

Minutes of the 29th Annual Meeting of the Tamilnadu Canonists' Association: Santa Maria Hall, Archbishop's House, Pondichery, 21 & 22 January 2020

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Tamilnadu canonists' Association began on 21 January 2020, Tuesday at 9.45 am with a song invoking the guidance of Holy Spirit for the fruitful meeting. Then there was the lighting of the lamp by Most Rev. Antony Anandarayer, the Archbishop of Pondichery, Fr. Pascal, the President of TNCA, Fr. Angelraj, the Vice-president, Fr. Jegadeesh ofm and Fr. John Diraviam. It followed the prayer dance by the students of Immaculate Higher Secondary School. Then Fr. Pascal, the President of TNCA welcomed Most Rev. Antony Anandarayer, the Archbishop of Pondichery, the chief guest and all the participants. Most Rev. Antony Anandarayer gave the key note address. Then the canonists introduced themselves with one another. Thirty five canonists attended the annual meeting.

In the first session at 10.50 am, Fr. Philomindas presented the paper on: "Magnum Principium: Its relevance in the areas of translation and adaption of liturgical texts". The session was moderated by Fr. Antonyraj of Chennai diocese. The members had active participation in the discussion.

The second session began at 12 noon. Fr. Martin Manuel presented a paper on: "Exclusion of Fidelity". Fr. Yacobu, Chengelpattu diocese moderated the session. After a brief interaction the members dispersed for lunch at 1 pm.

The afternoon session began at 3.00 pm. Fr. Angelraj presented paper on "Shorter Process: Pastoral and canonical reflections". Then there was a fruitful discussion on the deliberations. The session was moderated by Fr. George Vincent of Kottar diocese. The participants left for tea at 4 pm.

Fr. Norbert Thomas of Thoothukudi diocese presented on "Transgender/Transsexual: A psychological, sociological, canonical and pastoral assessment" in the evening session at 6 pm. Then we had the discussion on the presentation. Fr. Arumainathan ofm moderated the session.

On the second day, 22 January at 6.15 am the canonists had concelebrated Holy Mass in Immaculate Conception Cathedral. It was presided over by Most Rev. Antony Anandarayer, the Archbishop of Pondichery and the homily was by Fr. Jagadees ofm.

The first session of second day began at 8.45 am with “The administrative penal process: a juridical examination” by Fr. Arockiasamy George Santhanaraj. The session was moderated by Fr. Philomindas. Then Fr. Alex Gnanaraj of Madurai Archdiocese presented on “The office of Vicar General in the 1983 code of Canon Law”. The session was moderated by Fr. Susai Manickam cmf. Then Fr. Jacob presented on “Canonical Updates”. This paper was prepared by Fr. Alagu Selvan. The session was moderated by Fr. Arputharaj Xavier of Thoothukudi diocese.

After the coffee break Fr. Philomindas, the procurator presented the account. Then Fr. Jeyaseelan shared on recent civil laws connected with our mission by the title of the paper “Tinkering the constitution – shrinking of minority rights”. After a brief discussion Fr. Rayappa responded to the question presented through question box. Then the minutes of the previous meeting was presented by Fr. D. Xavier, the secretary.

The next session was guided by Fr. Pascalraj, the new president to fix the theme, date and venue for the next meeting. January 19 & 20 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:

1. “Sui Iuris Churches” – by Rev. Fr. George Vincent, Kottar
2. “Civil Registration of Marriages” – by Rev. Fr. Arumainathan.
3. “Relationship between Nuntio and the particular Church”
– by Rev. Fr. Sebastian S. Karambai.
4. “Co-operation among priests C. 275” – by Rev. Fr. Yakkobu.
5. “Civil updates” - by Rev. Fr. Jeyaseelan SJ
6. “Canonical updates” – by Rev. Fr. Rayappan & Rev. Fr. Alagu Selvan.
7. “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 a prayer and thanksgiving.