

PROVINCIAL PLENARY SESSION - 2009

Date:11&12 Friday & Saturday, December 2009

A REPORT

The provincial plenary assembly began with adoration at 5.30 P.M. on Friday 11th December 2009. Fr. Provincial offered a warm welcome to all at 6.40pm and explained the purpose of plenary assembly as

1. to Assist the provincial council
 - to evaluate the state of religious life and apostolic activities in the province
 - to assist in the on-going renewal
 - to assist in formulating strategic planning and the action plan

2. to evaluate and revitalize the thrusts of the General Synaxis

The members of the plenary assembly were requested to take active part in the discussions with this propose in their mind with a special emphasis on how to make use of the material and human resources for the well being of the province and its members. Discussion were held after a brief presentation by the heads of each department

I. PASTORAL MINISTRY

Fr. Thomas Manjakunnel presented a brief report of the activities held by the department which included

1. Pastoral ministry through our parishes and houses
2. Vachanavedi, Sargavedi
3. ACMI
4. Measures to popularize devotion to Ble. Chavara .
5. programmes conducted to observe the year of the word of God (2008)
and the year of Priest (2009)
6. Mission and the related issues.

In the discussions that followed the recent developments in some of the parishes of Kerala church was discussed. Terms and conditions should be clarified / well defined regarding the ownership of our parishes entrusted, especially when the parish church is newly built. The impropriety of leaving the construction work of the church at Vazhithala was pointed out. The sate of affairs in our African mission station were discussed and it was stated that there is good scope and requirements for our African mission. It was observed that our younger generation should be made aware of possibilities of African mission and they should be properly motivated with positive & healthy out look of mission in third world countries.

II. SOCIAL WORK

By 7.30 pm there was a brief presentation by Fr. Joseph Thaliparambil, about the various activities of the department of Social work, Namely ;

1. Pankuvach Valaruka, Vallarthuka,
2. Deepam Counselling & training programmes
3. SHGs
4. CSC & casp programmes
5. NWC
6. Rehabilitation centre at Vazhithal
7. Sopanam counselling center.
8. Project for street children at Pattila

In the Discussions that followed , the need for presenting various activities in an organized manner for making an impact among others was pointed out. The possibility and necessity to start some frontier ministry may be initiated at Paremav was also discussed

III. FINANCE & AGRICULTURE

The next session after meals began at 8.45 pm. Fr. Kurian Puthapurackal presented a brief statement which included

1. Receipts and payments from 01-04-2008 to 31-12-2009
2. Details of amount spent for higher studies
3. Medical fund from pension and Expenses
4. Subsidy given to houses
5. Interest & repayment of loans
6. Contribution from Houses
7. Present liabilities.

The successful effort to contain the problem till December 2009 through the reorganizing our project at Alampady was explained. The main solution before us is the sale of land which depends on so many factors. The provincial was requested to take effective steps to collect the pension amount to the medical fund. The possibility of rescheduling the loan amounts with more period and less installment amount was proposed. The possibility of approaching Rev. Fr. Prior General and other provinces was suggested. The days programme came to a close with night prayers at 9.45 P.M..

IV. EDUCATION & MASS MEDIA

After Morning prayers, Holy Mass and break fast the meeting began at 8.30 am on Friday 12 th December 2009. Fr. Jose Thuravckal had a brief presentation. It focused on

1. the happy moments - the achievements of our institutions
2. The changes of the personnel
3. word of caution - stop- look- Proceed - about some of the results
4. Steps initiated for total quality management in our institution and
5. the activities of the department for timely communications through news bulletins, directory and Website.

The main discussion was on the personnel planning and the need to have more members equipped for taking up the challenges of imparting quality education.

V. RELIGIOUS LIFE & FORMATION

Fr. Tomy Nambiaparambil presented a brief report on religious life and formation with details of the present human resources. Various programmes to animate and sustain renewal were presented along with the attention being given in the field of formation. There was brief explanation about the methods taken to contain the financial crisis and the steps initiated to provide necessary training at affordable cost and as per the availability of personnel.

Thus the plenary assembly came to its close with brief discussions on the activities of the departments and with various suggestions to make our life and witness more fruitful and meaningful.

THE JOINT MEETING of the plenary assembly members along with the superiors of the house, Principals of our institution and directors of our Centres began at 10.30 am. In the first session we had a briefing from all our houses with a special emphasis on the prayer life of the members and their apostolic activities. The report of the plenary assembly was presented by Fr. Johnson Pallapilly by 11.50 pm. This was followed by a short intervention by Fr. Provincial explaining the requirement and modality of a group discussion which may include any of the issues raised by the plenary assembly or any other issue relevant to the life and apostolic activities of the province.

After the meals and recreation, there was a group discussion from 1.45 pm. The main points discussed in groups were presented in the common gathering at 2.30 pm. The main point of discussion was financial situation of the province. The following suggestions were made

- Sell our landed property at the earliest
- Our landed properties attached to various houses may be mortgaged for additional loan until the sale of our landed properties

- Contributions to provincial house from our houses shall be given in time
- approach our Prior General /other houses of congregation for financial aid.
- Programmes like pooling of one month salary / rent to province may be thought of.
- Shall we introduce “One minute common prayer” at a particular time on each day
- Care should be taken for the Documentation of all mother files

Other suggestions were

- Our scholastics should be provided with a clear picture of their future ministry at least from the period of their regency
- We have to be the men of prayer and that shall be our primary concern
- Enrichment programme shall be arranged in the province for young priests
- Documents should be clear and terms should be well defined before starting construction of parish churches in our parishes.
- Our monastery at Vazhakkulam can be made another epicenter in the canonization process of Bl. Chavara.

After the general discussions, the meeting came to its close with tea at 3.30 pm. Let us thank the almighty for giving us this opportunity to think collectively and to rededicate ourselves for a renewed vitalism in and through our life and apostolate. May also place on records our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to all the members for the active participation. May the intercession of our lady of carmel and that of Blessed Kuraiakose Elias Chavara and our heavenly patrons intercede for us and assist our concerted efforts for the well being our dear province.

Invoking god’s continued blessings, thanking you all

Fr. Tomy Nambiaparambil
Provincial

Fr. Johnson Pallapilly
Fr. Johnson Vettikuzhy
Secretaries