

Minutes of the 28th Annual Meeting of the Tamilnadu Canonists' Association: TNBCLC, Tindivanam, 21& 22, January 2019

The 28th Annual Meeting of the Tamilnadu canonists' Association began on 21 January 2019, Monday at 9.30 am. The inaugural session started with lighting the lamp followed by a hymn invoking the Holy Spirit. A short reading from the Bible was read by Sr. Mary Chinnarani FIMM and a prayer by Fr. John Diraviam of Madurai Archdiocese invoking God's grace and guidance for the fruitful meeting. Fr. Pascal Raj gave the welcoming address. Fr. Alaguselvam of Salem diocese introduced the chief guest, Rev. Dr. Jesu Pudumai Doss sdb. Then Rev. Dr. Jesu Pudumai Doss presented the key note address on "Mismanagement of Ecclesiastical Goods: Some canonical considerations". There was fruitful discussion and clarifications on the presentation. The session was moderated by Fr. Alaguselvam. Thirty six canonists were present for the meeting.

After coffee break, in the first session at 11.30 am, Fr. S. Xavier Benedict of Kuzhithurai diocese presented his paper on: "Building the Church in India in Collaboration with the Oriental Churches". It was moderated by Fr. Norbert Thomas of Thoothukudi diocese. The members had active participation in the discussion. Then the canonists introduced themselves with one another.

The afternoon session began at 3.00 pm. With Fr. Thomas Kulandaisamy msfs, reading a paper on "The Process of Exclaustration and grounds for dismissal of religious". It was prepared by Fr. LouisRuban Ofm Cap. Due to his commitment, he could not be present for the meeting. Fr. Arockia Charles MMI moderated the session and Fr. A. Rayappan clarified the relevant questions. The participants left for tea at 4.00 pm.

Fr. W. George Vincent of Kottar diocese presented a paper on "Totius Vitae Consortium" in the evening session at 6 pm. We had the fruitful discussion on the topic. Fr. Angel Raj moderated the session. The First day programme was concluded with the Eucharistic celebration at 7 pm.

The second day, 22 January dawn with the Eucharistic Celebration at 7.00 am presided over by Fr. Pascal Raj with the other members of the TNCA.

The first session of second day began at 9.00 am with the paper presentation on "The subtle difference between numbers 2 and 3 of Canon 1095" by Fr. Charles Kumar of Archdiocese of Madras – Mylapore. The session was moderated by Fr. Maria Anandaraj of Pondicherry diocese. Fr. AlaguSelvan shared on "Canonical Updates" moderated by Fr. Jacob of Salem diocese. Fr. Philomindas, the Treasurer of TNCA presented the account.

After the coffee break, Fr. Jeyaseelan presented the “Civil law update: Recent landmark of Supreme Court judgements”. The session was moderated by Fr. Don Bosco SMA. Then there was a panel discussion on marriage cases and other issues with the following panel members: Fr. Pascal Raj, Fr. A. AlaguSelvan and Fr. M.Philomindas.

We discussed on the theme, date and venue for the next meeting. January 21 & 22, (Tuesday and Wednesday) 2020 are decided as the dates for the two-day symposium. The venue will be TNBCLC, Tindivanam and Fr. M. Philomindas will be the local organizer. Then there was a discussion regarding the choice of topics to be presented. It was accepted to invite the new Canonists to present their thesina/Thesis during the Annual Meeting.

It was decided to have the following papers:

1. Magum Principium and its relevance in Translation of Liturgical Texts in Tamilnadu Context by Fr.M.Philomindas
2. Shorter process in the marriage cases by Fr. Angelraj
3. Exclusion of fidelity by Fr. Martin
4. Canonical issues connected with recognizing transgender” by Fr. Norbert
5. Office of Vicar General and its relevance in our Dioceses by Alex Gnanaraj of Madurai diocese
6. Civil updates by Fr. Jeyaseelan sj
7. Canonical updates” by Fr. AlaguSelvan
8. Shorter presentation of the Tesina/Thesis by new members

Finally the session and the two-day symposium came to an end at 1.00 pm with vote of thanks and a prayer.

Rev.Fr.Xavier Devasagayam

Secretary, TNCA