

Report of the 3rd Annual Tamil Nadu Canonists' Meeting

It is encouraging to know that there are more than 27 canonists in Tamil Nadu alone either with a licentiate or a doctorate in Canon Law.

At the initiative of Fr. G. Felix (Kottar), now in Rome, the Tamil Nadu canonists met twice. They updated 'The Pre-nuptial Investigation Form'. They also prepared 'A Book of Faculties' at the request of the Bishops of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

After a long interval, Fr. Y. Irudayaraj, St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchirappalli convened a Meeting of the Tamil Nadu Canonists on the 8th and 9th February 1995. The meeting was attended by ten canonists.

Rev. Fr. E. John Kulandai, Rector of St. Paul's Seminary welcomed the participants and inaugurated the Meeting. He welcomed the idea of translating the 1983 Code of Canon Law in Tamil and assured the canonists of his full support and cooperation.

The following topics were discussed during the Meeting:-

1. Mixed Religion and Religious Freedom - Fr. Antony Jegadhese, O.F.M. (cap.)
2. Contextual Theology and Canon Law - Fr. Y. Irudayaraj
3. Priests' Senate - Fr. Karambai Sebastian
4. The psychic Incapacity of the Contracting Parties - Fr. Y. Irudayaraj

Fr. I. Kulandaisamy spelt out the need for translating the 1983 code of Canon Law in Tamil. It was unanimously decided to translate the code in Tamil and seven committees were set up to translate the seven books of the code. The work is expected to be completed within a year. The participants had no doubt that this new venture of the Tamil Nadu canonists will get the approval and the support of the bishops of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

The next meeting of the Tamil Nadu Canonists will take place in the first week of February 1996 in St. Paul's Seminary. The topic of this Meeting will be: "THE RELIGIOUS AND THE LOCAL CHURCH".

Copies sent:

Fr. Y. Irudayaraj, President Tamil Nadu Canonists' Association

1. To all the Bishops of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry
2. To all the Canonists of Tamil Nadu.