

Minutes of the 28th Annual Meeting of the Tamilnadu Canonists’ Association: TNBCLC, Thindivanam, 22 & 23 January 2018

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Tamilnadu canonists’ Association began on 22 January 2018, Monday at 9.30 am with a song in the LED projector, the Bible reading by Fr. U. Pushparaj, Dharmapuri diocese and a prayer by Fr. Louis Ruban OFM invoking God’s grace and guidance for the fruitful meeting. The secretary, Fr. D. Xavier, invited the chief guest Sr. Jeya Jothi CST, civil lawyer at Villupuram, Fr. A. Alagu Selvan, the President of TNCA and Fr. Philomindas, Director of TNBCLC & Procurator of TNCA, to light the *Kuthuvilakku*. Then Fr. A. Alagu Selvan, the President of TNCA introduced and welcomed the chief guest and other dignitaries expressing sincere thanks to the director of TNBCLC who made possible to have the meeting here. Sr. Jeya Jothi CST, in her inaugural address, highlighted the importance of making the people to be aware of the difference between divorce in the civil court and annulment in the Catholic Church. Then the canonists introduced themselves with one another. Then the secretary thanked all for the inaugural session. Thirty three canonists attended the annual meeting.

After coffee break, in the first session at 10.50 am, Fr. Angelraj of Madurai archdiocese presented the paper on: “To pattern our behaviour on after the Son of God: Pastoral care in the tribunal proceedings”. The session was moderated by Fr. James Anthuvan Dass of Sivagangai diocese. The members had active participation in the discussion. The second session began at 12 noon. Fr. M. John Diraviam’s book on marriage issues on the title “இணைந்திருங்கள் ஒருயிராய்!” was released by Fr. Rayappa. The uniqueness of the book is the blend with Tamil cultural citations. Then Fr. C.M. Joseph of Chennai archdiocese spoke on the theme: “The shorter process of Pope Francis”. The session was moderated by Fr. Charles Kumar of Chennai archdiocese. After a brief interaction the members dispersed for lunch at 1.15 pm.

The afternoon session began at 3.00 pm. Fr. Pascalraj of archdiocese of Pondichery presented paper on “The ecclesiastical matrimonial tribunal personnel and their function”. Then there was a fruitful discussion on the deliberations. The session was moderated by Fr. A. Jacob of Salem diocese. The participants left for tea at 4.10 pm.

Fr. Norbert Thomas of Thoothukudi diocese presented on “Genetic engineering and techniques of reproduction at crossroads with the magisterium” in the evening session at 6 pm. Then we had the discussion on the

presentation. Fr. Jegadhees OFM moderated the session. Then there was Eucharistic celebration at 7.15 pm.

On the second day, 23 January at 7.00 am the canonists had concelebrated Holy Mass which was presided over by Fr. A. Alagu Selvan.

The first session of second day began at 9.00 am with “Civil law update” by Fr. Jeyaseelan s.j. The session was moderated by Fr. Xavier Benedict of Kuzhithurai diocese. Then Fr. Alagu Selvan shared on “Canonical Updates”. The session was moderated by Fr. Arockia Charles MMI. After the coffee break we had a panel discussion on marriage cases and other issues with the following panel members: Frs. Rayappa of Pondichery archdiocese, C.M. Joseph of Madras-Mylapore archdiocese and Fr. A. Alagu Selvan. Then the minutes of the previous meeting was presented by Fr. D. Xavier, the secretary. Fr. Philomindas, the procurator presented the account.

That was followed by the election of office bearers. Fr. Pascalraj and Fr. Angelraj were elected as President and Vice President respectively. Fr. Philomindas and Fr. D. Xavier were unanimously elected to continue as Procurator and Secretary respectively. Fr. Alagu Selvan thanked all for the cooperation. Fr. Philomindas congratulated Fr. Alagu Selvan and Fr. Solomon for their committed service.

The next session was guided by Fr. Pascalraj, the new president to fix the theme, date and venue for the next meeting. January 21 & 22 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: Collaboration with Oriental Churches; Marriage issues. The resource persons for the symposium are: Fr. Xavier Benedict on “Building the Church in India in collaboration with the Oriental Churches”; “The subtle difference between the application of c. 1095, 2, 3 in the marriage cases” by Fr. Charles Kumar; “*Totius Consortium Vitae*” by Fr. W. George Vincent; “Grounds for dismissal and exclaustation” by Fr. Louis Ruban; “Civil updates” by Fr. Jeyaseelan s.j. and “Canonical updates” by Fr. Alagu Selvan. Finally the session and the two-day symposium came to an end at 1.00 pm with a prayer and thanks giving.