

**Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the  
Tamil Nadu Canonists' Association**

**TNBCLC Tindivanam, 15 & 16 March 2022**

The 31st Annual Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Canonists' Association began on 15th March 2022, Tuesday at 10.00 am with lighting the lamp by Rev. Fr. S. Pascal Raj, Rev. Fr. Angel, Rev. Fr. Philomindoss, Rev. Fr. Antony, Rev. Fr. Felix, Sr. Chinna Rani. Then there was a song invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, reading of the scripture and prayer by Rev. Fr. Francis Gerard. Fr. S. Pascal Raj, the President of TNCA welcomed all the participants. Rev. Fr. Angel had briefly spoken about the recently deceased members of the TNCA. Then we had a minute of silence to pay homage to the Late Most Rev. Dr. Antony Anandarayar, Fr. Jayaseelan SJ, Fr. Don Bosco SDC and Fr. Francis Vincent (Kottar Diocese). The minutes of the previous meeting was read out by Fr. Xavier Devasagayam, the former secretary and approved by the participants. 41 canonists attended the annual meeting.

The first session began at 10.30 am. Rev. Fr. Nibert Thomas – Tuticorin Diocese presented the first paper on the theme **"Pre- Marital Sex and Living Together" in Married Life: Canonical and Pastoral Perspective.** The session was moderated by Fr. James Anthuvan of Sivagangai Diocese. The members had raised a few clarifications and questions. Then we had the coffee break. The second session began at 11.45 am, Fr. A. J. Jagadish (Vellore Diocese) presented the paper on: **"Spiritual life of the Newly Married Couples: A Practical Guide."** Fr. Arumainathan OFM Cap moderated the session. Then there was good interaction of the members. The paper was appreciated by the participants for its clarity and the suggestions proposed by the author, for the young married couples. There were a few interactions of the participants then we went for lunch at 1.00 pm. The third session began at 3.00 pm. Fr. Alex Gnanaraj of Madurai Diocese presented a paper on: **Responsible Parenthood.** The paper was presented in Tamil. It was insightful and informative regarding the upbringing of the children. Fr. Louis Rayar (Diocese of Chingleput) moderated the session. The participants left for tea at 4pm. Fr. Philomindoss, Director of TNBCLC presented a scholarly paper on "The change in the book VI - Sanctions" in the evening (fourth) session at 6.00 pm. Then we had the discussion on the presentation. Fr. Antony Jesu Raj moderated the session. At 7.15 am, we had the holy Eucharist, presided by Rev. Fr. George Vincent of Kottar Diocese.

On the second day, 16th March 2022 at 6.30 am, the participants had prayed together the lauds and the Holy mass was presided over by Most. Rev. Dr. Rayappan, the Bishop of Salem. The mass was offered for the repose of soul of late Most Rev. Dr. Ananda Rayar (Archbishop Emeritus of Pondicherry Cuddalore, Fr. Jayaseelan SJ, Fr. Don Bosco SDC and Fr. Francis Vincent (Kottar Diocese). The first session of the second day began at 8.40 am with the key note address by Most Rev. Dr. Rayappan on **"Revision of the Book VI - Sanctions"**. This session was moderated by Fr. Felix. In the second session Fr. Lourdasamy, Prof. St. Peter's Pontifical Institute presented a paper **"on the norms to be followed in the preliminary**

**Investigation in Treating the cases on "More Grave Delicts against Morals" committed by the clerics.** Rev. Fr. Martin Manuel chaired the session. After the deliberations of the participants we had a coffee break. At 11.00 am, Fr. AlaguSelvam of Salem Diocese enlightened the august gathering on "**Canonical Updates**". This third session was moderated by Fr. John Diraviam, Madurai Diocese. Fr. Michael Anand OFM has shared the insights on the recent "**Civil Law Updates**". The session was very useful to know the recent rulings and judgements and amendments. It was moderated by Fr. Xavier Devasagayam.

Four penalists (Fr. Lourdusamy, Fr. AlaguSelvam, Fr. Felix and Fr. S. Pascal Raj adorned the dais and answered the questions of the participants. At the end of the fourth session the participants introduced themselves. The office bearers of the TNCA and the participants were actively involved in the Business session to decide about the venue and date of the next meeting. The dates of the next meeting would be 24 and 25 Jan 2023 and the venue could be Tindivanam or Poondi. Fr. Sagayaraj MF had agreed to present a paper on the topic "Uniform Civil Code and Fr. John Diraviam had consented to present a paper on "Synodality". It was opined by a member to extend the meeting till Evening so that afternoon session could be set apart for the panel discussion and question and answer session. The suggestion was declined. It was opined by the members to begin the session at 9.15 am and the first session could begin at 9.45 am in order that adequate time is given for the questions and clarifications. The paper presentation by the speaker could be restricted to 30 minutes. It was suggested that the new comers present to the participants a short summary of their thesis in the annual meeting. Fr. Philomindoss, the Treasurer presented the financial statement of the Association. The two days annual meet of TNCA concluded with vote of thanks of Fr. Sagayaraj MF. Three books were introduced to the participants during the annual meet. Fr. John Diraviam has written two books: reflection on psalms and other on word of God and Fr. Lourdusamy had introduced his recent book on Canon Law on Prenuptial Preparation and Marriage Celebration. After the recitation of the Angelus, the meeting concluded with Lunch.