



Most Rev. Dr Joseph Ponniah Installed as the First Bishop of the B'caloa Diocese

Most Rev. Dr Joseph Ponniah was installed as the first Bishop of the newly erected Diocese of Batticaloa at a solemn ceremony presided by His Excellency Joseph Spitteri, the Apostolic Nuncio in Sri Lanka, together with His Lordship Bishop Kingsley Swampillay on Sunday 23rd September 2012 at St Mary's Cathedral, Batticaloa in the presence of other bishops, religious and laity.



L-R Joseph Ponniah, Joseph Spitteri, Kingsley Swampillai
Source: Archdiocese of Colombo website

The Archangel congratulates Most Rev. Dr Joseph Ponniah and welcomes him, who by virtue of his office, becomes the new Patron of the Alumni Associations of SMC
May the Good Lord Bless and Guide him.
Senior Vice Patron I.T. Canagaretnam attended the installation service and lunch as an invitee from Colombo.

Golden Jubilee of the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka

The Jesuit priests in Sri Lanka celebrated 50 years of the Jesuit Province in Sri Lanka with a Jubilee Mass presided by His Eminence Malcolm Cardinal Ranjith together with Rev. Fr Jeyaraj Rasiah S.J, The Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus in Sri Lanka and other Jesuit priests at St. Francis De Sales Church, Dalugama (WP) on September 9, 2012

Source: Archdiocese of Colombo website

A Fund to Assist Needy Students at SMC Launched by Colombo Alumni

While there are the poor everywhere, Batticaloa has more than its fair share, due to the prolonged war, the swift tsunami and the devastating floods. These calamities left behind thousands of widows, widowers and orphans, the displaced and the homeless and in other ways, deprived families.

Boys from such families come to study at SMC while their parents, parent, very often a widow, struggle to keep the home fires burning. Some, we are informed, come to school on an emptystomach.

Among these may be found the bright gems who are endowed with the potential, the ability and the determination to uplift themselves educationally and socially and thereby make a contribution to society but are now unable to give their undivided attention to their studies due to their poor plight.

When the plight of such students was spotlighted and the need to create a Fund to help them was placed before the Committee of Management Meeting of the Colombo Alumni on Aug. 4th. 2012, there was an immediate and spontaneous response with pledges of contributions amounting to over two hundred thousand rupees! There could not have been a better endorsement and encouragement for this project, a worthy one but long overdue.

The proposal is to set up an Education Fund, invest the same, and disburse the accruing interest to meet the needs of these deprived students. Bigger the fund, greater the number of students who will benefit from it.

Dear Michaelite and Friend, we who have had the benefit of a good education at SMC which helped us to be better placed in life, owe these capable but disadvantaged children a helping hand to realize their full potential and we invite you to join us in this worthy cause by your contributions to this Fund.

Our initial target is One Million Rupees by end of 2012. Time is of the essence as interest rates are now high but may come down.

Thank you for your generosity towards this worthy cause.
Contributions may be sent to Bradley Ockersz, Treasurer, 47/1 Hena road, Mount Lavinia. Tel. 0718031114
Email Overeng@sltnet.lk

We Care for our deprived brothers

Alumni News

Achievement beyond compare In the absence of any knowledge about a Michaelite previously taking part or officiating at an Olympic Games, the Archangel takes pleasure in recording that our Senior Vice Patron I.T. Canagaretnam was the first Mike to set foot on Olympic soil. This was a life time achievement for him and a proud moment for all Michaelites.



He attended the London Games 2012 as an Administrative Officer in the Sri Lankan Contingent. His accreditation credentials entitled him to air travel to and from London, travel within London to the Olympic Village and to the sites of the various events, savour the multinational cuisine at the 24 hour restaurants and kiosks during his five day stay at the Village from Aug. 6 – 10, 2012.

While in the Village, he was the lord of all he surveyed; the sights and delights and the figures which figured in many a spectacular event.

He had occasion to have breakfast with US tennis ace Serena Williams and she was pleased to examine his credentials.

While in London, the UK alumni hosted him to dinner.



On I.T.'s right is Ananda Joseph, President, Alumni Association UK, and on Ananda's right is Justin Rajendram.

Continued on page 4

Committee Meeting 08

This eighth dinner meeting chaired by President T.Mahenthiran and 20 members attending was held on Aug. 04. 2012 at the Cosy Restaurant , Colombo 06.

In the absence of the Secretary, J.P.Jeyaratnarajah, Assistant Secretary S. Shanker officiated.

A letter requesting twelve junior basketballs from the SMC Principal was tabled. The purpose and donation was approved.

The Committee was informed that a few members from the North American Chapter will participate in the Christmas Get together on Dec.8, 2012.

The Article in Tamil on late Vidwan S.E. Kamalanathan by M.Suthaharan in the Archangel No.56 came in for praise.

R. C. Perumal placed the plight of many students at SMC who are bright and keen to study but are unable to fully concentrate on their studies due to financial difficulties. There was an immediate and spontaneous response by those present with pledges of donations amounting to nearly two lakhs of rupees!

Fellowship and dinner was hosted by S. Sivakumar.

Committee Meeting 09

This was the final meeting for the year held on Sunday, September 9, 2012 at the Sea Food Place, Colombo 3. President T. Mahenthiran chaired the meeting and 23 members were present with J.A. Raveendrarajah as guest.

Twelve Junior basketballs had been handed over to the SMC Principal. The new Patron of the Association will be the Bishop of Batticaloa Rt. Rev. Dr. Joshep Ponniah.

The Chief Guest for the AGM 2012 – Rt. Rev. Dhiloraj R. Canagasabey, Bishop of Colombo.

Cost of dinner for the AGM – Rs 1.250/-

I.T. Canagaretnam gave a short account of his experience at the Olympic Village of the London Games 2012.

R.C. Perumal thanked all the members who had made generous contributions towards the Education Fund and suggested that the monies received be invested in a separate savings account to earn interest until permanent arrangements are made.

Two minutes silence was observed in memory of Shamlet Canagasuriam wife of Past pupil Umeshan Canagasuriam and sister of Past pupil Gaston Stanislaus.

Vice president E.G. Anton hosted the fellowship and lunch.

ABC News

Australia Batticaloa Canada AA's

Equipping for Education. One hundred and ten underprivileged students in the remote villages of Kannankuda and Kakkaddicholai in the Batticaloa district were the beneficiaries of a desk, chair and table lamp each, a donation from the SMC,AA, Australia in September 2012.

President Lingaratnam came from Down Under to Sri Lanka to hand over the items at a function organized by the local leaders and graced by the Deputy Director of Education, school principals, teachers and parents.



The students who received these study aids were earlier sitting on the floor using boxes as tables and bottle lamps for light and straining their eyes and inhaling smoke containing poisonous carbon monoxide.

Needless to say that, there could not have been a more meaningful project. Every cent spent on this, SL Rs.4 lakh project is worth its weight in gold as the long term benefits are inestimable.

Additionally a one session seminar on **Self Motivation and Leadership** for the SMC School Prefects was conducted by the AA, Australia on Sep. 20, 2012. 43 prefects participated and S.Gowtham, President, Prefects Association of SMC has written and thanked the sponsors profusely.

INPUT Lingaratnam AA, A

First MIKE WALK at Batticaloa

The first ever MIKE WALK and a first for Batticaloa organized by the AA Batticaloa was held on September 22, 2012 starting from College going up to CTB junction and returning. As the participants started arriving early and as there was insufficient space to accommodate all, the walk got off to an early start at 8.30 am after a short prayer by AA President and Jesuit Superior Rev. Fr Paul Satkunayanagam S J and joined by SMC Principal Ms Masilamanie.

In the walk were the Principal, AA President, priests, teachers, past pupils, students and wellwishers. The College Band, scouts,

sports teams, students as fathers and principals of yore, 2010 batch in special T- shirts, traffic police in ceremonial attire, floats, decorated vehicles, all adding to the colour and gaiety of the occasion and the procession stretching from College in the Island

of Puliyantivu across the bridge to the police station on the mainland was a spectacle Batticaloa had not witnessed before.



All, who should be there, were there to make it the success it was.



Front: Fr Weber, Mr Kamalanathan, Mrs Kamala Kamalanathan, Rear: Bro. James, Fr Bonnel and

The participants were refreshed with Munchie biscuits, short eats and Milo drink .during the walk which ended at noon. Munchie was the Principal Sponsor; Abans co-sponsored.



The AA Committee of Management had been looking into mobilizing more members and strengthening the AA and this Walk was designed to achieve these objectives.Rev. Fr X. I. Rajeevan and Felician Francis, National President YMCA were the

live wires behind the Walk which it is hoped will be an annual event.

The AA Batticaloa proposes to hold a convention / congress of all Michaelites at Batticaloa in 2013.

INPUT Winston Thangarajah

First Joint Picnic in Canada

The North American Alumni went on their first joint family picnic with the alumni of BT Methodist Central College under the banner "All For One and One For All" to Elson Park, Markam, Scarborough, Ontario on July 7 2012.



The day started with welcome addresses by **SMC, AA President Suraj Paiva and MCC President Paul Dharshan**. A cricket match played after games for children and adults was won by Central and Suraj Paiva awarded the "Bonnell-Ault" Trophy to captain Walter Thambapillai

The North American AA organized a **memorial service** for former Principal **Vidwan S.E.Kamalanathan** on May 12, 2012 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 520 Sherbourne St., Toronto celebrated by **Rev. Fr. Ahilraj SJ**, a past pupil.

MIKES NIGHT 2012 will be held on Nov. 24, 2012 at 9.30 pm at 65, Clairport Crescent, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada. You are invited.

INPUT Tommy Ganeshamoorthy

Alumni News continued from page 2

Daniel Thiagarajah, who joined the Eighty Club on July 6, 2012, has been elected a Vice President of the All Ceylon Pensioners' Society Limited for 2012/13. He has volunteered his services to Michaelites with pension problems.

A. A. G. Rajendram, Secretary, SMC AA, Batticaloa retired on Oct. 2, 2012 as Assistant Manager, National Savings Bank, Batticaloa after a service period of 34 years. Happy retirement.

K.S. Sivakumaran was one of the 38 participants at the 10 day Film Appreciation Workshop conducted in Colombo from July 31 —August 9, 2012 by the prestigious Film and Television Institute Poone, India, The Cultural Council of India in Colombo and the Sri Lanka Foundation Digital Academy. He was called upon to deliver the valediction address at the concluding session.

I.T.Canagaretnam celebrated his 75th birthday on July 19, 2012 and **J.P. Jayaratnarajah** his 50th on July 23, 2012.

Obituary Shamilet Canagasuriam, wife of past pupil Umeshan Canagasuriam and sister of past pupil Gaston Stanislaus passed away on Sep. 8, 2012 and the funeral took place in Batticaloa.

Editor's Mail

The Archangel unites associations

Dear Mr. Perumal,

I enjoy reading your magazine regularly. I never expected that you would unite all our Alumni Associations all over the world. The Archangel carries not only the news but also useful information as well. The AA of North America and UK have contacted me for a joint venture at our College. Credit must go to you for mediating indirectly through your beautiful magazine. My heartiest congratulations

Linga Lingaratnam,

Aug. 3, 2012

Australia

.....connects people

My name is Chandrakumar Chellathurai from Batticaloa and I live in Ottawa, Canada. I received a copy of the Newsletter Archangel Apr.- Jun. 2012 electronically from Shantha Chelliah, who is also from Batticaloa now living in Hawaii, and saw Gnanaraj Vaz's name in the Newsletter. I am wondering whether you could help me find his e mail address or his 'phone number from someone who can provide same. According to the news he is in Oman. Gnanaraj is an old friend of mine and I have not seen him or heard from in more than 32 years. I would really appreciate it.

Chandra

July 26, 2012

Canada

The required information was obtained from Senior Vice Patron I.T. Canagaretnam and forwarded to Chandra.

Chandra studied at College when Fr Peiris was Principal and his classmates were Godfrey Tissaveerasinghe, Bala Iyakutti, Raviraj Edwards, Preman Daniel and Masilamanie.- Editor

Suraj Paiva, President, AA, North America requested contact details of Walter Dias and the Editor provided same.

.....creates curiosity

Former teacher and colleague at SMC, Ms Rajes Kandiah wished to know how the Editor came to do what he is doing. The short answer is, Praise the Lord. The long answer will be given in the farewell edition of the Archangel, soon to be published.

And promotes Batticaloa

www.welcometobatticaloa.com

After going through the above website, your Editor wrote to the creators: "Congratulations to Rainbow Bridge on your pioneering effort in launching this website which was long overdue. You are doing a great service to the people of Batticaloa.", and made a few suggestions for its improvement. Sep. 4, 2012 and the Reply:

Dear Christie,
Thanks for your encouragement and input. Modifications have been made according to your remarks. We just posted many more pages today, especially about visits and activities...You are welcome to enjoy.

Best Greetings from Beautiful Batticaloa.

Sandrine Sep. 27, 2012 Batticaloa

Please visit the above website and also www.eastlanka.com

Golden Jubilee of Jesuit

The first arrival of the Jesuits in the Country in Mannar in 1561 from the Indian Province of Travancore was as early as the time when St. Francis Xavier was preaching there and later in Colombo in 1602 according to Rev. Fr. S. G. Perera, the first Sri Lankan Jesuit and a well known Jesuit historian. (Fr. Perera's **Our Heritage** series books were used as history text books in English schools including SMC in Ceylon)

The second Jesuit era began with the establishment of the Jesuit manned Papal Seminary in Kandy and the founding of the two dioceses of Trincomalee – Batticaloa in the east and Galle in the South and entrusting the administration of the two new dioceses to the Society of Jesus (Members of the Society of Jesus are known as Jesuits) the former being manned by Jesuits from a French Province and the latter from Belgium, both changing to two other Provinces, New Orleans, USA and Naples, Italy respectively in later years.

In 1962 the two dioceses were amalgamated into one Jesuit Vice Province of Sri Lanka and Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Crowther, the then Mission Superior of Trincomalee – Batticaloa Diocese was appointed the first Vice Provincial. Fr. Crowther was the Rector and / or Principal of SMC for 20 Years. (1938 – 1957)

The successors since were Fathers William Moran, Vito Perniola, Thomas Kuriacose, Claude Daly, Ashley Samarasinghe, Anton Peiris, Peter Kurukula Aratchi, Baylon Perera, SMC Past Pupil Maria Anthony and presently Jeyaraj Rasiah. (The title of Vice Province was dropped and Province is now used) The Pakistan mission, the responsibility of the Australian Province was, due to a lack of manpower, entrusted to the Sri Lanka Province in 1988)

Prior to the creation of the Province was a steady flow of missionaries from France, Belgium, USA, India and Italy and they worked together with local Sinhalese and Tamil counterparts on various ministries around the country.

The ministry of education was firmly established with the founding of the three provincial Jesuit schools, St. Aloysius's College, Galle, St. Michael's College, Batticaloa and St. Joseph's College, Trincomalee and their contribution in the field of education and sports is well known.

In 1960 all state aided private schools were taken over by the State with the option to those wishing to remain private, to run the schools without charging fees! The three Jesuit school opted to be private but before long had to be handed over to the state due to financial strain thereby bringing the long and illustrious,

formal and formidable education apostolate of the Jesuits in Sri Lanka to an end but the Jesuits were not deterred In keeping with their calling, they ventured out to meet the challenges and needs of the changed times.

Education : They continued their work of teaching at the newly established National Seminary at Kandy (The Papal Seminary moved to Pune, India due to visa problems for the scholastics) and being lecturers and chaplains at the Universities of Peradeniya, Batticaloa and Jaffna; established the Cholankanda Youth Training

Province in Sri Lanka

Centre to help the rural Sinhalese and plantation Tamil school drop outs, the English Academies at Batticaloa, Trincomalee and Galle, the Eastern Technical Institute at Batticaloa.

In 2010 a new Jesuit High School, Mount Calvary High School, was started at Galle with 36 students in Grade 1. New Students will be admitted to Grade 1 every year as the older children move to higher grades.

Social Justice: Recognizing the existence of a community of under privileged and marginalized people toiling under adverse conditions in the tea plantations of Sri Lanka, Rev. Fr. Paul Caspersz in a pioneering venture set of the Satyodaya Centre to light a candle in the lines of these unfortunates.

Other Jesuits like Fathers Pio Champa, Angelo Steffanizzi, Jacob Fernando (Senior), Carmela Jannacone and Eustace Fernando followed suit considering it as a privileged and priority to work untiringly among the weak and vulnerable estate workers, thus putting into practice what Jesus preached – “What you do to the least of my brothers, that you do to me”

The Centre for Social Concern (CSC) in Hatton envisages empowering the plantation poor through education and better health programmes. The Centre for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (CPPHR) Trincomalee aims at providing legal assistance and social service to those deprived of human dignity.

The Sri Lanka Centre for Social Concern (LCSL) founded in 2007 after the tsunami of 2004 during the ethnic strife catered to the needs of the war victims, widows, youth, children. The Shanthi Community Animation movement started by Fr. Michael Catalano centered round improving the living standards of the Shanti dwellers on the banks of the Wellawatte – Dehiwala Canal.

The Jesuit frontier Mission in the south, working with Buddhists and Christians has reached out to thousands of needy in the South. The Province maintains two retreat houses, Fatima retreat House in Kandy and Manresa retreat house in Batticaloa. Besides retreats lay groups of all faiths use these for seminars, workshops and renewal programmes.

With a view to promoting Buddhist – Christian dialogue the Tulane Research Centre was established by Rev. Fr. Aloy Peiris. The Tulane Media Unit provides space for alternate and different voices to be heard in the public arena.

During the period of the war, the Jesuits launched the Lillie's of the Field – a rehabilitation centre for ex combatants – in Batticaloa. Another pioneering venture was the Butterfly garden in Batticaloa established by Fr. Paul Satkunanayagan for the benefit of children traumatized by the conflict. This good work continues. Father Paul also runs two of orphanage for children. Father Paul is Director of a professional counseling centre operating from Batticaloa and reaching out to remote areas of the district.

INPUT Sch. Thiranjala Weerasinghe SJ
in the Catholic Messenger Oct. 9, 2011

From Angelo Patrick

16th May 2011 – The Road to KKS *

The long road unfolds many a scene – a bustling township with the folk of the land in the routine of life. The Merchant with wares of plenty jostling with the others of his tribe to earn the favour of the market place. Glistening buildings masking the skeletal remains of once loved abodes. Stretching beyond the borders of the hustle and bustle are homes where loved ones roamed, standing in testimony to the ravages of war. The walls that once caressed the dreams and love of those within are riddled with bullets and splattered with innocent blood crying to high heavens. This hinterland is yearning for fun & frolic, joy & happiness and the dreams of yesteryear. When will that day dawn O Divine One.

* KKS stands for Kankesanthurai which is a coastal town north of Jaffna in the Jaffna peninsula.

Response from friend Kamilka:

It wasn't the bustling township that etched my heart, nor was it the jostling merchants with their tribe and wares. It pierced through those darkened twigs that sprang through homes of lost dreams. Whose bullet ridden walls were accolades of despair. Echoes of children laughter, lullabies and caresses that's been robbed of life and on this road, time stood still. The sadness deafened my being with the thundering roar as the setting sun kissed these empty floors. The houses seem to ache for smiles, crave for footsteps, but the palmyrah trees stopped swaying: the mango stopped ripening long, long ago. As our wheels gathered speed, and as this road became a distant memory, I hoped and prayed that life would blossom and children's laughter will someday cradle these walls. As we moved my eyes set on a paddy field with children riding kites and birds flying free and I remembered that "human spirit" is ever so resilient, it bears testimony to all great sorrows, when crippled it bleeds, but always and always takes flight. "Hope" – it gives life.

Response from daughter Rushika:

The road that was once full of life and laughter is now just a ghost town. This haunted road pierced through my heart as I imagined

the young lives robbed of life and innocence and left orphaned due to the ravages of war: parents creating lives only to have it snatched away leaving them with nothing but despair. These homes that carried so much of hope and dreams are now mere bullet riddled walls. I imagined the blissful life my paternal ancestors would have led in this once land of abundance. My heart ached for the childhood memories I would have had in my ancestral home but for the war. The dream of a parent bringing their children to the home where they grew up lost in the hatred that ravaged the country. Indeed it leaves a gaping hole in my heart knowing that my children may not be able to identify themselves with this part of their heritage. I wonder if my brethren here will look at me differently due to my southern heritage. I hope not. I hope there will come a day when we all see beyond our racial differences. Imagine there is no race; nothing to kill or die for.

21st Dec 2011 – A Village in the Jungle

On a cool misty morning with the chimes of Christmas as the soothing balm, we enter into yonder on the southern highway to wallow in the jungle aroma of Yala*and surrender to the wild beauty. Luscious fields of paddy tended by the sun burnt hands of the farmer, caressed by the love of his maid lifting the brew to his parching lips. The breaking waves of the blue ocean gurgles in its delight, tossing the fisherman as he casts his net to bring home the mid day meal. The chirping of the birds and the trumpeting of the elephants herald our embrace of the hinterland of the tropical southern jungle. An eagle in its flight, the seduction of the peacock and the elusiveness of the unravished leopard leaves me with haunting memories of the wonders of nature.

* Yala is a wild life sanctuary of shrub jungle in the southern coast of Sri Lanka.

From the Media

"Spurious claims that politicians do not interfere with the police need to be treated with the contempt that they deserve. What we need is the Department of the police to be delinked from the Ministry of Defense as recommended by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission. Yet we may as well ask for the moon if we expect this recommendation to be honoured. And we may also ask ourselves that further question from our own conscience 'if this is the state of affairs in the South, what kind of misery do people of Tamil ethnicity continue to suffer in the North and East?'"

-The concluding paragraph of the article "Impossible fairy tales about the police" by Kishali Pinto Jayawardena in the SUNDAY TIMES July 15,2012

Q Where is the Capital of India?

A In Swiss Banks

- INDIA TODAY Sep.19,2011

I come from a poor family I started my career as a class IV employee and the only asset I possess is integrity.

Sarash Homi Kapadia – Chief Justice of India

- INDIA TODAY May.23,2011

OWNERS WILL BE GIVEN TO STRAY DOGS BY LOCAL BODIES

- Daily Mirror Jan 12, 2012

Luxury Vehicle Racket Barred

- Daily Mirror May15, 2012

Christmas Get-together December 08 2012
Sindhi Club Hall, Colombo 03

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Printed at : Rajeswary Institute, Colombo 14

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