

LET US ALSO GO, THAT WE MAY DIE WITH HIM *John 11:16*

APOSTLE

Newsletter of the SSPX; #1 Marcel Lefebvre Place, Annie Nagar, Seevalaperi Rd., Palayamkottai, 627002



Gemma Maria Josepha, baptised on Christmas Day

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

In this country given over to idolatry the feast of the birth of our Lord and Saviour brings with it a joy akin to that of the angels when they announced the birth of the Christ-Child. On Christmas night, I celebrated Midnight Mass in a village 20 miles to the west of Palayamkottai. The chapel is a small building with corrugated roof and the people are poor, but their simple faith is the faith of the shepherds that were summoned by angels to the stable in Bethlehem. When it was time to go home after the Mass, after bestowing many blessings, I could not but feel elated at having played the messenger of such glad tidings and having been the instrument of such august mysteries. I was led through the village by the children, three or four holding on to each hand and chattering excitedly in Tamil. It was one of those moments to be treasured.

On Christmas Day at Palayamkottai, the Prince of Peace also made his abode in the heart of a six year old girl when she received the sacrament of baptism.

May the reign of the Prince of Peace be ever more firmly established in your homes and hearts. I wish you all the blessings of Christmas and a new year of grace.

In Jesu et Maria,
Rev. Robert Brucciani

Veritas Academy



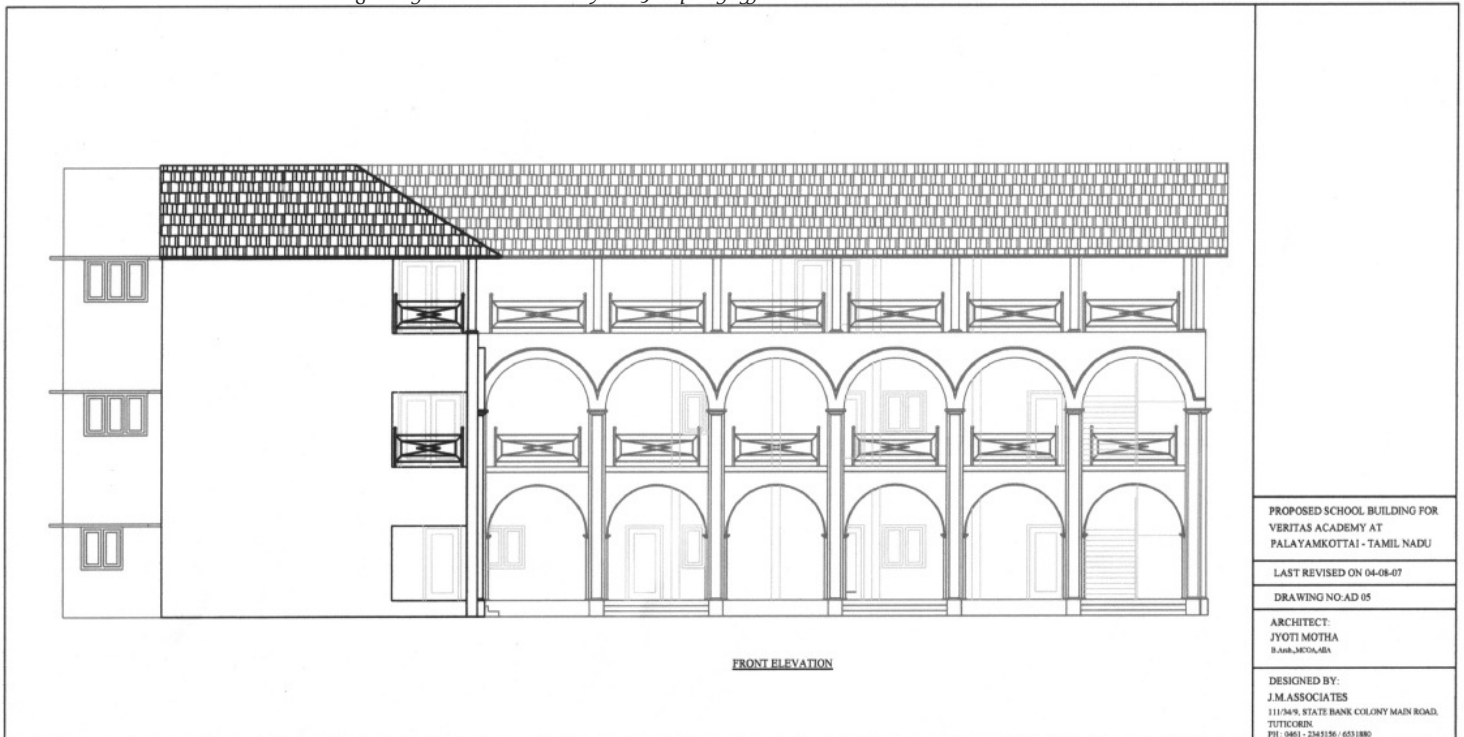
Fr. Daniel Couture digs the first clod assisted by Fr. Joseph Pfeiffer.

NEW BUILDING PROJECT LAUNCHED

Veritas Academy was founded in June 2006 for the education of the children from both the orphanage and from the families who either live near to the Most Holy Trinity Priory or are willing to send their children as boarders.

Its beginnings have been modest; the school is currently situated in a rented building owned by one of our long-time benefactors, Mr. Selvaraj, but is rather too small to be a permanent home. With the future in mind, therefore, we have decided to build a new school on the priory site itself.

With this goal in view, the “Fr. Francis Design Studio” has pulled out all the stops to produce a simple, elegant and practical solution to our needs. The project was launched with raised glasses in mid-November, but, as with all such projects, it soon found itself struggling to move



Veritas Academy

forward in a molasses of planning permission bureaucracy. Indeed such is our concern, that we ask your prayers that the bureaucrats be speedily moved to approve the plans.

SCHOOL BLOSSOMING

While all this is going on, the school is slowly developing its own character and rhythm. Miss Marie-Blanche, a postulant of the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart, is the headmistress. She has established a regime of order and happiness in the school. She is blessed with that greatest of teaching gifts: a withering glare; the sort, as P.G. Wodehouse would say, that could 'open an oyster at sixty paces!' Her staff are comprised of three dedicated local faithful and three volunteers. The four priests of the priory teach at the

school too, but theirs is more of a cameo role for the purposes of entertainment.

A well run school is one founded, not only on the right principles, but also on their prudent application. The secret is to have that rare combination of (a) the right school rules and (b) their consistent application by *all* the staff. If this can be achieved, then, not only are the children in no doubt about what is right and wrong, they are also preserved from that damaging insecurity of uncertainty, an insecurity that can easily end in rejection of all authority.

Despite the school blossoming, we are not entirely free of our quota of worries. Besides the worry of planning permission, there is the worry of how we are going to cope with additional class groups as we separate the boys and girls after Year 6.



Anthony carries the liturgical shovel.

There is also the worry about losing Miss Marie-Blanche for a year to the mother house in Vigne, Italy for her novitiate year in July. If you know someone with special teaching gifts, please let us know...



Veritas Academy, December 2007.

The Epic Adventures Of Fr. Nély : Bombay



Bombay, a city under construction.

Leaving behind the cold virgin snows of Switzerland, the Second Assistant of the Superior General of the SSPX arrived in India on 14th December. His mission was to inquire paternally after his priests here and to understand something more of the Society's apostolate in India. Father did not have to wait very long to commence this mission for Fr. Joseph Pfeiffer met Fr. Nély at the airport and then, in his own magnanimous manner, proceeded to give him a full immersion tour of the megalopolis of Bombay (replete with Bombay's unique travel experience). The next day, Fr. Francis Chazal came to the rescue with his intimate knowledge of the best restaurants and then presided over introductions to a number of the faithful. In Bombay, there are Mass Centres at Malad (west) and at Bandra (south). Fr. Nély was impressed by the size of the congregations and the potential for growth in Bombay ...if only a priory



Bombay, always moving.



Bombay, a megalopolis of 13 million inhabitants.



Bombay, one of the top ten financial centres of the world.



Bombay, a centre of poverty.

The Epic Adventures Of Fr. Nély : Bassein Fort



The recently restored Jesuit College Church.



The ruined cloister of the Jesuit College where St. Gonsalo Garcia was educated.



Fr. Nély meets the locals of Bassein Fort.



Frs. Nély and Pfeiffer above the main gate of Bassein Fort.

could be established in Bombay or nearby.

Forty minutes north of Bombay is a town called Vasai; ten minutes from Vasai is an ancient Portuguese coastal fort called

Bassein Fort, and within Bassein Fort is an orphanage where a Society priest celebrates Mass for three days each month. Fr. Nély was duly conducted to the or-



Mass at the orphanage in Bassein Fort

The Epic Adventures Of Fr. Nély : Bombay Again



*Bassein orphans queue for a blessing.
In India a blessing is given by a sign of the cross on the forehead.*

phanage and celebrated Mass for a fervent group of faithful and about eighty orphans (many of whom are Hindu!).

On the return to Bombay, Fr.Francis

and Fr.Pfeiffer proposed a series of visits to the local clergy to assess the effects of the recent Motu Proprio. They visited Fr. Salvador of Our Lady of Lourdes in



Fr.Pfeiffer in full flow against a sceptical Fr.Salvador (on the right without a cassock).

Malad who said, well, in fact, there is no reaction at all to the Motu Proprio because there are more important things to do in India than reintroduce the Latin Mass and, even if the Pope would recommend it, it would not apply to India(?). Another priest, however, a Fr.Dennis, did understand that the sacredness of the traditional mass does indeed compliment the Indian way of praying and that pious Indians would certainly appreciate a more silent and mystical union with God, rather than a louder and more horizontal form of worship. What was perhaps most astonishing about all the conversations was that the issue of the Motu Proprio was not discussed at all by the clergy of the Archdiocese; all the priests, whether hostile or favorable to Tradition, confirmed that it was never brought up. We obviously still have much to do.

The clerical tour finished at St Pius X Seminary where, on the roof, as the sun was setting on this immense city, the ominous brown haze and the experience of the day brought to mind the immortal words of Pope Paul VI, "The smoke of Satan has found its way into the Church."



Sunset in Bombay on the roof of St. Pius X Seminary.

The Epic Adventures Of Fr. Nély : Palayamkottai



Mass of Christmas Day.

On Wednesday 19th December, after saying goodbye to the megalopolis, Fr. Nély was met at the rural airport (one flight per day) of Tuticorin by Fr. Brucciani. The flight was one hour late on account of a storm that had grounded all other aircraft from Chennai. When Father emerged from the throng of passengers there was a noticeable contrast between his immaculate cassock and his

ashen face. “That was the worst flight I have ever experienced”, he explained. The aeroplane had been in freefall on occasions, fellow passengers had asked for blessings and Father even admitted to rehearsing the formula of general absolution. After an excellent meal in a nearby hotel, equanimity was soon restored and the journey continued to the Priory of the Most Holy Trinity in Palayamkottai.



At the wheel of the HM Ambassador

The next day, with a desire to experience the life of an Indian Missionary, Fr. Nély took the wheel of our original (and up until recently our only) priory car, the Hindustani Motors Ambassador, to drive to the ‘The Land’. ‘The Land’ is a plot of land five miles from the priory which has been purchased for the construction of the new orphanage. On the land is a small plantation of bananas and many palm trees. The greatest attraction, however, are the wild peacocks. They are bigger than the peacocks we can see on the lawns of the great houses of Europe, and they can fly too; it is a most wonderful sight. Unfortunately, as we trudged through the muddy undergrowth, we only saw one peahen. Fr. Nély deemed his soaked shoes and muddy white cassock to be a high price to pay for this privilege



On ‘The Land’.

The Epic Adventures Of Fr. Nély : Palayamkottai



Six helpful shop assistants and Fr. Nély.

and proceeded to threaten Fr. Brucciani with a posting to Antarctica.

Friday 21st December is the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. St. Thomas was martyred in Chennai (Madras) and is the Principal Patron of India. The feast was celebrated with a Solemn High Mass at Palayamkottai in the morning and at St. Thomas' Church in Nagercoil in the evening. Nagercoil is about two hours (50 miles) south west of the priory.

On Saturday, after having given a conference to the sisters at the orphanage, the next stop was the Pothys Silk Emporium in Tirunaveli (the neighbouring town to Palayamkottai). Such was the excitement at receiving so distinguished a customer that Father was besieged by six helpful shop assistants almost as soon as he entered the shop.

Sunday Mass was celebrated at the priory, followed by catechism for the faithful. In the evening Father joined



Western inculturation. Francis has his rather stylish new tie done as the boys look on.



Catechism after Mass at Palayamkottai.



The crib of the atrium of the priory.



St. Anthony's Chapel, Singamparai.

The Epic Adventures Of Fr. Nély :Tamil Nadu & Kerala



The baptism of Gemma Maria Josepha.

Fr. Brucciani on his trip to Singamparai to offer Mass. The road to Singamparai is so unsuitable for any form of transport that Fr. Nély, in a moment of alarm, offered to send the mission the funds to buy a 4x4. It was a good trip.

Christmas Eve is always a busy day and one of the most urgent jobs here was to teach the boys how to tie the ties that Father had bought for them for Christmas.

Father celebrated Midnight Mass at the priory and, after the Dawn Mass and the-



Dominic risks his life with a smile.

Mass of the Day, set about preparing Christmas Dinner and, my word, it was worth at least one Michelin Star!

The feasting and celebration continued on 26th December to welcome home the northern missionaries, as did the unrelenting pace. Over the following few days, a visit was made to Christurajapuram to see Fr. Pancras and visits were also made to Tuticorin and Palayamkottai to speak with the local bishops about the Motu Proprio. The Bishop of Tuticorin was unavailable but the Bishop of Palayamkottai said that he would allow his priests to offer the Tridentine Mass but that nobody had yet asked him...

Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament saw in the new year at the priory and, after a Solemn High Mass the next morning, the entire priory and orphanage departed for a four day holiday in Kerala (see Priory News below).

No sooner had the holiday finished and



*"Ziss is really good!" (It was too).
Christmas dinner in preparation.*

the party returned home than preparations began for a return to Kerala for the priests' retreat preached by Fr. Nély. And it was the close of the retreat on 11th January that finally brought to an end Father's tiring but fruitful visit to this land of promise. Father made his way to Chennai the next day and no doubt, after a silent prayer of thanks, fell quickly to sleep as the aircraft soared into the heavens, homeward bound.



Fr. Couture and Fr. Nély relax after the retreat.

Priory News

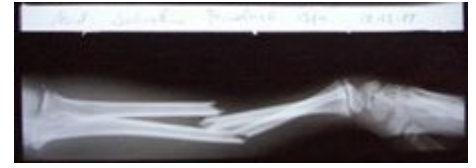


New vestments on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Christian Schneider and the faithful of the parish who have been very generous benefactors of the mission over the years.

▪ Before Christmas, Sebastian, one of our Tamil boarders, had the misfortune of breaking his arm while playing football. It was a nasty break as we can see from the x-ray, but he was very stoic about it all. His friends, however, were quite upset by the whole episode. Fortunately, after a successful operation, Sebastian was soon back at school.

▪ Anistas, the renowned snake catcher, intercepted a king cobra as it slithered slyly past the front steps of the priory recently. The cobra is the deadliest of all snakes; there is no antidote to its poisonous bite. Our particular specimen, is quite safe, however, as it now finds



Sebastian's nasty break.

▪ On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was offered with a completely new set of vestments donated by the Priorat St. Maria zu den Engeln of Saarbrücken. We offer our sincere thanks to Pater



Sebastian and sympathetic friends.

itself pickled in a jar of formalin on a shelf in the dormitory.

▪ On 20th & 21st December a potentially violent political rally was held at Palyamkottai by one of the local political parties. Fortunately it turned out to be a peaceful gathering to salute a new party leader by the name of Mukka Stalin. About 300,000 people were encouraged to turn-up to the rally which took place next to the girls' orphanage. The girls were forced to sleep in the school for two nights to avoid any trouble with Mukka's



The Cobra in front of the priory.



Pre-postulant brothers. John-Peter and Anistas examine their latest catch.

Priory News



Mukka Stalin and an admirer.

excited devotees.

▪ The clement weather of midwinter in Southern India afforded an excellent opportunity for fishing at the “dam”. The “dam” is a modest imperial construction about 20 minutes away from the priory. It serves to control the water that flow into the rice fields which burst into life for four months of the year. The boys usually go swimming there but a recent interest in angling has caused a good few fish to be landed instead.

▪ It is a tradition at the orphanage that, a few days before Christmas, all the children are taken to town to buy a new outfit for Christmas Day. This tradition was duly observed this year and generated the greatest excitement. The good sisters at the orphanage organise this trip; they look after both the boys and the girls.

▪ Another tradition that was observed before Christmas was the construction of a huge crib at the priory. This year’s crib was truly magnificent and was the fruit of four weeks of work.

▪ On 11th January, Fr. Brucciani paid a fleeting visit to the U.K. to renew his visa. The visit enabled him to give presentations to the faithful at St. Michael’s School and at St. Joseph’s in London.

▪ For part of January and most of February, Rev. Mr. Gregory Noronha from

Bombay and Dr.Suneel Reddi from Hyderabad, both seminarians at Holy Cross Seminary, stayed at the priory for their summer apostolate. It was the first time for five years that Rev. Mr.Gregory had visited the priory. The last time he came the building was still under construction. He has spent his time here teaching Latin at Veritas Academy and giving some badly needed singing lessons to the boys. We



Praveen examines his bated hook before skilfully casting his rod.



A thoughtful Mary Rita .in her new Christmas dress

Priory News



Back in black. Fr. Brucciani visits Fr. Summers at St. Michael's School.



Mr. J. Francis and his son Jerold standing in front of their new, freshly painted and blessed lorry at the priory. In India, the faithful are proud to display their faith.

sincerely hope that he will be posted to India when he is ordained next year.

Dr. Suneel has just finished his first year at Holy Cross Seminary. He taught at Veritas Academy for a year before going to Australia and his return has been the cause of great excitement among the children; they all wanted to tell him everything that has happened. Dr. Suneel is the cousin of Sr. Maria Immaculata who founded the orphanage and whom we look forward to welcoming back to India



Seminarians Dr. Suneel (front left) and Rev. Mr. Gregory Noronha (front right) together with Frs. Brucciani, Pfeiffer, Francis and Valan.

in July.

Please keep our seminarians in your prayers. They are our future in India.

■ From 1st to 4th January, the entire orphanage and the priests of the priory (except Fr. Valan) went on holiday to Kovalam in the neighbouring state of Kerala. We stayed in the guestrooms of the Bethsaida Carmelite Monastery situated on the coast. The monastery caters mainly for charismatic gatherings but we managed to fly the flag of tradition there for a few days with our makeshift altars, community office, rosary and beautifully sung compline.

A ten minute walk from the monas-



Anne-Sophie looks up to seminarian Dr. Suneel.

Priory News



Boy, it's tough in the missions.



Don't worry.



So where's the beach, Fr. Francis?



Run boys run!

tery brought us to the most glorious beaches. We had planned other activities to amuse the children for three and a half days but these plans were quickly abandoned when the children, with unusual unanimity and enthusiasm, expressed the overwhelming desire to play in the crashing waves from dawn until dusk. And they did.



*Fr. Nély and children at
Bethsaida Carmelite Monastery.*



Evening sunshine bathes the beach in colour.

Priory News



Gaspar, Balthazar and Melchior



- On the 12th January, Veritas Academy gave a performance of a nativity play to Fr.Nély, Fr.Couture and the faithful of the parish. The children and staff worked very hard ...with charming results!



Angels in the wings.



O Come Let Us Adore Him!



The shepherds wait their turn.

Mass Centres

SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

ASARIPALAM (TN)

Saint Anthony's Church, nr. parish church
Melasripalam, Kanyakumari Dist.
Contact: Priory of the Most Holy Trinity.
Mass: Every Sunday at 10:00 am

CHRISTURAJAPURAM (TN)

Christ the King Church
Christurajapuram, Irenipuram Post,
Kanyakumari Dist., 629 197
Tel: (91) (4651) 294 785,
Mass: Daily

NAGERCOIL (TN)

Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
Near SP Camp Office
Thalavaipuram
Contact: Priory of the Most Holy Trinity
Mass: Saturday at 6:00pm, Sunday at 6:30am

PALAYAMKOTTAI (TN)

Priory of the Most Holy Trinity
8A/3 Seevalaperi Rd,
Annie Nagar, Palayamkottai, 627 002
Tel: (91) (462) 257 2389 (priory)
Mass: Daily at 7:15 am Sunday at 7:30 am

SINGAMPARAI (TN)

St Anthony's Church
Contact: Priory of the Most Holy Trinity.
Mass: Every Sunday at 7:00 pm

TUTICORIN

St. Francis Xavier Chapel
88B Vettivelpuram
Near Murugan Theatre
Contact: Mr. Francis Kumar
Tel: (91) (0) 9486 471 966
Mass: Every Sunday 7:15am



NORTHERN CIRCUIT

BANGALORE (KN)

Contact: Mr. Benny Joseph
Tel: (91) (80) 2573 2662
Mass: Bimonthly

BOMBAY/BANDRA (MH)

Pioneer Hall, #9 St John Baptist Rd
Contact: (91) 922 321 4501
Mass: Sunday following 1st Friday of each month.

BOMBAY/MALAD (MH)

2nd floor, Gratias Mariae building
Tank Road, Orlem, Contact: (91) 922 321 4501
Mass: 1st Friday, Saturday & Sunday

BOMBAY/VASAI (MH)

St Gonsalo Garcia Orphanage Bassein Fort
Contact: Priory of the Most Holy Trinity.
Mass: Monthly

CHENNAI (TN)

St Anthony's School, Little Mount 600015
Contact: Mr Pothiraj
Tel: (91) 984 112 7416 ,
Mass: Monthly

GOA - SALVADOR DO MUNDO

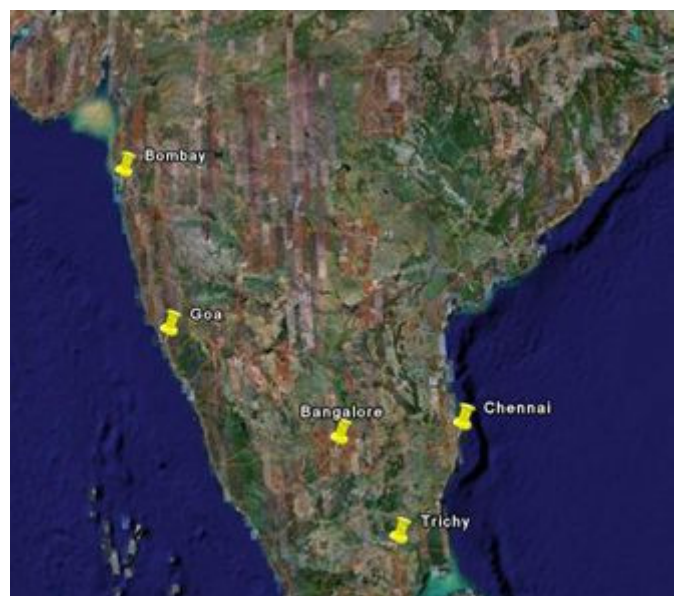
opposite bus stand,
Contact: Mr. Carvalho
Tel: (91) (83) 222 9033,
Mass: Monthly

TRICHY

North 3rd Street, Srienvasanagar 627 017
Tel: (91) (0) 431 277 0042
Mass: Daily



Southern Circuit



Northern Circuit

Calling All Generous Souls

TEACHERS & SUPERVISORS

Since the last newsletter, four young ladies (all from the U.S.A.) have volunteered their services over the next year and only one young man. This is a wonderful response by the ladies.

CHILDREN'S BOOK DEPOT

The School and the Orphanage are in desperate need of bibles and children's books (all in English). We need lives of the saints, fiction, glossy picture books (history and nature) for ages ranging from 3 years to 16 years.

In the U.K., books can be sent to St. Michael's School, Harts Lane, Burghclere, Hampshire RG20 9JW. When enough have been collected to make up a sizeable pallet, they will be shipped by sea. Please mark them "for the Indian Mission."

If there is anyone who would like to organise a book depot on the same basis in the U.S., Australia, New Zealand or Canada we would be very grateful.

So far we have received seven big boxes of books and many smaller parcels. Please keep them coming!

SPONSOR A CHILD

The orphanage, run by the Consoling Sisters of the Sacred Heart, are looking for sponsors for their children and elderly ladies. There are a total of twenty seven souls being cared for by one sister, four postulants and three young ladies. A sum of USD 18, (EUR 12, GBP 9, AUD 20) per month would pay for food and clothing. A sum of USD 14 (EUR 9, GBP 7, AUD 16) would pay for the rent. If you

would like to sponsor a child or elderly lady, you can send your details to the Society of Servi Domini, No. 10, The Bungalow, High Grounds, Tirunelveli, Palayamkottai, 627011, Tamil Nadu, India. Emails to sspxindia@gmail.com.

ALL LAPTOPS WELCOME

Please give them to anyone who is travelling to India (not by post).



An artistic shot of Fathers Couture, Valan, and Francis after their retreat.

Contact Information

To send donations:

- **India** : please make payable to "Bright Social Service Society".
- **Europe** : please make payable to "SSPX" in any currency with a note, "for the Indian Mission" and send to: *Priesterbruderschaft St. Pius X; Menzingen, 6313, Switzerland.*
- **USA** : please make payable to "SSPX" in USD with a note, "for the Indian Mission" and send to: *Regina Coeli House; 11485 N. Farley Road, Platte City, MO 64079, USA.*
- **UK** : please make payable to "Cardinal Merry del Val" in GBP and send to: *The Indian Mission, c/o 5 Fox Lane, Leicester LE1 1WT, United Kingdom. (nb. change of postcode)*
- We can also receive donations payable to "Bright Social Service Society".in any currency at our address below:

*Priory of the Most Holy Trinity; 8A/3 Seevalaperi Road, Annie Nagar,
Palayamkottai; Tamil Nadu 627002, India.
Email: sspxindia@gmail.com Fax: +1 866 530 8582 (US based fax service)*