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Message of the Chaplain

P. Thomas Thandappilly CST

Jubilee Year of the Mirabila Dei

With joy and gratitude to the Lord the Indian Catholic Community enters into the Silver Jubilee Liturgical Year, beginning on 3rd December, the First Advent Sunday. This is the Jubilee Year of the Mirabila Dei – God's wonderful intervention in the springing stream of life of the Pravasi Malayalee Catholic Community – an ecclesial unit of the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ. We pray and hope that we shall be blessed by Jesus Christ who alone is the Lord and Guide of the ICC. We are fortunate to be a lively but an enthusiastically struggling Community on its pilgrim way to God.

The ICC has been straining hard to be a unified Eucharistic Community of the Pravasi Malayalee Catholics in the Archdiocese of Vienna. We are fortunate to be recognized as an ecclesial categorial parish of the Pravasi Indian Catholics, as being a registered body at the Government of Austria which provides us all the necessary legal and civil support to live, to proclaim and to celebrate our religion of the Malayalee Catholic heritage, without any fear or threat from anybody from within or without.

With God's help, we could move forward through a multitude of hazards and challenges all these 25 years of its ecclesial existence and survive with a heroic spirit of parish communion as a strong Malayalee Catholic Community in Vienna.

We feel proud of our 350 children, who grow in our parish ecology and get their moral and spiritual nourishment from the heart and the soul of the ICC. We admire our Youth who remain close and intimate to the Eucharistic Communion of the ICC, in spite of all the negative influences of a European consumer, anti-ecclesial secular society and of its worldly trends. The Malayalee Youth are lucky to be born and brought up in the cradle of a highly developed European Society which nourishes them with the human values of transparence, honesty and of a creative-courageous conviction (conscience). We are proud to declare that our children and youth belong to the most fortunate new generation of Europe, who receive the most required nourishment for their moral and spiritual growth and fulfillment from the rich resources of the Indian Catholic Community. Their parents and guardians are lucky to have these sons and daughters, who are the most valuable and cherishable gifts of God to their families and to the Malayalee Parish Community. It will be thrilling for them to experience God's mirabila Dei – God's miraculous interference through signs and wonders- in the life and fortunes of these children who remain in the main stream of life of the ICC.

We are lucky to have the Eucharistic Celebration- the Supreme Event of Christian life- in Malayalam. Hearts and minds of generations of our parents and grand-parents as well as our dear ones of intimate relationship are joined together as we celebrate the ICC Parish Liturgy with the linguistic and cultural sensibilities of the Pravasi Malayalees. Memories and merits of our heritage and even of a hormonal patrimony are brought into a lively experience when we celebrate the Holy Mass in our mother-tongue daily and twice on Sundays.

Thanking God for all these gifts of facilities and strength, we shall move forward towards an ever more fulfilling experience of the mirabila Dei in the Silver Jubilee Year of the Indian Catholic Community. Let us experience every graceful moment of the Jubilee Year, in spite of all our struggles and strains of life. I wish every Malayalee in Vienna a thrice Happy Christmas and a jubilant New Year –2007.

Important Events in the Silver Jubilee Year: October 2006-2007

In view of the spiritual, liturgical, pastoral and catechetical growth of the ICC Parish, we conduct the following programmes in the Jubilee Year:

1. Annual Retreat in the Jubilee Year, conducted by Rev. Dr. Jose Puthiedath & team
 29th Thursday, March 2007, 14.00 hrs to 19.00 hrs.
 30th Friday, March 2007, 09.00 hrs to 19.00 hrs.
 31st Saturday, March 2007, 09.00 hrs to 16.00 hrs.
 01st Palm Sunday, April 2007, 13.00 hrs to 20.00 hrs.
 02nd Monday, April 2007, 14.00 hrs to 19.00 hrs.
 03rd Tuesday, April 2007, 14.00 hrs to 19.00 hrs.
 07th Holy Saturday April 2007, 09.30 hrs to 16.00 hrs. Retreat for the Youth above 12 yrs
2. Jubilee Year Sports on 2nd June 2007
3. Jubilee Cultural Evening on 13th Oct. 2007
4. A Solemn Concluding Liturgy of the Silver Jubilee Year on 14th Oct. 2007

To meet the expenses for the above-mentioned programmes, the ICC Parish Community requests a “responsible” contribution of €50-, from every registered family of the Indian Catholic Community. We welcome also a “free” contribution from all other non-registered Malayalee families for the Jubilee Celebrations. The contribution is expected to be given on or before 31st May 2007. Afterwards a reminder will be published of those ICC registered families, who have not given their due contribution. Further dues from the ICC-registered families will be recorded in the Family Registration Book of the ICC Jubilee Year 2007.

Important Events in December 2006

3rd December: Last day of registration for the Carol Singing Programme.

8th December: Feast of Our Lady (Mariä Empfängnis): Malayalam Mass, Litany and Eucharistic Blessing at 18.00 hrs. in Pfarre Meidling

9th December: Adventfeier of the Afro-asian Communities at 18. 00hrs at St. Florian.

10th December. Carol Singing Programme beginning at 15. 00 hrs. No Catechism Class. There will be regular Malayalam Mass in Meidling and Stadlau.

16th December: Adventfeier of the Kairaly Nikethan School at 15. 00hrs. in SSP Hall.

24th December: Confession before Christmas : from 15.00 to 17. 00hrs(only two hours)
 Malayalam Mass in Meidling at 11.30 hrs. No Malayalam Mass in Stadlau

25th Christmas Day: Solemn Malayalam Liturgy beginning at 15. 00hrs in Meidling.

29th & 30th December: Marriage Preparation Course from 14 to 18 hrs. in Meidling.

31st December: Holy Mass in Meidling at 11. 30 and in Stadlau at 17.30.

Note: New Registrations of Malayalee Catholic Families in the ICC Parish are most welcome. Those who register before 15th January 2007 will be included in the ICC Jubilee Book of 2007.

(Verleger: Thomas Sebastian für the Indian Catholic Community Vienna)