

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2010 - 2011

The last year has flown by and we are ready to launch another with our aims at accomplishing more than we managed earlier with God's grace and guidance.

On 19th January 2011 the passing away of Cdr. Lunel saddened us. But we thank God for the good life he enjoyed while he was with us. He was 90 years old.

Last calendar year, in June, we lost the services of our Deacon Rev. John Paul. He had to resign due to ill health and return to Chennai. Our Vicar, Rev. Darryl Taylor, brought in Mr. Rajesh, whom we felt might be able to study under his guidance and tutorage, and in time become a deacon. During this time we supported him under our outreach programme. But this was not very successful, and though he did help us in many other ways during his time with us, he too left to take up another job opportunity in December. This had its effects, as we are not able to keep the church open when Rev. Darryl Taylor was not in station.

Our fund raising is centred on our primary outreach project, namely, the Cottolengo convent. Here they have children from pre-school age to high school and adults. They run a school for these children, some are mentally challenged, or physically challenged, some are blind, and some have speech defects. Non-residents also attend the school, residents are 28, and the balances 22 are non-residents. All receive great love, care and attention.

They also have a physiotherapy section for all residents as well as yoga classes. If there are outsiders who need this specialised help it is given to them.

During the Christmas season we hosted a tea party for the children on 12th December, and distributed gifts to all the Children. On Christmas Day we went across to wish them and sponsored a special lunch for them. We try to attend some of their functions and they in turn attend some of our services.

We have been able to help others in need as well. In May when called on to help the Spastics Society, we sponsored the building of a washroom.

A child Natasha Maria Raj, whose father is in jail, was in need of financial help to continue with her school fees and transport fees. We realised that the best way to create better citizens is through education we stepped in and sponsored the child's education.

Rev. Justin informed us about 200 less fortunate children of a school in Kolar who were in dire need of school note books. He appealed to us for help. We took on the challenge and provided these children with much needed help. Our Vicar, Fr. Darryl, made a trip to Kolar and delivered these books personally.

We were able to make a donation to Vision India in September to augment their need for much needed funds. Vision India is a home, just outside Whitefield, for destitute and mentally challenged women. These women come from different backgrounds from various parts of Bangalore. They are cared for and treated by eminent medical personnel in Bangalore.

Karunashraya, Bangalore Hospice Trust, is a Hospice that supports advanced stage cancer patients. In their efforts of fund raising they brought out a brochure and approached us for our support. We participated by taking a full colour page advertisement in their Brochure.

A young woman brought in an appeal for help with a hospital bill for her mother who was admitted in MVJ Medical College & Research Hospital. Her mother had had surgery for a renal problem (duly certified by the doctor). We agreed to help her and gave a cheque in favour of the hospital on her presentation of the bill.

In November this year the C.S.I. congregation at Memorial Church, Whitefield had a better quote for the painting of the church premises, both inside and outside. We shared the cost with them. However, the colour combination of certain section of the exterior of the Church was changed from mushroom to pink. We continue to share the expenses for the electricity, the security, and the staff of the church with the C.S.I. congregation.

Our small congregation of just eight members is gradually growing. We have a good number of young adults attending services. They show much enthusiasm about 'doing' things for the Church. But their work patterns do not leave them much time to take on additional responsibilities. They thought about and suggested we run a raffle at Christmas. To help us with this, Mr. Dewars got TVS to donate a 'WEGO' scooter, and we put together three hampers for the raffle as well. It was unfortunate that we were not able to reach anywhere near our target with the sale of the tickets for this. Nonetheless, we did go through with the venture, and the draws were made after the Carol Service on the 19th December 2010. I am sure we will fare better next time.

Attendance at our services on Sundays is getting better all the time. The Carol service on the 19th December 2010 went very well, with the choir rising to the occasion with some new carols as well. The Midnight Holy Mass, on the 24th December 2010 for Christmas was well attended and all shared a congenial fellowship after the service.

We welcomed, Mr Wilson Bright, a newcomer into our parish. He has taken over the duty of organist and copes very well. Mrs. Lunel is always there when called on to stand in if necessary.

We decided to go in for robes for the choir and the organist this year. This was first used for the Carol Service on the 19th December, which added much colour to the church... We must try to make more use of these robes for regular services as well.

We failed to utilise "The celebration of Spring" to raise funds like in the past, we did however hold a special Holy Mass on that occasion, which was well attended. We were able to hand over our annual contribution by cheque to Sr. Rosalie of Cottolengo convent at the end of this service.

At the request of members of the Congregation concerned, a memorial services for Mr Gerry Moses was held on 6th November and another for Mrs Jean Johnson and Cdr. Lunel on March 6th, remembering them a year after their passing on.

The All Souls Day service in the cemetery was also held, visiting the gravesides of all who had passed on, this at the request of members concerned.

We have now entered the season of Lent, during which time we prepare ourselves spiritually to go over and ponder on the Passion of Our Lord's suffering for our redemption. We give thanks to our Saviour Jesus Christ for all His blessings and bounty bestowed on us through the past year, be it in our personal lives or as a Parish. Then we will gratefully rejoice in His blessed Resurrection at Easter.

Mrs Sydney Smith
Hon. Secretary

April 2011.