



The Archangel

Newsletter of
The St. Michael's College, Batticaloa, Alumni Association (Colombo Branch)
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Michaelite Community mourn deaths of

F. R. Ragel, Rev. Fr. Sritharan and Vidwan S. E. Kamalanathan

Rev. Fr. T. Siritharan Sylvester, Procurator General, Trincomalee – Batticaloa Diocese, passed away on March 8, 2012. The funeral was on Saturday March 10, 2012 at Batticaloa.

Fr. Siritharan Sylvester, son of Mr and Mrs Thangarajah of Batticaloa, affectionately called Fr. Siri, was born on Dec 17, 1962 and had his education at Fatima College, Kalmunai and St. Michael's College, Batticaloa. He was ordained a priest on Aug. 17, 1993. He is a former Vice President of SMC, AA and was Editor in the current committee.



Fr. Siri was Director, Catholic Social Services Arm, Caritas – EHED, (Eastern Human and Education Development) Batticaloa – Ampara Districts from 1998 for 13 years working for the uplift of the underprivileged people of the two districts. However, it was only in the aftermath of the Tsunami that Father Siri's quality and quantity of work came into prominence.

In an interview published with his picture in the Daily news in 2005, Fr. Siri said that "his organization has served all communities irrespective of caste, race and religion. EHED is not an institution that was formed after the tsunami and it was involved in social service activities for many years. It has taken several measures to bring up the living standards of those who were below the poverty line."

When the tsunami hit the war weary people of the east, Fr. Siri was able to respond quickly as he had the organizational set up, the man power and knowledge of the terrain. Foreign aid began to be channeled through EHED. The task was formidable and Fr. Siri was the man for the times. He will be long remembered for the dedicated humanitarian service he rendered to a people stricken by war, tsunami and floods and as the one who brought hope to the hopeless.

His work came for recognition even outside Sri Lanka as evidenced by the well deserved Doctorates and Professorships he was conferred on.

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We record with regret the passing away of former SMC Principal Vidwan Samuel Emmanuel Kamalanathan, husband of Kamaladevi also former SMC Principal, on April 25, 2012 at Batticaloa

Francis Regis Ragel, son of late P. C. Ragel and Mary Josephine was popularly known as Ragel Master

Ragel Master's association with SMC dates back to the early 1940's, first as a student, later as teacher and Prefect of Discipline and always as Secretary of the Alumni Association at Batticaloa and Colombo for 30 years until his last day on Dec. 28, 2011.

A fuller account compiled by Tamil Scholar and Vice President M. Suthaharan which was published in the வீரகேசரி appears elsewhere in this issue. Sutha has since been appointed Editor of the Tamil section of the Archangel.



Last Public Appearance : He officiated as Secretary at the last AGM. He lit the lamp and the light in him was put out.

Last Wish : After attending the cremation of Ranjini Mahendran on Dec. 5, 2011, Master, I.T. Canagaretnam and the Editor were returning home in Alston Jeganathan's car. Alston was to drop Master at a convenient place for his bus journey home to Kalutara. Master suggested that we drown our sorrow over the loss of Ranjini. The others in the car found it difficult to accede to his proposal as it was too early in the day-4pm. Little did we realize then that, before the month was out, we would be left to drown the sorrow over the death of the one who wanted to drown the sorrow over another's death.

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Alumni News

A road was named after **Senior vice Patron I. T. Canagaratnam** at Mylambavelly, Eravurpattu in recognition of his humanitarian services to the local people during times of disasters.



Retirement: Vice Patron Angelo Patrick retired as Director from the Capital Maharajah Group with effect from Dec. 31, 2011. He has since been appointed Director, Amana Bank Ltd. and Director, AMW Capital Leasing Co. At Amana Bank he is Chairman of Board Integrated Risk Management Committee and at AMW Capital Leasing Co., Chairman, Board Audit Committee. He is also appointed Consultant to the IT Sector of the Bartleet Group of Companies.

Jerry M Joseph, former Treasurer Colombo branch, has been elected Vice President, Tourism Welfare Association of Sri Lanka.

Winston Thangarajah, former Secretary, Colombo Branch, has returned to Sri Lanka and is Director – BIZ GURU, Colombo 3.

Director of Studies - Career Path Center for Excellence, 37, Palmyra Avenue, Colombo 03

Director of Studies – Siharam Career Path, Batticaloa- First Business School at Batticaloa conducting courses for UK Marketing and Business Management with exams conducted at Batticaloa.

Wedding Anniversaries

Golden Jubilee: **Daniel Thiagarajah** and **Thilagam** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 12, 2012. - A rare achievement.

Silver Jubilee: Vice President **J. C. Daniel** and **Shanthini** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on Feb. 14, 2012 – Valentine's Day.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to the Daniels.

The Eighty Club

F. R. Ragel, R. C. Perumal and Dr. S. Sivasubramaniam became octogenarians in chronological order in 2011. On a First In First Out (FIFO) basis F. R. Ragel exited in the same year. Who is next in or out?

We care for our School always

Committee Meeting 02

The second meeting for the year held on Feb. 4, 2012 at the residence of I. T. Canagaratnam commenced after observing two minutes silence in memory of F. R. Ragel.

President Mahendran chaired the meeting which was attended by 18 other members.

The progress of the key tags sale and the forthcoming Fr. Herbert Memorial Basketball Tournament organized jointly with the parent association were the main topics discussed.

The Tournament Committee comprises of I. T. Canagaretnam (Chairman), J. C. Daniel (Vice Chairman), S. Shankar (Secretary), S. Selvaruban (Treasurer). Tournament sub – committees were also formed.

The fellowship and dinner were hosted by I. T. Canagaretnam and Rita Canagaretnam.

Committee Meeting 03

This meeting was held on March 7, 2012 at the roof top of the apartment of S. Selvaruban at Boswell place, Colombo 6 with President Mahendran in the chair. 22 members were in attendance. Fatta Tissaveerasinghe (USA) and Bahitharan (UK) were guests.

The vacant posts of 2 Vice Presidents and Secretary were filled as follows: E. G. Anton and Winston Ockersz, Vice Presidents, J. P. Jayaratnarajah, Secretary and S. Shankar Assistant Secretary.

The Financial assistance granted to the visiting College and District Basketball teams was approved.

J. C. Daniel informed the members that the estimated outlay for the conduct of the Fr. Herbert Basketball Tournament was in the region of Rs. 1.5 million including the cost of repair to the College Basketball court and requested the co operation of all members to contribute their mite. Fatta Tissaveerasinghe undertook to contribute a minimum of Rs. 50,000/- and Ranjit David offered to meet the cost of the challenge trophy.

This dinner meeting was hosted by S. Selvaruban, J. C. Daniel and Ms Sumathy Asokan.

Committee Meeting 04

This fourth dinner meeting was held on March 31, 2012 at the Old Wesleyites Sports Club, Borella with President Mahendran in the chair and 18 members in attendance. J. C. Daniel informed the members that the Basketball Tournament Committee had made several visits to Batticaloa to discuss matters and finalise arrangements. He requested full support of members and their presence during the tournament.

Fellowship and dinner was hosted by S. Umasuthan, M. Suthaharan, M. Pushpaharan and R. C. Perumal.

Dear God,

My prayer for 2012 is for a fat bank account and a thin body. Please don't mix these up like you did last year. Thank you Amen.

The Colombo Branch members attended the funeral in strength, laid a floral tribute and the funeral oration was delivered by I.T. Canagaretnam.

அமரர் **Francis Regis Ragel** (16.06.1931 – 30.12.2011) ஆகிய ஆசிரியர் சிரோன்மணி இப்போது நம் மத்தியில் இல்லை. இவர் கல்விக்காக தனது முழு வாழ்நாளையும் (60 வருடச் சேவை) அர்ப்பணித்ததுடன் சமுதாயத்திற்கும், விசேடமாக மட்டுமாநகருக்கும் தன்னால் இயன்ற அளவு பிரதி உபகாரம் எதிர்பாராது உப நகரபிதாவாக சேவையாற்றினார்.

தனது கல்வியை அர்ச் மிக்கேல் கல்லூரியில் பயின்று பின்பு மகரகமவில் ஆங்கில பயிற்றுனர் ஆக தேர்ச்சி பெற்றார். இதன் பிரகாரம் அர்ச். மிக்கேல் கல்லூரியில் ஆசானார். முழு மனதுடனும் இதய சுத்தியுடனும் கல்லூரியின் குறிக்கோளை முன்னெடுத்து மிகவும் பாடுபட்டார். இவரிடம் ஆங்கிலம் கற்றவர்கள் எத்தனை எத்தனையோ. அவர்கள் நம் சமுதாயத்தில் நல்ல நிலையில் உள்ளனர் என்பது தெட்டத் தெளிவு.

கல்லூரியில் கல்வியை மட்டும் புகட்டாது மாணவர்க்கு ஒழுக்கத்தையும் கட்டுப்பாட்டையும் புகட்ட கல்லூரி நிர்வாகம் இவருக்கு 'ஒழுக்க நடைமுறையாளர்' (Prefect of Discipline) பதவியைக் கொடுத்து, இவருடைய ஈடுபாடுகள் மினிர்ந்து எழவே, கல்லூரி நிர்வாகமும் கல்வித் திணைக்களமுமாக பதில் அதிபர் ஸ்தானத்தை அளித்தன.

அவருடைய நடைமுறைகள், எடுத்தாண்மைகளால் அன்புடன் அவர் 'றாகல் மாஸ்டர்' என்று எல்லோராலும் அழைக்கப்பட்டார். கல்வியின் முழுமை புத்தகப் படிப்பில் மட்டுமே அல்ல என்பதை எடுத்தியம்பி மாணவர்க்கு விளையாட்டிலும் ஆக்கமும் ஊக்கமும் அளித்தார். இதனை சரிவரச் செய்ய விளையாட்டுக் கழகங்களை உருவாக்கியும் கழகங்களின் நிர்வாகக் குழுக்களில் பங்கேற்றும் நல்வழிப்படுத்தினார். இதற்கு சான்றாக மட்டுநகர் மாவட்ட கூடைப்பந்தாட்டக் கழகம், மட்டுநகர் மாவட்ட கால்பந்தாட்டக் கழகம், 'மைக்கல்மென்' விளையாட்டுக் கழகம், மட்டுநகர் கிறிஸ்தவ சங்கம் ஆகியன இன்றும் செயற்படுகின்ற சில ஒன்றியங்களாகும்.

ஆங்கில ஆசிரியராய் மாலைதீவிலும் பணியாற்றினார். புதுடில்லியில் நடந்த 'உலக ஆசிரியர் மாநாட்டில்' கிழக்கு மாகாணத்தை அங்கு சென்று பிரதிநிதிப்படுத்தினார்.

ஒருகாலகட்டத்தில் மட்டக்களப்பின் 'உயிர்நாடி (Live wire)' என்று அழைக்கப்பட்டார். இவருடைய பங்கேற்பு இல்லாமல் பொதுநிகழ்ச்சிகள் (விளையாட்டுப் போட்டிகள் ஈறாக) நடந்ததாக மக்கள் உணர்ந்திருக்கவில்லை.

அன்னாரின் தலைமைத்துவத்தையும், 12 வருட காரியதரிசி சேவையையும் மட். அர்ச். மிக்கேல் பழைய மாணவர் குழும கொழும்புக் கிளை பகிர்ந்து களிப்படைந்து கொண்டது.

இத்தால் அர்ச். மிக்கேல் கல்லூரி மட்டக்களப்பு பழைய மாணவர் குழும கொழும்புக் கிளை அமரரின் பிரிவை அவரின் குடும்பத்தாருடன் பகிர்ந்து கொள்கிறது.

M. Suthaharan in the Virakesari

SMC G.C.E O/L 2011 Results

4 Students	-9A's	Sat - 204	
11 Students	-8A's	Qualified for A/L - 189 (90%)	
3 Students	-7A's	Last Year 2010	79%
18 Students	-6A's		
97 Students	Qualified to enter Science Stream		

Advice: My advice is not to give advice unless it is requested or it is a life threatening situation.

Messages of Sympathy:

It's a shock to hear our Ragel's death. Looks this year starts with more bad news to our association. Missing Ragel sir will be a huge void in our association which cannot be filled by anyone. Please convey my heartfelt sympathies to his family. Regards

Selvaruban, Australia, 29.12.2011 by email

I refer to the Archangel No. 54. I was sorry to learn of the passing away of F.R. Ragel who was a very friendly live wire of the association and who did so much work.

I would like to mention that Dr. Manoranjani's late father S. Sivanesan of the Dept. of Census and Statistics was an old boy of St. Michael's while her mother Sivanesan Kanagasabey is an old girl of Vincent's and also a teacher there for many years.

Harindra Sirisena. 20.02.2012 by e-mail



Pix by Bradley Ockersz

I am sorry to hear the sudden demise of Michaelite Mr F R Ragel. Please pass this message to his family and other Michaelites.

I join with all Michaelites and their families in Australia in offering our deepest condolence on sudden loss of our past teacher Mr F R Ragel. He was a wonderful teacher and disciplinarian to so many students, he had been a teacher for twenty four years in St Michaels College. He was a valued member of St Michael College Alumni Association, had been the secretary of the parent body of the Alumni association for seventeen years and have served the Colombo branch as secretary for over twelve years.

In a letter he recently wrote to us that "I am really proud to have served my Alma Mater, where I studied and taught. I shall continue to serve the Alma Mater as long as my limbs permit me to do so" this proves his spirit in our Alma Mater. May he find peace and knowing that his loss is felt by all who knew and loved him.

In sympathy

Dr T Sivaseelan, President, SMC, AA Australian Branch.

I learnt the sad news and was shocked to hear the news all of a sudden. Please convey our deepest sympathy to his family. Further, this noon a boy residing in Russia phoned me up to learn more about Ragel Master to be published in his website.

AAG Rajendram, Secretary, AA, Batticaloa, 29.12.2011

Jesuit News

Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Rasiah SJ elected President CMRS

Rev. Fr. Jeyaraj Rasiah, Provincial of the Jesuits in Sri Lanka and Pakistan, was elected President of the Congregation of Major Religious Superiors in Sri Lanka for 2011-13 at the Annual General Meeting of CMRS held at the Retreat House, Tewatte on 30th Nov. & 1st Dec 2011. At present CMRS consists of 56 religious Congregations.

Input - The Messenger Dec.11, 2011

Powerful Lankans at wedding of Nirupama's Son.

The wedding of the son of Nirupama Rao, Former Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka, former Indian Foreign Secretary and presently Indian Ambassador to the US, took place at the Taj Hotel in India. Sri Lankans attending were Defence Secretary Gothabaya Rajapakse and wife, Presidential Secretary Lalith Weerathunga and wife, Deputy Minister Nirupama Rajapakse and Husband..... and Indian Diplomat's Music Teacher **Soundarie David** and her mother.

Soundarie is the daughter of Vice Patron Ranjit David and her mother is Ranjit's wife.

We are in High Company

Input SUNDAY TIMES - Jan,01.2012

Rev. Fr. Siritharan - Continued from page 1

No one knows why his Maker called him early at 49 years of age. It is said that whom God loves He calls early and leaves the others like the writer at 80 to write his obituary.

"I know him as a man who took his priestly duties earnestly. Non political but involved with the suffering of the people. A person of pure heart and clean hands. May his soul see the peace that is promised to all such as he"

Shirley Somanadar

"The SMC, AA, North American Chapter offer our condolences to Rev. Fr. Siritharan's family and to the Diocese of Trincomalee- Batticaloa. With grateful recognition of his selfless service as a committed priest of the Lord for his people, we offer fervent prayers that God the father of mercies will grant eternal rest to him and every spiritual consolation to those who mourn his passing. We shall pray for his eternal reward and he shall pray for us to prepare ourselves for the same."

Tommy Ganeshamoorthy

SMC, AA, North America Mikes Night on Youtube

The above **Mikes Night** was held on a grand scale at Scarborough Convention Centre, Ontario, Canada on Jan.28,2012. A 14.19minute video highlights with visuals of the College was forwarded through youtube by Tommy Ganeshamoorthy and on Feb.10,2012 your Editor E-mailed him, "FANTASTIC, YOU HAVE DONE THE COLLEGE AND ALL OF US PROUD. YOU HAVE GONE TO GREAT HEIGHTS AND PLACED SMC ON THE WORLD MAP. CONGRATULATIONS AND REGARDS."

Editor's Mail

Old horses always outperform the young ones and you are an example. I get a lot of air from overseas for my SMC Alumni Face Book Club page. But you have put out something solid. Thank you Sir! You really are a man of action in the midst of hot air balloons that can only fly. Thank you again Sir.

I have re - located to Batticaloa to start a Business School with another Michaelite Naaren.

Winston Thangarajah by email

This man Perumal is amazing - 80 years old (sorry young) and just don't give up. I wonder to what further heights he will take the Archangel to.

Angelo Patrick- 09.01.2012

Thank you for yet another wonderful issue of the online edition of the Archangel. I appreciate and enjoy your witty journalism. God Bless you.

Bradley Ockersz- 10.01.2012

As I sat writing this article, I heard the news about the unexpected demise of former Prefect of Discipline of St. Michael's College, Mr. F. R. Ragel, fondly called as Ragel Master. He was an efficient teacher, an excellent disciplinarian and a friendly counselor while he was at the college. By its very nature, being a school disciplinarian did not always mean popular position with students. However, Ragel master was loved by his students during his tenure as a teacher at SMC. His love for his students had no bounds and no student was an exception when it came to corporal punishment by him. He will be very much missed by the Michaelites and may his soul rest in peace. I was privileged to have corresponded with him until his death and would like to dedicate this article to my beloved teacher and friend Ragel Master.

Tommy Ganeshamoorthy in the Mikes Night Souvenir, Jan, 28.2012, SMC, AA, North America

Thank you sir for the magazine. Good to hear about the new things happening.

Very sorry to hear about Ranjini's death. She was my class mate and both are good friends.

John Jegasothy Sydney, Australia 09.01.2012

I have read all your editions (of Archangel) and enjoyed them. I like the way you create them as they look very professional. Planning to visit SL in December for a re-union of our class at the College and would love to meet you that time.

Tommy Ganeshamoorthy Feb.11,2012, Canada

Obituary

AE Arudchelvam, Pastor, East Lanka Evangelical Mission, Batticaloa, husband of Mureal Chandra Leela, father of past pupils Sam Aravinth (Telecom Engineer) and David Anoj (Lanka Bible College) passed away on Nov, 11.2011 in Batticaloa and the Funeral was on Nov, 24.2011

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