

**Minutes of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tamilnadu Canonists’ Association: TNBCLC, Thindivanam, 23 & 24 January 2017**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Tamilnadu canonists’ Association began on 23 January 2016, Monday at 9.30 am with a song in the LCD projector and a prayer invoking the gifts of the Holy Spirit by Fr. Francis Joseph of Coimbatore diocese. The secretary, Fr. D. Xavier, invited the chief guest Dr. A. J. Christopher, Principal, St. Anne’s college of Arts and Science, Thindivanam, Fr. Alagu Selvan, the President of TNCA, Fr. Philomindas, Director of TNBCLC & Procurator of TNCA, Fr. G. Felix of Kottar diocese, Fr. Peter Thumma of Chennai Mylapur archdiocese, Fr. Maria Anandaraj of Pondichery archdiocese and Fr. Louis Ruban OFM to light the Kuthuvilakku. Then Fr. A. Alagu Selvan, the President of TNCA welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries expressing sincere thanks to the director of TNBCLC who made possible to have the meeting here. Dr. A. J. Christopher, in his inaugural address, highlighted the significance of qualitative family life and the necessity of family virtues for a peaceful life. Then the canonists introduced themselves with one another. Then the secretary thanked all for the inaugural session. Twenty nine canonists attended the annual meeting.

After coffee break, in the first session at 10.50 am, Fr. G. Felix of Kottar diocese presented the paper on: “Exclusion of Bonum Sacramenti in the context of growth of Pentecostal Movements”. The session was moderated by Fr. John Diraviam of Madurai archdiocese. The members had active participation in the discussion. The second session began at 11.50 am. Fr. Philomindas spoke on the theme: “Mixed Marriages in the context of Tamilnadu. The session was moderated by Fr. Charles MMI. After a brief interaction the members dispersed for lunch at 1.10 pm.

The afternoon session began at 3.00 pm. Fr. Baskar of Thanjavur diocese presented paper on “Breaking down of marriages and receiving Holy Communion” prepared by Fr. L. Sahayaraj of Thanjavur diocese. Fr. Maria Anandaraj of Pondichery archdiocese moderated the session. Then there was a fruitful discussion on the deliberations. Fr. Mathias of Vellore diocese, the Golden Jubilarian was honoured by the president on behalf of the canonists and greeted with a shawl. Fr. Philomindas, the procurator presented the account. Then the participants left for tea at 4.30 pm.

Fr. Sebastian Karammbai of Thanjavur diocese presented on “Tying of *Thali* (Mangaliam) in Christian Marriages: Sign distortion and the possible cultural and legal consequences”. The session was moderated by Fr. Francis

Joseph of Coimbatore diocese. Then we had the discussion on the presentation. Then there was Eucharistic celebration at 7.15 pm.

On the second day, 24 January at 7.00 am the canonists had concelebrated Holy Mass which was presided over by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar, Archbishop of Pondichery-Cuddalore. Most Rev. Dr. A. Anandarayar enkindled the canonists to have compassion, love and kindness in their ministry.

The first session of second day began at 9.00 am with the paper presented on the theme, “The problem connected with inter ritual marriages” by Fr. Peter Thumma. The session was moderated by Fr. Antonyraj of Chennai-Mylapore archdiocese. Then Fr. Jegadhees OFM delivered on “The uniform civil code and its implications on Christians”. Fr. Ruban moderated the session. After discussion on the theme, the members dispersed for coffee break. Next session began at 11.15 am. Fr. Alagu Selvan shared on “Recent Canonical Updates”. The session was moderated by Fr. Xavier Benedict of Kottar diocese. It was followed by a panel discussion on marriage cases and other issues with the following panel members: Frs. G. Felix of Kottar diocese, C.M. Joseph of Madras-Mylapore archdiocese and Fr. A. Alagu Selvan.

In the final session the minutes of the previous meeting was presented by Fr. D. Xavier, the secretary. Then the president asked the members to fix the theme, date and venue for the next meeting. January 22 & 23 are the dates chosen for the two-day symposium. The venue will be TNBCLC, Thindivanam and Fr. Philomindas will be the local organizer. Then there was a discussion regarding the choice of topics to be presented. It was decided to have the theme: New Tribunal Procedure. The resource persons for the symposium are: Fr. C.M. Joseph on “A study on shorter process”; “Pastoral care in the new norm” by Fr. S. Angel Raj; “Judicial personal in the tribunal” by Fr. Pascal; “Possibility of administrative tribunal in the diocese” by Fr. Francis Joseph and “Civil updates” by Fr. Jeyaseelan s.j. Fr. Alagu Selvan thanked each and every one. Finally the session and the two-day symposium came to an end at 1.00 pm with a prayer.