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The Pastor Speaks:

TOWARDS A BETTER WORLD

XXXV. THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

The Indwelling of the Holy Trinity

BAPTISM, as we have seen, does not mean merely entry into the Church, nor merely rebirth into the supernatural life. It means rebirth into Christ. "By our incorporation with Christ we share alike in the satisfaction He offered for sin, and the supernatural union that He merited." (Sheed, "Theology and Sanity").

Christ has redeemed all men on Calvary. It is at Baptism that we benefit actually by this gift of our Redemption. By Baptism we die as Christ did, but we rise again as He did. "We who were taken up into Christ by baptism," says St. Paul to the Romans (VI, 3/4) "have been taken up, all of us, into His death. In our baptism, we have been buried with Him, died like Him, that so, just as Christ was raised up by His Father's power from the dead, we too might live and move in a new kind of existence. We have to be closely fitted into the pattern of

His resurrection, as we have been into the pattern of His death; we have to be sure of this, that our former nature has been crucified with Him, and the living power of our guilt annihilated, so that we are the slaves of guilt no longer."

Incorporated With Christ

St. Thomas, commenting on the words of St. Paul to the Galatians (II, 19), "with Christ I hang upon the Cross," says: "His (Christ's) sufferings avail for us as if we had suffered them ourselves." All that because of our incorporation with Christ.

Christ's satisfaction for sin is also ours because we are incorporated with Him. "The supernatural union with God which is the purpose and crown of Redemption is likewise ours because we are in Him. . . . United organically with His sacred humanity, we are united with His Person, that is to say, with the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, and so with the Triune God. In our life in Him, the breach between man and God is healed and the relation of oneness restored. It is the formula of restoration He had uttered at the Last Supper: "I am in my Father, and you in Me, and I in you" (Sheed, l.c.)

As the divine work of Redemption takes on a new and most consoling meaning when explained in relation with the Mystical Body, so do all other mysteries, and particularly the work or action of the Holy Ghost in relation to the Members of the Mystical Body.

Because of the inhabitation and operation of the Holy Spirit in Our Lord Jesus Christ, we cannot be incorporated in Christ without sharing in the same inhabitation and operation of the Holy Ghost. Our bodies, says St. Paul, "belong to the Body of Christ" (I Cor. VI, 15), and he adds, what we can now understand much better, "your bodies are the shrines of the Holy Spirit Who dwells in you" (V, 19). The Holy Spirit comes into us because we are incorporated in Christ, in whom He is. We share in both presences, so much so that the Church speaks of Christ as the source and the Holy Ghost as the operative principle; Christ as the Head of the Body, the Holy Spirit

as the Soul as well as the Heart. (Sheed, condensed).

But this is not all. At the very moment the Christian through Baptism becomes a member of the Son, and because of his incorporation in Jesus, he is adopted by the Holy Trinity and joins the Family of God. He will henceforth participate in the Divine Family. At the very moment when we are baptised 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost', the promise of Christ is accomplished literally. Did He not say, "If anyone love Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and will make our abode with him"? What a richness! What a privilege! — the indwelling in our soul of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Presence of the Three Persons

"We shall come to him". The Presence of the Holy Trinity in us, establishing new ties and relations between our soul and the intimate life of God. The Presence of the Three Divine Persons!

"We shall love him". It cannot be otherwise, for God is love and the gifts of God cannot but be an outpouring of love in our soul, the Holy Ghost being the subsistent love. So the presence will not be a cold, abstract, indifferent presence, but a presence of love, and that at the same moment, in an equal movement of the Three Persons who cannot but love the regenerated soul incorporated in Christ.

"We shall make our abode with Him". Thus it will not be a

simple visit, a passing presence, but a stable and permanent one, as long as we remain in the conditions prescribed for continuing to be the shrines of the Divine Host. When, enlightened by faith, we begin to understand this gift of God, all our relations with the Holy Trinity take on a different aspect and are, so to say, illumined by a new light. To find God, we need not go and search for Him far from us, outside of us. We have only to enter into ourselves, to recollect ourselves, to look into our soul, and there, in the most intimate corner of our hearts, to find the Three Persons. What a privilege again! To be called to the honour of being able to converse with God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; to know them to be so near to us and so willing to listen to us. To be able to adore, to pray, to thank them in the sanctuary of our soul, and that at any time, in any place, convinced that we are surrounded and penetrated by their infinite love; to have a right to come near them; when we are cold or tepid, to warm ourselves again in their furnace of love,—all that surpasses

our imagination and comprehension. But faith is there; the words of Christ which endure are there. We are incorporated in Christ and thus related to the three. United with Christ, we are necessarily united with His Heavenly Father and with the Spirit of Love.

These are a few of the stupendous privileges which follow from our incorporation with Christ.

When trials come and surround us, as they do come, when we find ourselves in the dark and imagine that God, that Christ, has forgotten us or rejected us, let us think immediately of our privileges—incorporated in Christ, inhabited by the Holy Trinity! Oh! let us repeat then with a heart full of love and gratitude, "Who or what will separate me from Christ?" Far from forsaking us or rejecting us, Christ has wished to make of us Members of His Body, indissolubly united with Him, a union which no one can tear asunder, except sin, horrible sin.

✠ L. MATHIAS,

Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore.

Intentions for June 1961

General Intention: That devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus may be promoted according to the mind of the Church by means suited to the present generation.

Missionary Intention: That Catholic teachers in the mission schools may form Catholics worthy of the name.

Corrigendum

In our last issue, in the article on Bishop Carvalho by Mr. Gratian Colaco, on page 83, the date of the last National Eucharistic Congress held in Madras has been printed as 1927, instead of 1937. We greatly regret the error.—Editor.

Pious Union of Daily Adoration by Priests

THOSE who handle holy things ought to be all on fire with signal zeal for piety. They ought ever to be the tireless watchmen and, as it were, sleepless sentinels of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Hence it is that the **Pia Unio ab Adoracione Quotidiana Sacerdotali** strains every nerve to the end that Secular Priests may be spurred on to spend every day, and in an unbroken chain, one hour in adoration before Our Lord Jesus Christ hidden under the Eucharistic Species and that the devotion of the same priests towards the Most Sacred Heart of the Divine Saviour Himself, the Sovereign and Eternal Priest, and their supremely unwavering obedience to Christ's Vicar may be fostered so that all may be one.

Now the **Pia Unio ab Adoracione Quotidiana Sacerdotali** with its headquarters in this propitious City of Rome has been raised and promoted to the primary rank, and to it in perpetuity have been granted and assigned all the privileges which by law belong or may in future belong to the other Primary Unions by the Apostolic Letter of the Supreme Roman Pontiff John XXIII, opening with the words "Omnia incepta" of 27th July 1959. Furthermore, the same letter has accorded to it this concession: the lay group attached to this Sodality under the title of Eucharistic Legion has the full enjoyment and use of the same privileges as the sacerdotal group.

Such then being the case, it is with heartfelt pleasure that this **Pia Unio Primaria ab Adoracione Perpetua Sacerdotali** with its seat in this propitious City of Rome accedes to the requests addressed to it by the Most Rev. Dr. Louis Mathias, Archbishop of Madras and Mylapore, and exercises the

power conferred on it by the above mentioned Apostolic Letter. Thereby it aggregates to itself the **Pia Unio ab Adoracione Quotidiana Sacerdotali** canonically erected in accordance with Canon 686 of the Code of Canon Law in the Archdiocese of Madras and Mylapore on 22nd August 1956, and up to this date not affiliated to any Primary Union according to Canon 723 of the Code of Canon Law. This aggregation embraces also the lay group attached to this Pious Union under the name of the Eucharistic Legion. At the same time it makes the Madras-Mylapore Union sharer of all the privileges and indulgences bestowed upon itself whether at present or in future. It does all this to this purpose, that through the intercession of the most sweet and Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Queen and Mother of Apostles, they may be able to rally round it in very large numbers.

Given at Rome from our office on 24th June 1959 (on the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus) in the second year of the Pontificate of our Most Holy Father in Christ and Lord, Pope John XXIII.

✠ ALPEONSUS CARINCI,
Titular Archbishop of Seleucia,
Director General of the Pious Union.
Maximilianus Jezernik,
Secretary.

Indulgences

Our Most Holy Lord Pope John XXIII by his Apostolic Letter beginning "De More Instituto" (which will be valid in perpetuity for all future times) has graciously granted to each and every member of the Primary Union of Daily Adoration of Priests, of the City of Rome, the following indulgences:—

I. **Plenary Indulgence**, to be gained on the usual conditions:

1) To priests who are inscribed in the Pious Union on the day of admission and on its anniversary.

2) To each member on the feasts of:

a) Our Lord's Nativity, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension, Corpus Christi, Sacred Heart, Most Holy Name, Transfiguration, Christ the King and Most Precious Blood.

b) During the Triduum of the Passion and 1st and 2nd Sunday of the Passion.

c) Pentecost.

d) Most Holy Trinity.

e) Immaculate Conception of the B. V. M. and its Apparition, Nativity, Presentation, Annunciation, Assumption, Immaculate Heart, Most Holy Rosary, Maternity and Seven Dolours.

f) Apparition and Dedication of the Archangel St. Michael and the Holy Guardian Angels.

g) St. Joseph, Spouse of Virgin Mother of God (19th Mar. and 1st May), St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul and other Apostles, according to Can. 921, 2. St. Benedict, St. Bernard, St. Alphon-

sus M. de Liguori, S. Pius X, St. John M. Vianney, St. Aloysius, and all Saints.

h) The anniversaries of the Coronation of the Pope.

II. **Partial Indulgence** of 7 years to be gained by each (with at least a contrite heart) for any work of piety or charity done according to the aims of the Pious Union.

(Continued from page 120)

persons. The Biblical Commission set up by the Bishops of Madras State to revise the Tamil translation of the New Testament, who are holding their sessions in Ootamund from the 18th April, availed themselves of the Sabbath break and came down to Coonoor to have a peep into the new Holiday Home of the Clergy of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore on 23-4-61. His Excellency the Bishop of Tanjore, accompanied by a batch of Priests from Tanjore and holidaying in "Villa Santa Maria" in Wellington, were the next Visitors.

His Excellency the Rt. Rev. Antony Padiyara, D.D., Bishop of Ootacamund, accompanied by his Secretary, visited the "Home" and was shown round the property and the small Convent of Sisters in charge of the "Home" and he blessed the Sisters. His Excellency was pleased to permit all our Clergy arriving in Coonoor too late for a Morning Mass to say the Evening Mass. This may please be noted by prospective priests of this Archdiocese who contemplate going to Ephesus Home.

The Legion of Mary

Legion Acies

THE first Legion Tamil Acies took place this year at Francis Xavier's Church, Broadway, at 4-36 P.M. on 19-3-61, the feast-day of St. Joseph. About 500 Legionaries, both active and auxiliary, from all over Madras City took part in the Acies Ceremony.

It was gratifying to see some of the Legionaries who came from far, Chromepet and Avadi. The Church was fully packed and presented a glorious sight. Rev. Father A. J. Adaikalam, the Spiritual Director of the Tamil Curia, gave an impressive sermon on the holy life of St. Joseph, and how he was specially devoted to our Blessed Lady. He also made every point clear on the duties of a Legionary in the service of our Lady. The entire function was a very grand success.

The Tamil Curia offers its loving gratitude to our Heavenly Mother, the Legion Queen, for Her special grace conferred on the Curia, on this unique occasion. It also places on record its sincere thanks to Rev. Father A. J. Adaikalain who, in spite of his ill health, was kind enough to attend the function.

The Tamil Curia also offers its humble thanks to all the Spiritual Directors who took part in the Acies Ceremony.

The Curia is also deeply indebted to Rev. Father O. Mantovani, S.D.B., who has been kind enough to grant permission to use his beautiful Church for the Legion

functions, and for all the facilities offered to the members.

Legion Retreat for Women

This year the Retreat for the Tamil-knowing women Legionaries took place as usual in the Retreat House, Mylapore, commencing at 8 p.m. on 23-3-61 and closing on 26-3-61 at 8 p.m. 105 members, both active and auxiliary, took part in the retreat, which was so well preached by Rev. Father Ferdinand that all the Legionaries were spell-bound while hearing his sermons every time. The whole atmosphere looked very solemn.

The President of the Tamil Curia made a special appeal to all the Legionaries present at the Retreat House, to induce and inspire other members, who were not able to take part in the Retreat this year, to avail themselves of the next opportunity and join the retreat in great numbers.

The Tamil Curia offers its heartfelt thanks to Rev. Father Ferdinand for his inspiring sermons, and also to the Mother Superior, Bon Secours Convent, for her kindness in rendering all possible help to the members, particularly in catering to the needs of everyone during the Retreat.

EPHESUS HOME

'Lansdowne', Coonoor

THE above property acquired by His Grace the Most Rev. Louis Mathias, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, to serve as a holiday and rest house for the Clergy of this archdiocese was formally blessed and opened on April 15th by His Excellency the Rt. Rev. Bishop Auxiliary, assisted by the Very Rev. J. P. D'Souza, our Diocesan Engineer and Works Manager.

Arriving in Coonoor by the Madras-Nilgiri Express, Bishop Carvalho blessed the House and Cottage and Convent at 5-30 p.m. and said Mass in the "Ephesus Home" Chapel, giving Holy Communion to the Sisters and Mrs. Finch and her daughter, the previous owner and vendor of the property to the Archdiocese.

"Lansdowne" is a fine 4-acre property situated in upper Coonoor, within two furlongs of "Sims Park", along the Coonoor-Wellington Road bend, at the foot of St. Antony's High School and Juniorate House of the Brothers of St. Gabriel,

The main bungalow consists of a parlour (now made into the Chapel) surrounded on two sides by spacious covered verandahs commanding a fine view, and on the two remaining sides by the dining room and a spacious passage leading to the large commodious rooms and bath rooms of the House; the dining room opens to the pantry and kitchen on one side, and on the other to a couple and more of large bed-rooms and dressing-rooms. The entire House is electrified and provided with flush-outs and cold and hot water baths. This main building can accommodate about ten priests comfortably at a time, and is

admirably suited for a holiday and rest-house for our Clergy.

On the Western side of the property is a decent cottage, compact and independent, well suited for the Archbishop and his Secretary.

At the back of the main bungalow and cottage are a number of out-houses and annexes which have been converted into a Convent House to provide a residence for a small Community of Nuns from the Diocesan Congregation of the Tertiaries (Regular) of St. Francis of Assisi—Vevery, Madras—who are to take care of the "Ephesus Home" and look after the Priests' Mess, during their stay in the Home

To delight the eyes and provide topics for meditation and contemplation are numberless beds of flowers and foliage in a wondrous blend of colour and form, planted and laid out in a garden that can well rival "Sims Park" for taste and technique.

Thrilling Anecdotes

The first occupants of this Holiday Home, besides the Bishop Auxiliary and Very Rev. J. P. D'Souza, were Rev. Joseph Tamby of Kancheepuram, Rev. G. Thekkadam of the Ecclesiastical Institute, San Thome, Rev.

A. J. Stanislaus of St. Peter's High School, Royapuram, and Rev. Jacob Vettichirayil, Curate of St. Antony's, Puduket. The first one had thrilling anecdotes to recount of recent ravaging appearances of cheetahs in the confines of his Kancheepuram mission and the valiant fights put up by some of the local officials in their encounters with these blood-thirsty animals of prey, some of whom had been badly mauled by their wounded assailants before these beasts succumbed to the wounds.

The mauled officials were in-patients in the local Hospital and the Kancheepuram missionary was happy to visit them while in hospital and to learn much from them about their shikari experiences and the depredatory habits of the feline species of forest dwellers. The small company in "Ephesus Home" felt reassured at the end of this story that it could count on having at least one *Shikari* with them in case they had a surprise encounter with any of these wild beasts! The only visitor so far to our Happy Holiday Home has been the harmless Rat-snake—two of whom were sighted and quickly disposed of by the servants.

The second occupant, though just one year a priest, seems to have had quite a number of accidents and escapades to his credit and gave one the creepy feeling that he can be a veritable "Jonas" in any company. This young priest told the story of how, when he was proceeding home from Madras by the Cochin Express between Podanur and Ernakulam,

a co-traveller with him in the same compartment heard a cry of grief and lament coming from a nearby ladies' compartment and thinking it was from his daughter in the said ladies' compartment, made a frantic effort while the train was in motion to get to his daughter, and on reaching his daughter, found her comfortably resting. He then strove to return to his compartment along the footboard of the running train and, in the attempt, slipped and fell to the ground, not noticed by anyone. Some one, hearing shrieks and groaning on the way-side, was urged to pull the Alarm Chain and thus brought the train to a stand-still; a search party went back the Rail track and picked up the unfortunate man and took him to the nearest halt where medical aid was available. The Cochin Express that day was 100 minutes late to arrive in Ernakulam! Returning from home and on his way to Coonoor, the Nilgiris Express train had an accident, Father Thekkadam noticed that the Engine got uncoupled from the rest of the carriages, and before the coupling could be restored, there was a detention of $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour at Adderley Station, resulting in the Express train arriving that day in Coonoor nearly one hour late! Little wonder then, should any company finding itself in difficulties, turn to Father Thekkadam and ask to be rid of him as a prophet of ill-boding!

Distinguished Visitors
"Ephesus Home" soon had a round of visits from distinguished
(Continue on page 117)

ST. BEDE'S, SAN THOME.

Archbishop's Tribute to School

Presiding over the Annual Prize Distribution and Parents' Day function on 15th April, 1961. His Grace the Most Rev. Dr. L. Mathias, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, paid a glowing tribute to the increasing strength, discipline, brilliant results and all-round progress of St. Bede's High School.

He said three important factors play an ever-increasing part in the steady progress of any school—the pupils, the teachers and the parents. The parents and teachers constitute a team in the effective education of the young in their charge. Children often value an activity by the attention and interest parents give it. He also stressed the importance of whole-hearted co-operation in the education of children.

It was remarkable, he continued, to note the phenomenal strides St. Bede's was making in the curricular and extra-curricular activities and congratulated the institution on the brilliant results in the public examination. His Grace then emphasised the importance of religious and moral instruction in schools and exhorted teachers and parents to be exemplary models for the young in their care. Then alone a school could produce pupils with character, discipline, intelligence and a good heart.

Earlier the Principal, Rev. Fr. Jos. Menezes, read the annual report which was followed by the distribution of prizes.

There was a select programme of entertainment in English, Tamil

and Hindi, with musical interludes rendered by the school band under the baton of Very Rev. Fr. H. Tuena, the Rector of the institution. The function concluded with a vote of thanks and the National Anthem.

VOTIVE SHRINE, KILPAŪK

"The Historicity of Christ"

The second meeting of the Tamil Study Group in this parish was held on 9th April 1961. More members attended this second meeting than the first held in the previous month, and a greater number of them participated in the discussion that followed the main lecture. With Rev. Fr. S. P. Carmel in the Chair, Mrs. V. A. Ponniah read a paper on "The Historicity of Christ." After explaining the tests that must be applied to any book claiming to be historical, she showed how the Gospels answered positively to these tests of authenticity, veracity and integrity.

The Chairman initiated the discussion by referring to the suspicion of some non-Christians who said that the Christos of the Gospel was an imitation of Krishna. After a lively discussion by the people assembled, the Chairman concluded that Christ really existed and has nothing to do with Krishna; as Christos was a Greek word meaning "the Anointed" and the corresponding word in Hebrew was Masuah (Messiah), Krishna is a word derived from Sanskrit and means "black," and there is no connection between the

two. Mr. Vanathayan proposed the vote of thanks. The topic of the next monthly meeting held on 7th May 1961 was "The Origin of the World".

PUDUPET

St. Antony's Parish Club

The Study Circle meeting was held on 9th April, 1961, with Mr. Clarence Motha, M.A., in the chair, when Mr. M. X. Miranda, M.A., L.T., Lecturer, Loyola College, Madras, spoke on "The Life and Services of Ven. Fr. Joseph Vaz". After tracing the history of the Catholic Church in Ceylon, the speaker dwelt at length on the burning zeal and untiring work of Fr. Joseph Vaz, amidst the Catholics of Ceylon who were then facing the sore trial of religious persecution. He illustrated amply the holy priest's personal sanctity, exemplary social work, and ardent devotion to Mary and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The speaker appealed to the audience to emulate the example of the saintly servant of God. Rev. Fr. P. Michael, Spiritual Director, in his concluding remarks asked the members to pray fervently for the canonization of this venerable apostle of Kanara and Ceylon.

ST. PAUL'S, TIRUVOTTIUR

Passion Play

The remote Hindu town of Tiruvottiur was transformed into a busy place on the 26th of March, when crowds of people wended their way to St. Paul's Church to witness the Passion Play being enacted. A temporary stage had been erected for the occasion in

the church compound and the audience were accommodated in the open air.

Before the commencement of the play, Rt. Rev. Mgr. R. Arulappa, Parish Priest of San Thome Basilica, addressed the gathering in Tamil. He spoke of the seriousness and solemn significance of the scenes which they were about to witness.

The Mylapore Dramatic Troupe are to be congratulated on their superb performance. After the usual hustle and bustle which precedes a show, there was a sudden lull when the curtain lifted, revealing the Temple scene with the money-changers. As soon as Christ made His entrance, the audience was spell-bound, so realistic did He look. Throughout the play He maintained a majesty, dignity and calmness that touched even the hearts of the Hindu onlookers. The scenes depicting the carrying of the cross and final crucifixion so gripped the attention of the audience, that they felt they were among the crowd following Christ to Calvary. The acting of Judas the traitor and Peter the Apostle also need special mention. The make-up was artistically done and the costumes most appropriate.

The nearly two thousand spectators who witnessed this stirring performance, made their way home with heavy steps, nourishing in their hearts a deep feeling of love for the Crucified Saviour, and the Catholics certainly felt proud to belong to the Christian Religion.

We feel grateful towards our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. John Pillaveetil, for having the Passion Play

staged at this centre. We also extend our hearty thanks to the Rovers Crew of the Bon Bosco Youth Centre who, under the leadership of Mr. Charles Rego and Mr. Logadoss, spent days and nights to erect a stage and pandal so huge and high that the actors could act the drama easily and comfortably.—Marie D'Cruz.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S, BROADWAY

Anniversary of Sodality

On April 9th, the members of the Sodality of St. Joseph and the Assumption had their combined yearly meeting. A beautiful Social prepared by them opened the April meeting, at which 33 Members were present, together with Rev. Fr. Jacob, S.D.B., and Fr. Arduoso, S.D.B., who rendered the occasion solemn. When the Social was over, the Parish Priest came and presided over the meeting. In his words of introduction the Parish Priest stressed the thought that every sodalist must be an apostle and do some apostolic work. Every sodalist must be a Catholic Actionist, and this in a particular manner in our archdiocese where Catholic Action is done through co-ordination and one cannot be a sodalist without doing Catholic Action. Then he asked the members to be more ready for their meetings and to pay their subscriptions. The topic was discussed with regard to having hereafter a combined weekly meeting of the two sodalities, since a number of members belong to one and the other Sodality and it would be difficult to find time for two different meetings during the week. Everyone agreed

to it. Then the whole gathering, led by the Parish Priest, proceeded to the election of the office-bearers to direct the two sodalities. The office-bearers were elected as follows:—

Mr. J. Dharmarao, President.

Mr. M. Arokiaswamy, Secretary.

Mr. B. Gnanapragasam, Joint Secretary.

Mr. George (helped by Mr. Iru-dayaraj and Mr. Joseph.), Treasurer.

Messrs. Stanislaus Ryan, Shanmugam Joseph and Daniel Councillors.

Everyone of the newly elected office-bearers promised the Sodalists to do their utmost to have all the members very active and to see that the meetings are held properly. It was resolved that the monthly meeting of the office-bearers should be held on the last Sunday of every month just before the evening service. A group photo and Mary Help of Christians' blessing concluded the whole meeting. The Parish Priest and Sodalists feel the necessity of thanking in a very special manner Mr. J. Dharmarao for the grand work he has done in the past years for the Sodality and Mr. M. Arokiaswamy for his spirit of initiative. Everyone counts very much on the work of these two and of the other office-bearers to have great success this year as well.

RAYAPURAM A Happy Event

To felicitate Rev. Fr. Sunderraj, son of Mr. Thetrusami Pillai and Mrs. Pillai, on his ordination to

the priesthood, a large gathering of friends, relatives and well-wishers met in Fatima Hall on Tuesday the 4th April at 7-30 a.m. Fr. Sunderraj had just celebrated the 6-30 Mass—his first in this Church—and, at its conclusion, the faithful availed themselves of the opportunity of kissing his anointed hands.

After the parish priest, the Very Rev. Fr. G. H. Lourdes, had introduced Fr. Sunderraj to the gathering, Dr. Gaspar dwelt on the dignity of the priesthood and said that it must be a source of legitimate pride to the parents to claim an ordained priest as their son.

Fr. Lourdes, while stressing the need for more vocations to the priesthood, admitted that the attainment of that honour was not an easy task. There were many, he said, who desired to become priests but only a few, who stood the rigid tests during training, were eventually made priests. Continuing, he explained that the life of a priest was a hard one and demanded constant sacrifices. It was a matter of joy to the parishioners, he said, to consider Fr. Sunderraj as their own, since his parents were at present residents of Royapuram, and to present a set of books as a token of their regard.

Replying, Fr. Sunderraj thanked the parish priest as well as all those that were assembled there for their expressions of goodwill and for the gift of books and said that the joy he felt in being made a priest was something indescribable. He attributed his priestly state mainly to his dear mother. He concluded with the hope that

many vocations would be forthcoming from this parish.

Annual Day

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference, Royapuram branch, celebrated its annual day on Sunday the 9th April with Chev. A. P. C. Albuquerque, Advocate, presiding. A large gathering had assembled, attracted thereto by some items of entertainment which formed a part of the evening's programme.

The proceedings began with a musical interlude by Mr. Merwyn Suares and his band, followed by the reading of the report first in English and then in Tamil. "Love thy neighbour as thyself", a dialogue in Tamil, was effectively put across by two tiny tots of St. Peter's High School and this was succeeded by an item of instrumental music by Mr. Monisse and Brothers.

Mr. A. P. C. Albuquerque, who spoke next, said that when he was asked to come and preside at this annual function he had readily agreed, thinking that he would merely be required to say a few words in conclusion. But he was placed in a bit of a quandary as he was now requested to address the gathering—a task which was originally to be performed by Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy, but who, through an unfortunate misunderstanding, had formed an engagement elsewhere for the same hour. Mr. Albuquerque however filled the breach admirably and, after dwelling on the life of the founder, Frederic Ozanam and the circumstances which had forced him to found the St. Vincent de Paul's Society, spoke

of the history of the Society in Madras, which was started some 30 years ago in four parishes. He was extremely pleased to read the impressive record of work performed during the year by this Branch and concluded by congratulating those who were responsible for it. In passing, Mr. Albuquerque touched upon the Catholic Association of Madras which was affiliated to the All-India Union and stressed the urgent need of every Catholic becoming a Member of the Association. He said the gathering would be curious to know what connection the Catholic Association could have with the St. Vincent de Paul's Society and why he had introduced the subject. He said that the Catholic Association dealt directly with the Government on matters upon which not only the St. Vincent de Paul's Society but all other Catholic institutions depended, in a way, for their very existence. He therefore felt that membership of the Catholic Association should have preference over all other associations and hoped that the response, which up to now (he had been told) had been negligible, would be spontaneous and wholehearted. "A Good Thanksgiving"—a recitation ably delivered by tiny six-year-old Dominic James, seemed an appropriate sequence to the above.

Rev. Fr. Lourdes, the parish priest and spiritual director of the Society, who appeared next on the programme, had barely started speaking when the news of the arrival of Mr. Ruthnaswamy was hailed with joy on all sides.

Chev. Ruthnaswamy, after apologising for his unavoidably late

arrival, said that the Royapuram Branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society had every reason to be proud of their achievement during the year. The large extent of relief given to the poor and the needy, he said, was mainly dependent on the amount of contributions received, and for this they had to thank not so much the managing committee as the parishioners of Royapuram who, by their generosity, made such relief possible. Wherever he went, he said, he noticed that only old people comprised the management of St. Vincent de Paul's Societies, generally speaking. He deplored the lack of volunteers from among the younger men for service in this and other parochial associations. He said that the Royapuram Branch certainly stood in the vanguard, judging by its record of work performed during the year. He concluded by expressing the hope that the society would grow from strength to strength.

ST. ANDREW'S, VEPERY Monsignor D. Raju Honoured

The honour conferred on the pastor of the Parish is an honour conferred on the Parish itself. It was in this spirit that the parishioners of St. Andrew's rallied to felicitate Very Rev. Fr. D. Raju, their Parish Priest, on whom had been conferred the honour of Privy Chamberlain to His Holiness the Pope.

The response to the call of the organizing Committee under the able leadership of Mrs. D'Monte and Mrs. B. D'Souza was commendable. It was an exuberant

flock that gathered on Saturday at a tea party, and again the next evening, to witness a well organized function drawn up with the dual purpose of honouring the recipient of the Papal award and to celebrate the twenty-eighth anniversary of his Sacerdotal Ordination. Those who were present that day will never forget the applause that rent the air as the V. Rev. Monsignor D. Raju emerged from the Parish House, donning the robes of a Monsignor. Shyly he walked down the passage to his seat of honour, acknowledging the acclamations of his children in silence. Needless to say, his shyness was due to his predominant humility which, perhaps, might have been offended by his being urged to wear the robes presented to him, by an ever-exuberant and somewhat persistent band of parishioners.

A very interesting programme had been arranged. Very aptly the items centred round the holy vocation to the Priesthood. The address read by Mr. D. D Monte recounted the devoted service rendered by Mgr. D. Raju, to the Church in general and to his parochial flock in particular. It was a matter of justifiable pride to see a son of the parish (for Fr. Raju was baptized in St. Andrew's) so aptly honoured. Part of his shyness was cast off when he ascended the platform to pour out his heart in grateful acknowledgement of the loyalty and loving affection demonstrated by his children.

At the conclusion of a momentous evening, cheers again pierced the stillness of the place as the honoured guest of the evening

retired to the Parish House, and a jubilant crowd of people left the church compound full of the thought which the function had been intended to give, "The harvest is ripe, but the labourers are few".

POONAMALLEE

Unforgettable Days

The great number of unforgettable days that came in close succession just before the end of the scholastic year may well be described in the often quoted phrase: "Motus in fine velocior." We shall try to describe graphically at least some of the important events.

19th March : The staff and the students of the Seminary, during a well prepared variety entertainment, tendered to His Excellency Dr. F. Carvalho their congratulations and felicitations on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of his sacerdotal Ordination.

The Holy Week : All the liturgical functions were conducted with that decorum that befits a Seminary. Following a long established custom, the Theologians were away from the Seminary during the Holy Week, helping in various ways the Parish Priests in the many parishes near by. The Deacons especially made use of the opportunity to put into practice the abstract theories they had learnt about Gregorian Chant.

The Examinations . Though the Easter message is: "If you are risen with Christ, seek the things that are above", still on the very day following Easter we were call-

ed upon to face the hard realities of life. The Prefect of Studies was there to remind us of the exams that lay ahead. A week of intense study and concentration enabled us to face calmly the various professors. Many of our professors are young and they have still vivid in their memory the ordeal that they themselves had to pass through and hence they know well how to season justice with mercy.

The Retreat: The exams ended on 15th April. On the following day the candidates for the Priesthood and Sub-diaconate commenced their spiritual retreat in preparation for their Ordinations. The rest had to take the part of "Martha" in getting the house ready for the many visitors who were expected to visit the Seminary. They went about their work quite joyfully, although now and then they cast an envious eye at the Ordinandi as they sat in contemplation at the feet of the Master. The retreat was preached by Very Rev. Fr. Rector, who took upon himself this arduous task in spite of his many other preoccupations. Most probably the Rectors find it very hard to answer the pointed question of the Ordaining Bishop: "Do you know them to be worthy?" And they think that there is always something more to be said and they try their best not to leave anything to chance.

The Vestition: On 22nd April, His Grace our beloved Archbishop gave the clerical habit to the seventeen Brothers who had completed their third year of Philosophy. It was indeed a consoling sight to see the eagerness with which these young men divested

themselves of the "Old Man" and put on the "New." May they persevere in their youthful enthusiasm and generosity.

The Ordinations: The most longed-for day in a Seminary is the day of the Ordinations. It is the day of the harvest. The labour, the sweat, and the thousand other difficulties that made the splendid harvest possible are all forgotten. There is nothing but joy on every countenance. This year there went out of the Seminary 12 new Priests. Actually only nine were ordained here, since three were called away for their Ordinations to their respective dioceses. Here is the list of the new Priests:

Fr. S. Amalraj for Salem; Frs. George Parel, George Nampiaparampil and Thomas C. Nakolayil for Visakhapatnam; Fr. James Kotoor for Madras-Mylapore; Frs. Jacob Kanjirathinkal, and John Eudes Fernz for Vijayawada; Fr. J. B. Manat for Ratburi (Siam); Frs. Kurian Kumpalolil and Thomas Puthenpurayil for Vellore; Fr. Leo Michael Yettukuri for Tanjore; Fr. Joseph C. Edapallikunnel, a member of the M.C.B.S

The ordinations took place on 23rd April. At 6-30 A.M. His Grace walked up the nave of the Seminary chapel preceded by the seventeen Ordinandi—9 for the Priesthood and 8 for the Sub-diaconate. As regards the ceremonies, it is enough to say that everything went off smoothly. On the 24th the New Priests, surrounded by their relatives and friends, offered their first Masses

We wish them all a fruitful apostolate in the Vineyard of the Lord.

With the leaving of about 30 Seminarians for their homes for their vacation, the Diaspora began. On the 26th another batch left for Yercaud. Though distance separates us from one another, still we are united in spirit and long for the day of reunion.

VOTIVE SHRINE, KILPAUK Newman Association

On Sunday, the 16th April 1961, the Kilpauk Unit of the Newman Association held its Annual General Meeting. The Parish Sodalities combined with the Association to make the occasion a social function also.

The members assembled at 6.30 p.m. and the meeting opened with a prayer. Prof. Rajendran, the President of the Unit, was in the Chair, and in a short address welcomed the members, sodalists, and guests. The Secretary of the Association presented the Annual Report for 1960.

Prof. Rajendran then introduced Rev. Fr. P. Ceyrac, S.J., who had been invited to address the gathering. Rev. Fr. Ceyrac is the Chaplain General of the All-India Catholic University Federation. At the commencement of his talk Fr. Ceyrac congratulated the Unit on its activities during the past year. He then referred to Pax Romana, which organisation is to celebrate its 40th Anniversary in July this year. Fr. Ceyrac briefly traced the growth of Pax Romana

which was started in 1921 by Catholic students and followed up by Associations of professional men and women. It has been defined as "a brotherhood of those who place their intellects at the service of God".

Speaking of the status of Pax Romana, Fr. Ceyrac gave a short account of the meeting at Manila last year, when Pax Romana collaborated with UNESCO to discuss world problems.

As far as the Newman Association is concerned, there is a very broad field ahead. Several new units have been started, particularly in Kottayam, Trivandrum and Pondicherry. All these associations in various parts of India, though they speak different languages and observe different customs, belong to the same brotherhood and have the opportunity to present the Catholic viewpoint to their fellowmen. Each year about 4000 Catholics graduate; but if we were to count back, we should find there are about a lakh of Catholic graduates in India today. It is through the intelligentsia that we can break through routine and go forward to a new life. What we lack in India today is selfless Catholic men and women to lead us; we should try to develop leaders through our Associations.

Rev. Fr. Ceyrac concluded his talk by wishing the Kilpauk Unit every success in the future.

Then followed the election of the office-bearers for the year 1961:

President: Prof. Rajendran, *Vice-President*: Mr. A. Mascarenhas,

Secretary: Mr. H. J. Marslap,
Treasurer: Mr. B. M. Pinto,
Librarian: Mrs. M. Tanner.

Rev. Fr. K. L. Satur spoke a few words about the Pontifical Association of St. Peter the Apostle for the Indigenus Clergy, or St. Peter's Own Society, as it is known. He took the opportunity to enrol all those present as members, under the presidentship of Very Rev. Fr. S. P. Carmel.

A buffet dinner was then served and a very pleasant social evening was spent by the members of the Newman Association and the Sodalities. At the close of the function Prof. Rajendran proposed a vote of thanks to the members and their guests for their presence, as well as to the Secretary and others who helped to make the occasion a success.

CATHOLIC WORKERS' ASSOCIATION May Day Rally

This year, the May Day Rally of the Catholic workers of Madras was held on Sunday, the 30th April, 1961. With a view to enable more people to participate in this demonstration in honour of St. Joseph the Worker, the procession started from two centres: one from Mater Dolorosa Church, Royapuram, and another from the People's Park, Park Town. About a thousand workers took part in the procession which reached the St. Mary's Co-Cathedral, G.T., at 6 p.m.

His Grace Dr. L. Mathias, S.D.B., said Holy Mass. It was a dialogue Mass conducted by the San Thome

Unit of the Catholic Workers Association. The prayers and singing were very much appreciated by the Congregation. The Association is very grateful to the Unit, especially to its Leader, Mr. Joseph John, for the superb performance.

A Message, wishing the function every success, received from His Excellency Bishop Carvalho, was read.

Very Rev. Mgr. D. Raju, the Spiritual Director of the St. Andrew's Unit of the Association, preached an inspiring sermon in Tamil on St. Joseph the Worker. He stressed the solicitude of the Catholic Church for workers from early times and pointed out how, in instituting the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker, the Church had given a model for all workers, the world over, to follow. "Go to St. Joseph", he said, "to understand the Christian concept of work and make it a means of your salvation." The preacher exhorted the gathering to derive inspiration and encouragement from this "Carpenter of Nazareth" whom the Scriptures describe as "a just man." The function came to a pleasant conclusion at about 7 p.m.

LITTLE MOUNT

Titular Feast of Our Lady

The 21st of April 1961 marked the beginning of the traditional feast of Our Lady of Good Health, Little Mount. At 6-15 p.m. the Flag of Our Lady was blessed by Rev. Fr. Louis Arumainathan, which was followed by a procession around the hill and the hoisting of the Flag amidst the cheer-

ful veneration and clapping of hands by pilgrims from all over the city who had earlier wended their way to this ancient pilgrimage centre of Madras.

Immediately after the hoisting of the flag Rev. Fr. A. J. Adaikalam, in his usual magnetic style, began his eloquent sermon in Tamil, inspiring the faithful and the pilgrims to begin the novena with fervour and confidence in Our Lady. The service ended with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

The sermons in English from the 21st to 24th April, preached by Rev. Fr. S. Antony, enlightened the faithful on the Divine Plan for Man and the reproduction of their Model, Jesus Christ. The congregation was kept spell-bound by the preaching of Rev. Fr. A. J. Adaikalam, in Tamil, from the 25th to 27th April. The practical sermons in Tamil by Rev. Fr. Andrew Dorairaj, S.D.B., on the 28th and 29th April helped the faithful to view the real aspect of Christian charity alongside of modern trends in relief and social service.

On all the nine days of the novena the Sodalists, despite the sultry, scorching summer, undertook and carried out commendably the work of feeding the poor.

The dialogue Mass on the novena days, conducted by the Sodalists, helped the pilgrims, both literate and illiterate, to understand and follow the Mass in its real spirit.

On the 27th evening the simple but very tastefully decorated car

of Our Lady—the proud labour of the Sodalists—was carried in procession around the hill.

The parish unit of the Catholic Workers' Association also organised a car procession of St. Joseph on the 29th April.

Saturday, the 29th April was a busy and gay day for all. In the evening at 6-15 p.m. the Office of Our Lady was sung by the Sodalists of the Parish, followed by a sermon in Tamil and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Then took place the procession with the stately car of Our Lady. It was an awe-inspiring sight to see the thousands of pilgrims, both Catholics and non-Catholics, forming the encourage of Our Lady in her royal triumphant procession around the hill.

Throughout the night pilgrims of all castes and creeds and from all over the city poured in to pay homage to their Heavenly Mother. The streams of lighted candles flickering in the cool breeze and ascending the steps of the church was a unique sight and a privilege which only this church can boast of in the archdiocese. An aerial view of this scene would, undoubtedly, have unfolded a vision of a star-studded hill. The members of the Catholic Workers' Association worked untiringly throughout the night and strove their best to keep order and discipline among the pilgrims in and around the church.

The fun and frolic afforded by the various stalls and side-shows was but of secondary importance compared with the piety and the awe-inspiring veneration with

which the pilgrims offered their thanksgiving to Our Lady for the many favours received through her intercession.

The parishioners feel spiritually revived and are grateful to the preachers of the novena for the thought-provoking sermons which will equip them to strive and labour spiritually during the coming year.

BON SECOURS CONVENT MYLAPORE

Vestition of 10 Postulants

A very pleasant function took place at Bon Secours Convent, Mylapore, Madras, on Monday the 8th May when 10 Postulants received the habit of the Order of the Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Bon Secours. The chapel of the convent was gaily decorated and was filled with the sisters of the Congregation, who had

come from the various branch convents, and the relatives of the candidates. Punctually at 6-30 a.m. His Excellency the Rt. Rev. Dr. F. A. Carvalho, the Auxiliary Bishop of Madras-Mylapore, arrived and was welcomed by the Very Rev. Mother-General. The candidates were dressed in bridal garments. The bridal procession went round the decorated grounds and entered the Chapel. The "O Gloriosa Virginum" was sung by the choir and there was a brief sermon by the Retreat Preacher. The candidates had prepared themselves for their life as novices by an eight days' retreat preached by Rev. Father A. Joseph, C.S.S.R.

His Excellency then received the candidates into the order and distributed the habits to the Postulants. The newly vested candidates were then given the following names in their Religious life:—

Name of Postulant.

1. Philomy
2. Alphonsa
3. Xavier
4. Pannimayam
5. Mary
6. Mariammal
7. Lourdummy
8. Susaimary
9. Delphine
10. Arpudamary

Name in Religion.

- Sr. Mary Joan of Arc.
- Sr. Mary John Britto
- Sr. Mary Basil
- Sr. Mary Cajetan
- Sr. Mary Alphonsa
- Sr. Mary Canute
- Sr. Mary Pius
- Sr. Mary Francis Borgia
- Sr. Mary Donatus
- Sr. Mary Alexandrina

The Vestition Ceremony was followed by Holy Mass and Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament by His Excellency. The candidates were then blessed by many priests, some of whom were the relatives of the candidates. After a busy and happy day the new Novices were taken to the Novitiate at Poonamallee. There they will prepare themselves for their profession after two years.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S, BROADWAY

At the end of the Scholastic Year

During the last months of the scholastic year 1960-61 the Parish Priest visited every family of the parish in order to have a clear idea of the situation of his parish children with regard to the schools they frequent. As a result of his visits and investigations he found out that

249 were in St. Anne's School (Broadway).

53 " St. Gabriel's High School (Broadway).

25 " St. Francis Xavier's (Salesian) School.

38 " St. Agnes' School (Assumption Parish).

18 " St. Mary's High School (George Town).

42 were kept at great sacrifice in 19 Boarding Homes and Institutions.

A total therefore of **425 children** in the parish are educated in our Catholic schools, in which our future Catholics are formed and strengthened. It is consoling, and the Parish is most grateful to our Catholic Institutions for their work for our children.

But the joy one experienced at the consideration of the beautiful figures we have given, diminished very much when we discovered that in a parish where there are practically four Catholic Schools,

47 children were studying in Hindu schools.

42 " " in Corporation schools.

20 " " in Protestant schools.

7 " " privately.

We have therefore the sad figure of **116 children** (more than a quarter of the above total) who are in an atmosphere which is not suited to them. Later on we will feel the consequences of it. What saddens us most is to see 20 of them in Protestant schools after the parish has had such sad experiences of losing children who have been educated in Protestant schools.

What can be done when we find that there are difficulties in finding place in Catholic Schools? The difficulty and preoccupation increases when we realise that, while compiling this census, 121 other young children were found in need of admission in the coming scholastic year. In the parish we have therefore 237 (116 + 121) children who should find vacant places in our Catholic schools. For them we knock for admission and we get very often the same answer, "There is no place". A parish priest cannot but feel his great responsibility, and this all the more when he considers the prescriptions of the Plenary Council of Bangalore that state clearly, "It is never allowed, not even to avoid the most grievous evils, to frequent dangerous schools in which there is danger of perversion" (No. 250, 1). "It is not allowed to attend neutral or mixed schools either" (2, 3). Here the Plenary Council does not make a distinction between day schools and boarding. We know very well the great danger which are found in a pagan school, and particularly in a Protestant school. May God favour us with a happy solution for such a grave problem.