

Meeting God in and through Our Families

Though Pope Francis put aside his prepared text for the World Meeting of Families on September 26, 2015, in Philadelphia, USA, it is considered rich enough to evolve a spirituality for families today.

First of all, I want to thank the families who were willing to share their life stories with us. Thank you for your witness! It is always a gift to listen to families share their life experiences; it touches our hearts. We feel that they speak to us about things that are very personal and unique, which in some way involve all of us. In listening to their experiences, we can feel ourselves drawn in, challenged as married couples and parents, as children, brothers and sisters, and grandparents.

As I was listening, I was thinking how important it is for us to share our home life and to help one another in this marvellous and challenging task of “being a family”.

Being with you makes me think of one of the most beautiful mysteries of our Christian faith. God did not want to come into the world other than through a family. God did not want to draw near to humanity other than through a home. God did not want any other name for himself than Emmanuel (cf. Mt 1:23). He is “God with us”. This was his desire from the beginning, his purpose, his constant effort: to say to us: “I am God with you, I am God for you”. He is the God who from the very beginning of creation said: “It is not good for man to be alone” (Gen 2:18). We can add: it is not good for woman to be alone, it is not good for children, the elderly or the young to be alone. It is not good. That is why a man leaves his father and mother, and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh (cf. Gen 2:24). The two are meant to be a home, a family.

From time immemorial, in the depths of our heart, we have heard those powerful words: it is not good for you to be alone. The family is the great blessing, the great gift of this “God with us”, who did not want to

New Office Building for the Society of Vincent De Paul

A new office building for the Kuzhithurai Diocesan Central Council of the Society of Vincent De Paul was inaugurated on October 03, 2015 by Fr. V. Maria Alphonse, the Spiritual Animator of the Diocesan Council. The new office is located within the premises of JOSCO Furniture, Marthandam. A special word of thanks to JOSCO Brothers for allowing the society to function freely from their building.



The inauguration of the new office was graced by the presence of several Vincentians from the Dioceses of Kuzhithurai, Kottar, Marthandam and Thuckalay. Felicitations from Bro. Iruthaya Raj, President, Kottar Diocesan Central Council and Bro. P. G. Vincent, President, Kuzhithurai Diocesan Central Council, focussed on the commitment of the society towards the poor and the downtrodden.

Others who tirelessly contributed towards setting up the new office at Marthandam, Brothers Xavier Raj, D. Maria Siluvai, P. Christu Raj, Kamaladhas and T. Vijaya Raj, were gratefully acknowledged.

is insensitive to their pain, and forces them to make great sacrifices to receive adequate treatment.

We cannot call any society healthy when it does not leave real room for family life. We cannot think that a society has a future when it fails to pass laws capable of protecting families and ensuring their basic needs, especially those of families just starting out. How many problems would be solved if our societies protected families and provided households, especially those of recently married couples, with the possibility of dignified work, housing and healthcare services to accompany them throughout life.

God's dream does not change; it remains intact and it invites us to work for a society which supports families. A society where bread, "fruit of the earth and the work of human hands" continues to be put on the table of every home, to nourish the hope of its children. Let us help one another to make it possible to "stake everything on love". Let us help one another at times of difficulty and lighten each other's burdens. Let us support one another. Let us be families which are a support for other families.

Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us. Quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is "forged" by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows. Love can flourish in men and women who try not to make conflict the last word, but rather a new opportunity. An opportunity to seek help, an opportunity to question how we need to improve, an opportunity to discover the God who is with us and never abandons us. This is a great legacy that we can give to our children, a very good lesson: we make mistakes, yes; we have problems, yes. But we know that that is not really what counts. We know that mistakes, problems and conflicts are an opportunity to draw closer to others, to draw closer to God.

This evening we have come together to pray, to pray as a family, to make our homes the joyful face of the Church. To meet that God who did not want to come into our world in any other way than through a family. To meet "God with us", the God who is always in our midst.

4. Multi-Speciality Hospital September 25 to October 20, 2015

No.	Parish	Amount
1	Mr.Christudhas	5,000
2	Christ the King Matric H.S.S.Kannumamoodu	50,000
3	Vettuvenni	1,00,000
	Total	1,55,000

5. New Bishop's House Building September 01 to October 20, 2015

No.	Parish	Amount
1	Manali	13,520
2	Kuzhichal (Packiapuram)	7,000
3	Mukkalampadu	25,000
4	Varthanvilai	10,650
5	Kappiarai	31,960
6	Irudayapuram (T)	17,229
7	Mananvilai (Iruthayapuram)	7,942
8	Kulasekharam	24,270
9	Packiad (Kulasakharam)	3,580
10	Cheruthikonam (Kulasekharam)	3,559
11	Thirithuvapuram	36,000
12	Eraniel (Kandanvilai)	1,000
13	Palavilai	14,412
14	Melpuram	2,214
15	Vavarai	40,925
16	Parakonam (Melpuram)	1,280

Laity

Seminar for the people of Kalkurichyon “Living the Consecration” on September 06 and on 20th a training session on “Active Participation in the Participatory Structures of the Church” and on 24, “Dialogue” for the youth were conducted. About 34 took part. On September 27, leadership training was given for 24 persons.

B.C.C.

Vencodezone had an opportunity to participate in a seminar on “Understanding Children, Addiction and Responsible Parenthood” The resource persons were Frs. Maria Martin, Mary John and C. Stephen. Fr. Maria Alphonse, the Vicar General and Fr. Gelastin Gerald, the Director of the Pastoral Commissions, felicitated the gathering.

A training session for the animators was conducted on Sept 01 on “The Priorities of the Diocese of Kuzhithurai”.

Kulasekharam zone celebrated its annual day on September 27. Bro. Amalraj gave a seminar on “Basic Christian Communities Begin with Dedication”. Bishop Jerome Dhas and Fr. Gelastin Gerald, Director of the Pastoral Commissions, delivered the felicitation talks. A souvenir was published and financial assistance for a house was given to a poor woman. Number of houses were visited by the team members.

Evangelization

The commission prepared spiritually the parishes of Kuzhivilai and Vellicode from September 08 to 10 before their parish feast.

Labour

A seminar on “Labour: Rights and Responsibilities” was held on September 20 at the Cathedral of Thirithuvapuram. About 90 took part.

Dalit

Mr. Edwin Claston gave a seminar on “Land Rights” on September 19-2015.

Health

A Villupaattu on “Addiction is not for us” by Bro. Jesudhasan on September 12 for the commission members at Vettuvanni. Dr

36.	Kamplar	3,525
37.	Nallayanpuram	2,515
38.	Appattuvilai (St. Antony)	2,700
39.	Pechiparai	2,000
40.	Kodhayar (Pechiparai)	1000
41.	Valiyela (Pechiparai)	500
42.	Mankalai (Melpalai)	420
43.	Alancholai	4,000
44.	Chittar (Alancholai)	740
45.	Chanelkarai (Alancholai)	290
46.	Kallaravilai	1,000
47.	Machuvilai (Kallaravilai)	500
48.	Muthalar (Kallaravilai)	500
49.	Chemparuthivilai	3,080
50.	Elavuvilai	2,320
51.	Sadayankuzhy (Elavuvilai)	630
52.	Fathimanagar (Amsi)	2,500
53.	Varthanvilai	2,925
54.	Eanchacode	1,250
55.	Kanjampuram	3,600
56.	Kappiarai	6,410
57.	Palliyady	8,000
58.	Mulavilai	9,079
59.	Kurunthancode (Alanvilai)	2,302
60.	Arockia Annainagar (Nallayanpuram)	1,524
	Total	1,57,142

Kuzhithurai Integral Development Social Services (KIDSS)

KIDSS would like to make a brief presentation of its developmental activities after the birth of the 'New Diocese of Kuzhithurai', particularly from February to September 2015.

KIDSS has taken lot of efforts in planning and implementing different social activities in the developmental process of social action. After the formation of the new diocese of Kuzhithurai, KIDSS started to function independently under the guidance of the new diocesan administration.



Inauguration of Kolping India

Activities in brief

International Women's Day

KIDSS had networked with women's co-ordination groups to commemorate International Women's Day on March 08, 2015 at Nagercoil. One of the staff of KIDSS delivered the message on 'Women and Social Security in Today's Context' and a cultural programme was staged by the group.

Kolping India

KIDSS-Kolping India project was launched in Kuzhithurai on April 14, 2015 at St.Xavier's Auditorium, Marthandam. The aim of the project

Diocesan Collections

1. 7% Contribution September 26 to October 20, 2015

No.	Parish	Amount
1	Kanjiracode	26,726
2	Paloor (Poottetty)	15,000
3	Kuzhithurai	13,876
4	Puliyoorkurichy	23,267
5	Unnamalaikadai (Marthandam)	2,925
6	Melpuram (2013-2014)	16,089
7	Melpuram (2014-2015)	23,533
8	Kanjampuram	22,105
9	Konamkadu	50,000
10	Pilavilai (Lourdugiri)	11,386
11	Thingalnagar (Arockiapuram)	9,772
12	Thachanparampu (Arockiapuram)	2,955
		2,17,634

2. Bible Sunday September 26 to October 20, 2015

No.	Parish	Amount
1.	Soosaipuram (Vanniyoore)	1,840
2.	Thottachani (Soosaipuram)	543
3.	Sahayanagar	6,127
4.	Palavilai	2,000
5.	Murasancode	5,800
6.	Elanthavilai (Murasancode)	2,143
7.	Thumpali	2,000
8.	Udavilai(Thumbali)	800
9.	Karumpalavilai	500

presided over the function. At the end, a Souvenir was released by Fr. Maria Alphonse, the Vicar General of the Diocese.

Extension of Naturopathy Centre

At the Naturopathy clinic at Chunkankadai, with a doctor, many patients are treated every day. Herbal medicines and Spirulina are prepared at this unit. On the demand of the people, extended a new health centre at Nattalam on September 04, 2015. The unit will be functioning on every first and third Fridays of the month.



Visit of Caritas India

Visit of Caritas India Chairperson

Chairperson of Caritas India, Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, visited KIDSS on August 23, 2015 along with Fr. Paul Moonjely, Assistant Executive Director and Dr. V. Haridas, the Zonal Manager. The team visited Kolvel village, in Thiruvattar block. They held discussions with groups, such as Kaikal, RMP (Rural Motivation Program), BFDP (Banana Farmers Development Program), and parish council members.

The team also had a discussion with the Diocesan Service Team along with the Board members and the Finance Committee members of KIDSS at the Bishop's House.

Benefits from Welfare Schemes

- ❖ 330 students, studying in IX to XII classes received Rs.1200.00 per head through “*LIC Jana Shri BeemaYojana*” and 7 families received Rs. 30,000.00 as death claim for the diseased.
- ❖ Financial assistance worth Rs. 4000.00 and Rs. 5000.00 were given to two families in Marthandam and in Lourdhugiri respectively.
- ❖ Two persons of the Fisherman's Sangam received Rs.17, 500.00 for the diseased members in their families.



Formation Programme

Formation of New Groups

	Target Group	Old Groups	New groups	Total	Total Members
1	Kolping India	23	10	33	655
2	Rural Motivation Program	112	6	118	3402
3	Community Health	25	1	26	515
4	Kaikal	57	1	58	925
5	Inland Fish-workers	56	-	56	1319
6	Dalit Movement	58	1	59	787
7	Farmers Association	85	-	85	1737
8	Self Help Groups	160	-	160	2900