

A Report on the 13th Annual Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Canonists' Association

The 13th annual meeting of the Tamil Nadu canonists was held on 18 and 19 January 2005 at St. Paul's Seminary, Trichy. Even though 26 members had enrolled their names, only 20 members participated in this meeting which began with a prayer at 9.30 a.m. on 18th January 2005.

Fr. D. Alphonse, the Rector of St. Paul's Seminary inaugurated the meeting. Fr. M. Rajasekaran, vice-president of the association welcomed the chief guest and the participants. In his inaugural address, Fr. D. Alphonse spoke about the importance of notion of participation and communion which run through the documents of Vatican II and the Code of Canon Law of 1983.

After Coffee break, Fr. Philomindas presented his paper on "Synodal Statutes in the dioceses of Tamil Nadu". After giving an exposition of the Instruction given jointly by the Congregations for the Bishops and for the Propagation of Faith on the Diocesan Synod in 19 March 1997, he made an analysis of the convocation, preparation, draft, celebration and final document of the diocesan in the dioceses of Madras-Mylapore, Kottar and Vellore.

In the afternoon, Fr. Angel spoke on the "Participatory Structures in the Church with a special reference to Presbyteral Council and Pastoral Council". He highlighted the role the presbyters as cooperators necessari of the bishop and of the presbyteral council as aiding the bishop in the governance of the diocese. He insisted on the need for structures in which there is a provision for the active involvement of all the members of the community and in which the communion among the faithful not only comes from above but also from below.

On the second day, the meeting started at 8.30 a.m. Fr. Peter Thumma gave a talk on "Alcoholism and Consensual Capacity", in which he highlighted the effects of alcohol-barbiturate drugs intoxication on marital consent. He cited a few judgments of the Rota Romana to support his argument. After coffee break, the participants were given opportunity to share the problems connected to the marriage cases and other canonical issues.

It was decided to hold the 14th annual meeting at St. Paul's seminary on 17th and 18th of January 2006. The following persons and topics were fixed for detailed study:

Fr. Lawrence: "Latest Trends in Canon Law"

Fr. Y. Irudayaraj: "Administrative Procedure in Sanction"

Fr. C.M. Joseph and Fr. Peter Thumma: "Psychic Disorders and Matrimonial Consent in the Tribunals of Tamil Nadu"

The meeting came to an end with lunch at 12.30p.m.