



# Monte Fano

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**Quarterly of the Sylvestro-Benedictines in Sri-Lanka.**

June– August 2014

## FROM OUR CONVENTUAL PRIOR



Dear Friends,

It's with Joy that I pen a few words for the second issue of our News Letter: Monte Fano. We have had many events during these few months. It was a joyful experience to attend the feast of the Ampara church in the diocese of Batticaloa. It was the first time we celebrated the feast after taking over the parish into our hands. The

bishop and the people were extremely happy with our presence and ministry in the diocese. We have also just concluded our annual retreat. Our retreat preacher was a Redemptorist priest Fr. Eric Rodrigues CSSR from Bangalore, India. His first talk was on faith. Today the temptation, for us priests and religious, is to take this most important aspect for granted and interpret everything connected to Consecrated Life and Priesthood in terms of socio-cultural, economic and political factors. But if we remove or diminish the importance of faith in our lives we will end up being frustrated. Our vocation can be explained only in terms of faith and a response to faith. Without faith, our priesthood, religious life, monastic life and the vows will have no meaning. If we have many Priests and Religious leaving today and we have many problems in religious communities and the dioceses, could it not be an indication that there is a lack of faith? A crisis of faith? But for the one who has faith life will become adventures yet meaningful. Somebody has put it very beautifully: "when we trust God completely the Sun will break through even the darkest clouds. "Lord I believe. Help my unbelief".

May God bless you all.

Fr. Shamindra Jayawardena OSB  
Conventual Prior

## From the Editor's Desk

The Second issue of our Quarterly carries a series of events taken place during the last few months in the different apostolates of our Priory: events not merely exterior but calls for interior renewal of our monastic commitment as well. Since we are doing the work of God on earth, let Him first be pleased in everything we do as St. Benedict always reminds us "*Ut In Omnibus Glorificetur Dei*". Thus we, as Sylvestro-Benedictine monks may focus on our mission with great sense of committment for his greater glory. For this, let us ask our Holy Fathers Sts. Benedict and Sylvester who, we believe, constantly intercede on our behalf.

- The Editor -

## Formation Apostolate

### NOVIATIE INITIATION:

The three Postulants: **Kokila, Yohan and Miguel** initiated their novitiate with a short initiation rite during Vespers at Monte Fano on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014. The ceremony was presided over by Very Rev. Fr. Shamindra Jayawardene OSB, Prior Major who, in his exhortation, emphasized on the importance of novitiate and the uncompromising demands it entails.

At the end of the rite, the novices were officially handed over to the Novice Master Rev. Fr. Michael Ekanayake OSB

who accompanied them to the Novitiate House at Adisham. While extending our heartfelt congratulations to the novices, let us also pray for their perseverance in the monastic way of life.



### Feast of Adisham

The Feast of our Holy Father St. Benedict which rightly falls on 11<sup>th</sup> July was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at the novitiate house at Adisham which is dedicated to his name. The celebration began with the solemn Vespers on the previous evening, presided over by Fr. Yovan Saverimuttu OSB, the Vice Prior. The festive Mass was presided over by Rt. Rev. Dr. Winston Fernando SSS, Bishop

of Badulla who, in his sermon, reiterated that the values entailed in the life of St. Benedict under difficult circumstances, still holds good to every Christian by the very virtue of baptism. If one aspires to achieve holiness of life, he needs exemplary lives of saints like St. Benedict. The feast was well attended by the monks, the diocesan priests and religious men and women in the vicinity.



### A Seminar for our Scholastics

A seminar/workshop for our scholastics was conducted from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of August by Rev. Fr. Anthonypillai SJ, an eminent retreat preacher and professional counselor. The theme of the seminar was **"Discovery of Oneself and of Another"**. The target is not merely for information and knowledge, but rather to identify ones strengths and weaknesses and respond generously to ones monastic calling. During the program, the scholastics were introduced into the Non-Violent Communication theory of Marshall Rosenberg, an approach used widely in human resource training. The new formation document of the Congregation too envisages such recurrent programs to be integrated during the time of formation.