfection on earth.

One might say in defence that it was not a religious book and so would not have arrived at these conclusions as a consequence, but the existence of God, objective right and wrong and true love are not specifically religious notions; they are entirely natural.

The Only Solution

As Catholics, we know by faith that there is another element in the equation of human perfection. It is this: the perfec-

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The new altar at St. Thomas' Chapel, Nagercoil, covered in flowers, made the Feast of St. Thomas especially memorable this year.

tion of the natural order, which includes the perfection of the family, is impossible without *grace*. For a family to be truly functional, it must be truly religious. It must take the Holy Family as its model and must aspire to supernatural virtue through, not only material means (eating and sleeping well, shutting out the evil influences of the world, etc.), but especially by frequentation of the sacraments, prayer in common (the family rosary) and a practice of virtue.

May your families grow in grace and virtue throughout this new year. May fathers be both daring and prudent in their governance of their families, may mothers be a glowing hearth of charity at their centre, may children honour and obey. Please remember our mission in your prayers. Thank you for all you have done for us. The pictures you see give only a keyhole view of the good that you do.

In Jesu et Maria,
Father Robert Brucciani

CHRONICLE (extract)

October 2011

8th: A rosary procession took place from Veritas Academy to the priory (about 4 miles or 6km) for the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary. When we reached the priory, the new dormitory and study hall were solemnly blessed.

9th: The first Legion of Mary meeting was held at the village of Singamparai. This is a great milestone in the development of the Mass Centre and is almost entirely thanks to the zeal of our chief catechist. The Legion of Mary is now established in five of our Mass Centres.

December 2011

12th-17th : The annual five day priests' retreat was preached by the indefatigable Fr. Francois Laisney in a Franciscan novitiate in the far south of India. Fr. Laisney's extensive knowledge of scripture, the Fathers of the Church and the writings of the saints, together with 30 years of priestly experience, made the

retreat a treasure to treasure. Would that the fervour it engendered live on too.

21st: Before the closing ceremony at the end of the school term, the boys performed their first play - A Christmas Carol - directed by Miss Angelica Poirier of New York. Miss Poirier has a gift for communicating her remarkable enthusiasm and the boys were laughing all the way through. Big broad grins on the faces of Marly and the ghost of Christmas-to-come were indeed an imaginative interpretation of Charles Dicken's original work. A plan has been hatched to hide Miss Poirier's passport.

25th: This Christmas, Christ really did come into the world. Three orphans were baptised before Midnight Mass at the priory: Emmanuel (Arun), Maria Agnes (Anusha) and Maria Anastasia (Divya), eight children and one adult were baptised at Singamparai, and one child was baptised at Nagercoil. There were also two marriages at Singamparai. What a memorable Christmas Day. Ω

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The rosary procession from Veritas Academy to the priory on the Feast of Holy Rosary 8th October.



Good old-fashioned ecumenism:

“Important Notice - Inside the village of Singamparai, no religious group except the R.C. Church can make any religious propaganda.

Village Welfare Committee”



Future tycoons, Bernard, Joyson, Peter and Clement get some practice.



Vinnarasi enjoys the monsoon rain.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

The Orphan Business is an umbrella organisation run by the Priory of the Most Holy Trinity to develop small businesses run by the orphans when they leave school. Orders to sspxindia@gmail.com

PRODUCTS (prices include postage)	USD	EUR
Rosary (state colours [black/blue/red] and cross)	15	12
Mass Vestment Set—Reversible Silk (state colours)	100	78
Altar Server’s Black Cassock (Large, Medium, Small)	50	40
Altar Server’s Surplice (Large, Med., Small)	30	24
Team Sports Kits (soccer, basketball, netball etc.)	quote on request	
Catechism in Pictures	25	20





Domestic bliss in the Cratchit household. A scene from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

*All the world's a stage,
And all the men and women merely players:
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.
As, first the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.
And then the whining school-boy, with his
satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school.....*



As Fred's wife, Daniel will not appreciate this photo when he's older. Here he is with Ebenezer Scrooge (Joseph) at the boys' first drama production.

Our fallen human nature remains the same throughout the ages. This famous quotation from William Shakespeare's *You Like It*, might just as well bring to mind an Elizabethan schoolboy of four hundred years ago or an Indian schoolboy of our current day. But while we lament the fallen side of human nature, we should not forget to give plenty of room for rejoicing over the good bits that are left.

Thanks to the hard work of one volunteer, the boys recently discovered that they could act on stage. Or perhaps they discovered that they had been acting all along and so it was easy! Their first play met with universal astonishment and laughter. Deo gratias.

We continue to be blessed by a stream of volunteers from all over the world (at present from the U.S.A., Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Australia and the U.K.). Please keep coming.

God is good. Ω



Miss Angelica Poirier reviews the script with Moses and Simeon .



Bob Cratchit (Francis) and his wife (John Bosco) mourn the death of their son, Tiny Tim (Simeon).