



*Rev. Fr. Christophe Beaublat, the new Prior of Palayamkottai, sings the gradual on the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Tuticorin.*

### The Total Commitment of Jesus Christ

A chicken and a pig were walking down the street one day and noticed some poor children who looked as if they hadn't eaten anything for days. Moved with compassion, the chicken said to the pig, "I have an idea! Let's give those children a nice breakfast of ham and eggs." The pig contemplated the chicken's suggestion and said, "Well, for you, that would involve a small sacrifice; but for me, it would involve total commitment!"

◆◆◆

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

When Jesus came to save us from sin, He knew that it would cost Him His life. He went to the cross anyway to offer to us eternal life. His commitment to us was total.

Like the pig in the story, our commitment to Christ must be more than a small sacrifice of our time, energy, and money. It must involve our whole life—

all that we are.

When we come to Christ, we must be willing to live out the same total commitment of which Jesus was the model. Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me".

What does it mean to say that God is love? If God is love, then there is nothing created that is not carried and surrounded by his infinite benevolence.

God not only declares that he is love, he also proves it: "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends". No other religion says what Christianity says: "God is love".

Faith holds fast to this promise, although the experience of suffering and evil in the world may make people wonder whether God is really loving. Already in the Old Testament God communicates to his people through the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Because you are precious in my eyes, and hon-

oured, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. Fear not, for I am with you" (Is 43:4) and has him say, "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands". (Is 49:15-16).

This talk about divine love does not consist of empty words; Jesus proves this on the Cross, where he gives up his life for his friends. True love hurts. It always must hurt. It has to be painful to love someone; painful to leave him, you would like to die for him. When people marry, they have to give up everything in order to love each other. A mother who gives life to a child suffers much. The word "love" is misunderstood and misused so much.

May Our Lady of Mercy help us to understand these considerations and apply them in our daily life.



*The marriage of Navina of Singamparai and Anthony Sevaraj Raj at the Chapel of St. Anthony, Singamparai on 9th September 2013.*

Soon we will enter the season of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year. I'm sure it's the appropriate time for an examination of conscience and resolutions. AMEN

Yours sincerely in Caritate Christi,

Rev, Fr. Christophe Beaublat  
Prior



*"So is this great sea, which stretcheth wide its arms : there are creeping things without number : Creatures little and great." (Ps103:25)  
The boys brave the surf on the south coast of India on a priory outing to Christurajapuram.*