

Introduction...



Rev. Bro. Gerard Patrick - 'Bro. Pat' to his close friends and students - in the mid fifties of his life, from the security and comfort of the 'all in all' of St. Louis Institute Adyar, opted for a radical change to the slums of Chennai. It was a 'Baptism of Fire', a far reaching decision that he made in his life. His life was no more the same ever after.

This plunge into the dark and unknown, determined what he would be thereafter till death separated him from this second vocation or the call within the call. It was a leap into the dark rejecting any conditional support or security from the Congregation but adhering to the original charism of the Founder, St. Montfort, in his predilection for the poor, the marginalized and those in the periphery of Society.

The contribution to the cause of the differently-abled in St. Louis Institute, is a standing witness to the leaning he had towards his future mission. His tireless efforts raised the St. Louis Institute High Schools for the 'Blind' and the 'Hearing impaired' to Higher Secondary Schools. His tenacity fructified in the establishment of the first College for the 'Hearing impaired' in South East Asia.

Before venturing into the unknown he had toyed with the idea of serving the cause of the 'Mentally Challenged' and started a unit for them even as the head of St Louis Institute, a trait he continued in full swing when he founded Montfort Community Development Society (MCDS) in 1996.

MCDS is the only NGO that serves the mentally challenged through Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) through its three different Centres. Children rescued from 'Child Labour' are rehabilitated to continue their education through 'Transit Schools'. Similarly, 'Open School program' offers an opportunity to School drop outs at Tenth and Twelfth level to appear for the public exams. 'Senior Citizen's Program' gives a recreational opportunity to the elders to come together and relax in the evenings. The Poor and marginalized in the slums of Chennai, particularly at the sea shore are beneficiaries of the MCDS. The women are empowered by Self Help Group (SHG). The Health for all Programs with the clinic- on-wheels is highly appreciated especially by the marginalized. The Rural development Program and the net working with many Higher Educational and Health care institutions further emphasizes the role of MCDS in the Social welfare mission. All these welfare measures are made possible and executed by the dedicated staff of MCDS.

"Those whom the world rejects must move you the most." St.Montfort, was the motivating factor for Brother Patrick to establish MCDS. This well conceived and developed multifaceted MCDS dedicated to serve the poor will go a long way to concretize the vision and mission of its Founder 'Bro. Patrick'. MCDS recommits itself entirely to the advancement of the marginalized with fresh initiatives and reach a high level of excellence in all its activities to fulfill his dream.

Bro. Joseph Louis, Director - MCDS

Condolence Message from Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General

**FRATELLI DI SAN GABRIELE
Casa Generalizia Via Trionfale,
12840 - 00135 ROMA, Italia**



April 7, 2015

To

The Provincial Superior and all the Brothers
Province of Yercaud

Dear Brothers,

It was with a heavy heart that I received the shockingsad news, this morning, of the sudden demise of our dear Bro. Gerard Patrick. All the members of the Central Administration, and the Brothers and Sisters of Casa Generalizia, join me in extending our heartfelt condolences and our deepest sympathies to each one of you in this hour of grief and loss, and assure you of our sincere prayers for the repose of the soul of our beloved brother.

As Henry James succinctly put it, **"Sorrow comes in great waves... but it rolls over us, and though it may almost smother us, it passes and we remain"**. May the peace which comes from the memories of the love we have shared with Bro. Patrick and the assurance that we have another intercessor in heaven now, comfort us now and in the days ahead.

Bro. Patrick is one person that I greatly

admired for his zeal and zest for life, for all the energy and enthusiasm he evinced in whatever he undertook, and the warmth he exuded in his interpersonal relationships. My first memories of Bro. Patrick go back to 50 years, when as a Novice at Eachinkadu, I used to see him in Montfort, Yercaud, as a dynamic Junior Brother, loved and admired by his students, for his skills and competences in sports and games. I still have vivid memories of our last encounter, when he came to meet me in Adyar on 4th February, to invite me for the proposed international meeting in Chennai in August 2015! What impressed most every time I visited his pet project, the MCDS, or met him casually elsewhere, was his positive attitude towards life and people, and his passion for the new mission among the poor and the underprivileged. It is said that the measure of a life well lived is through the lives they have touched and the sorrow they leave behind. If the outpouring of sympathy today on the loss of Bro. Patrick is any indication, everyone associated with him can proudly say that his was a life well lived. You all will agree with me that the description of Robert Louis Stevenson of a great person fits Bro. Patrick well: **"That man is a success, who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the love of innocent children and the respect of intelligent men... His memory is a benediction"**.

Let me also take this opportunity to convey my deepest sympathies to all the members of Bro. Patrick's beloved family, all his former students, colleagues, friends and well-wishers, and especially all the donors, collaborators and benefactors of the acclaimed mission he accomplished as the Founder Director of MCDS, Chennai. May he continue to inspire us to live our lives fully and to make a difference in the lives of others, by being men and women for others!

Let this be an occasion to remind ourselves of the consoling words in our Rule of Life: "When

the hour of death strikes and the moment of ultimate option has arrived, confirmed by the ever-renewed acceptance of the Lord's will, helped by Mary your Mother, and assisted by your Brothers, you will say: 'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit'. May the soul of our dear Bro. Patrick rest in peace!

**Fraternally yours,
Bro. John Kallarackal, SG
SUPERIOR GENERAL**



Bro. John Kallarackal with Bro. Patrick

Condolence Message from Rev. Bro. Joseph K M, - General Assistant

FRATELLI DI SANGABRIELE
Casa Generalizia Via Trionfale,
12840 - 00135 ROMA, Italia



Dear Bro. George Kalangod,

Greetings from Rome. I was shocked to hear about the sudden and untimely death of my dear friend, Bro. Gerard Patrick. I offer you, the Brothers of the Province of Yercaud, all his family members, relatives, all his friends and well wishers, my heartfelt condolences. May God give all of you strength and Christian fortitude to bear this great loss.

I had the opportunity to know Bro. Patrick since many decades. A passionate lover of outdoor activities, especially sports and games, he was an inspiration to all his students and colleagues. He had the great

capacity to motivate and inspire others, especially his students and, at the same time, he was a 'no nonsense' man, who never brokered mediocrity. He always believed in confronting people with whom he had issues, rather than cribbing behind their backs, which certainly did not endear him to some.

The full blossoming of Bro. Patrick's personality happened during the past twenty years or so, when he started working with the poor for their upliftment and development. He was as passionate about this mission as he was about sports and games in his earlier days. He also, being in contact with the poor, mellowed down in spirit and became more compassionate, understanding and kind.

My only regret is that I could not communicate with him during the last few months of his life, though I tried. Farewell, my dear loving and encouraging friend. May God receive you with open arms into His paradise.

Bro. K. M. Joseph
Assistant General



Condolence Message from Rev. Bro. Rene Delorme, Former Superior General



Rev. Bro. Rene Delorme with Bro. Patrick

Dear Brother George,

I am deeply saddened by the news of the sudden demise of our Brother Gerard Patrick. Heartfelt sympathies to you, to the members of his beloved Family, to the Brothers of the Province of Yercaud, and to all the Collaborators, Beneficiaries and Friends of Montfort Community Development Society.

I had the privilege of meeting Bro. Patrick on several occasions. I always appreciated the quality of his presence, the honesty of his talk, his sense of commitment, his concern for others, his authentic leadership, his capacity to empower, and his deep love for our Congregation.

Last November, on the day I was leaving India after giving classes in the Novitiates and Pre-Novitiate, he insisted that I should go to MCDS headquarters and spend some time with him. We went on, for nearly three hours, sharing our views on religious life,

mission, education, justice and peace, etc. The St. Thomas Mount Community then joined us for supper. I will always remember and cherish those valuable moments!

Bro. Patrick was deeply and genuinely committed for so many categories of less privileged people. I can easily imagine the Lord telling him something like this: "I was poor, I was hungry, I was thirsty, I was differently able, I needed help, and you took care of me... Come, good and faithful servant, enter the joy of eternal life".

My thoughts are with you and my prayers accompany you, as you lead our Brother to his final resting place. May the grace of the Resurrection be a source of light and hope for all those whose lives have been touched by Bro. Patrick!

**Bro. Rene Delorme,
Former Superior General**



Condolence Message from Rev. Bro. Paulraj, - General Assistant

**FRATELLI DI SAN GABRIELE,
Casa Generalizia, Via Trionfale,
12840 00135 ROMA, Italia**



Bro. Paul Raj

18, June 2015

**Bro. Gerard Patrick- You leave an amazing
legacy behind**

Bro. Patrick knew me from the time I was a young Brother. I came to know from many of his small acts of love, concern and appreciation that he knew me. He manifested it few times and I cherish those moments. I shall share here about what he was as a person. I do not intend to write here about his capacities, abilities, and about his multi-faceted personality but I wish to share what he was as a person.

6

First and foremost I see him as a Brother. He loved his congregation profoundly.

He was a devoted brother/ member / religious/ and friend to many. Looking back, he was always a Brother to all. He boasted of his vocation, of his call to be a Brother of St. Gabriel. He often spoke about it. He was at his happiest when he was surrounded by his Brothers and friends. He loved to spend relaxing and jovial times with the Brothers of the Congregation. Though the nature of his works often times kept him away from the Brothers or the community he was attached to, many found him longing to spend quite and loving moments with the Brothers of different Provinces.

I recall an incident here. In the early nineties there was a National level Conference organized for Brothers in Gannavaram, Andhra Pradesh. The organizers asked for a MC to organize a social evening one day with recreational games and jokes etc. No one volunteered for a while. Then Bro. Patrick took it up. He planned and conducted the social evening. He was so spontaneous and simple in his humour that he made everyone laugh and relax. He was a very a jovial person.

His devotion to his Congregation was the foundation of his actions - the anchor that defined and shaped his life and later on the

MCDS. The inspiration of St. Montfort, his founder motivated him and sustained him. The most memorable we find is the role that spirituality played especially Montfortian Spirituality in his life. Brother Patrick loved his God. We all knew him as a very public person but a committed person whose quiet faith guided his actions, words and deeds. He was a true Brother. He strove to be the best he could be in whatever was entrusted to him - community man, organizer, brother, friend and companion to others.

Bro. Patrick was remarkable in so many ways. He lived his life to the fullest and touched so many people during his time here with us, as evident by the number of people his works, and the MCDS reached. One could also say that what he touched turned to gold because he had a vision which prompted him to act. He planned and organized to the satisfaction of all at least two international conferences. There could be more. One International conference which many may not know about is, the "Asian Conference of Legion of Mary". Though the executive committee did not envisage in the programme a session on "St. Louis Marie Montfort and Legion of Mary", Bro. Patrick pushed through this idea in the conference saying that Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Montfort are inseparable. There was

a Cardinal, many Bishops and many Asian delegates who took part in it; and it was wonderfully organized in Santhome School, Chennai thanks to Bro. Patrick.

As we recall the memory of this great Brother of Jesus, a Hebrew Proverb comes to my mind:

**"Say not in grief: "He is no more", but
live in thankfulness that he was."**

a saying sums up what most of us would have said at the news of the death of our beloved Bro. Patrick: "If we have been pleased with life, we should not be displeased with death, since it comes from the hand of the same master". May God grant him eternal rest.

Dear Bro. Patrick, we are sad that you went away from us very early unannounced, but we are happy that you are in a better place. We will remember you through the many people still left behind whose lives you touched so positively through many means and finally through MCDS. You leave an amazing legacy behind - Community Development. The poor people whom you served are your legacy. Rest in Peace dear Brother.

**Bro. Paul Raj
Assistant General, Rome**



GEORGE CARDINAL ALENCHERRY

THE SYRO-MALABAR MAJOR ARCHIEPISCOPAL CURIA

Mount St. Thomas, P.B. No. 3110, P.O. Kakkanad, Kochi - 682 030, Kerala, India

Tel: (0484) 2424780, 2424768, 2426235; Fax: (0484) 2422727

E-mail: majorarchbishop@gmail.com; majorarchbishop@hotmail.com

ProtoNo. 061912015

April 08, 2015

Dear Bro. George Kalangod,

I am deeply grieved at the sad news that Rev. Bro. Gerard Patrick, a member of the Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel, who breathed his last on April 7, 2015 at the age of 74. He was a zealous missionary, committed religious brother, lover of the poor, skillful manager and an excellent teacher. He has taught in several institutions of the Montfort Brothers in India. I knew him personally during my Episcopal Ministry in the Eparchy of Thuckalay and have deeply esteemed his expertise in the field of education and his spirit of service for the physically challenged people.





Bro. Patrick receiving Life time Award

Bro. Patrick has been active in the field of disability and Integrated Community Development programs for more than twenty five years. He headed the St. Louis Institute for the Deaf and Blind, Adayar, Chennai for 11 years. He set up Higher Secondary sections for the visually impaired and the hearing impaired and a college exclusively for the hearing impaired, affiliated to the University of Madras, the first of its kind in Asia. His experiences with the disadvantaged gave him the impetus to work exclusively for the poor and marginalized. In the year 2013 the join Christian Organizations of Tamil Nadu publicly recognized his immense services for the less fortunate of the State. I now call to mind the good luck I had to preside over that meeting. His untimely death has left a sense of irreparable loss for the Congregation of Montfort Brothers of St Gabriel and the Church in Tamil Nadu. I extend to you, dear Bro. Provincial and to all the Montfort Brothers my sincere condolences on the departure of Bro. Patrick. In joining you and all who mourn him, including his family members, friends, co-workers and students, I commend his soul to the infinite mercy of God our loving Father. May God grant him the Heavenly Reward!

George Cardinal Alencherry
Major Archbishop of the Syro-Malabar Church



Funeral Oration Of Rev. Bro. Provincial Superior

Your Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius, the Bishop of Dharmapuri, Chamakalayil family members of our beloved Bro. Patrick, Rev. Bro. Franky Noronha, the National Chairman, Rev. Bro. Mariannan, Provincial Superior of Trichy Province, Rev. Bro. Clement Kandulna, Provincial Superior of Ranchi Province, Rev. Sr. Lilly, Provincial Superior, Daughters of Wisdom, Brothers, Fathers, Sisters, past students, staff, collaborators and friends of MCDS and my dear friends,

Dear Bro. Patrick,

▲
"God looked around his garden
And found an empty place,
He then looked down upon the earth
And saw your tired face.
He put his arms around you
And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful
He closed your weary eyelids
And whispered, 'Peace be Thine'.
It broke our hearts to lose you
But you didn't go alone,
For part of us went with you
The day God called you home."
▼

heart even as we are celebrating Easter joy of risen Christ, who suffered and died for us. After busy days of work and struggle for 73 years, of which 54 were spent in committed service to God and his children, he has given back the keys of his door and entered the house of his father.

As St. Paul reminds us in 2 Corinthians 5:1, **"For we know that when this tent we live in - our body here on earth - is torn down, God will have a house in heaven for us to live in, a home he himself has made, which will last forever."** At this time of shock and dismay, no words can wipe away our earthly tears and quench the wailings of emotions so human! But the words of Bernard Shaw, give us sufficient reason to cross over the sea of sorrows and enter into the land of eternal rejoicing! **"Death levels all men; but reveals the eminent"**

Bro. Patrick was a 'Phenomenon' by himself - totally different from the ordinary mortals - a unique person who defined the meaning of 'Paradigm shift' by his life of courage and determination especially for the last 20 years. He believed in taking risks and loved to face challenges - Bro. Patrick by his bold step of 'option for the poor' gave a new meaning and

outlook on what it is to be a Religious Brother. He also attempted with success to redefine the meaning of 'sanctity' in a practical way in this modern world where oppressors grab even the little that is the right share of the poor.

'Never say die' was his watchword. He was always bold and daring.

"Cowards die many times before their deaths; the valiant never taste death but once." Bro. Patrick was a perfect example to this Shakespearian dictum!

Bro. Gerard Patrick (Isaac Chamakalayil) was born on September 29, 1941 at Kaipuzha, Kottayam District, to Mr. C. K. Chummar and Mrs. Mariamma Simon of Chamakalayil family. Influenced by his maternal uncle Bro. Eugenius (Mr. Joseph Pathiyil), he joined St. Gabriel Juniorate, Kazipet in 1955. He did his Novitiate at Eachinkadu from 1959-1961 and he made his First Profession on April 12, 1961. From 1961-1963, Bro. Patrick did his teachers' training at Kazipet and taught a year each at St. Joseph's High School, Kothagudem and St. Charles Inter College, Sardhana. From 1965 to 1972, Bro. Patrick was teacher and warden at Montfortschool, Yercaud. As Sports' Secretary, he conducted Sports and Athletic activities for the all round development of his students. In this effort, his students appreciated him very much. He believed in the old adage that the "Battle of Waterloo was fought in the playing fields of Eton". From 1972-1980, he worked at

RSK Higher Secondary School, Trichy. Here too he spared no effort whatsoever in order to bring out the best in his students, especially in the field of Sports and Games. During the year 1983-1984, he worked at St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School, Chengalpattu.

From 1984-1990, Bro. Patrick was the Manager of St. Louis Institute Press, Adyar. He worked hard to improve the Press. During his visit to USA, he contacted Agencies and individuals with the intention of improving the Press as well as St. Louis Institute, Adyar. Bro. Patrick raised funds and added two floors to the Press building.

From 1990-1995, Bro. Patrick was the Superior of the Institute as well as the Manager of the Press. He started a Printing Institute offering a Diploma course in Printing. Further, after much struggle he started a University College affiliated to the Madras University, offering B. Com for the hearing impaired which is the only one of its kind in Asia. During this year, he registered the 'Montfort Community Development Society' (MCDS).

In June 1995, Bro. Patrick was transferred from Adyar to Alandur. From there he started functioning as the Founder-Director of MCDS. When Montfort Youth Centre became free, he moved in there. Later, he got a house on rent in Adyar area itself and the Society started functioning from there without interruption. Starting his career as a teacher,





Bro. Patrick's brother Theophine and Wife



Brother Provincial lays a wreath



Rev. Sr. Innocent , his Sister & Former Superior General of Visitation Order



Bro. Patrick 's Youngest Brother with his wife Babychan & Kunjumole



Sisters of Visitation Order



Bishop Lawrence Pius blesses the body



Priests at the Funeral Mass



Family Members of Bro. Patrick



Brothers from various provinces



MCDS Staff with Mr. Raymond Stark



Sally, Sister of Bro. Patrick



Molly, sister of Bro. Patrick



Bro. Patrick's brother Thommikunju



Bro. Patrick's Sister In Law Baby Lukachan



Jose Kunju, his brother



His brother Jose Kunju and Mary kuttu

he experimented with many opportunities that came his way. Though he did shine in all that he did, his heart was never at rest in the comfort zones of his mission and life... The missionary dynamism of St. Montfort, our Father coupled with his love for the poor and those rejected by the world became his prime concern in life especially during his stay at St. Louis, Adyar. No force on earth could stop him from doing what he thought was the right step in his life. Practically with no purse and little resources following the example of his Master, he embarked on a mission for the least of the brothers and sisters of Christ resulting in the formation of Montfort Community Development Society!

The parable of the mustard seed and the birds of the sky finding place to rest in its shade is the best comparison we can make regarding MCDS and its contribution to the Society, particularly in Chennai.

He loved his students passionately and treated them with dignity and respect. His love for sports and games saw him producing some of the finest Athletes of the Country. But instead of stopping by such snowy woods, he moved onto another realm of total commitment for the poorest of the poor and the marginalized - And that has made the whole difference in his life.

The Montfort Community Development Society plays a multifaceted role in

developmental activities and provides services through its Integrated Community based rehabilitation programmes. Special emphasis is given to people with disabilities and their families. The programme covers awareness creation, prevention, early detection, education, vocational training, health, recreation and socio-economic rehabilitation of the disabled.

MCDS' vision is self-reliance to live in dignity and justice, particularly for women, providing access for the less privileged to progress through learning and training. Its activities include physical development, relief for those affected by natural calamities, care and help for disabled children, child labourers, street children and visually impaired. It also has youth development programmes, mobile clinics, open schools, non-formal education centres, special schools for child labourers and an Orchestra for the blind.

The Society has managed to provide appliances to thousands of disabled persons. It conducts various Literacy and supplementary education programmes in slums to benefit the disabled, as well as able-bodied children. Free medical camps are also organised for them. Bro. Patrick has a very devoted team to support and help him in his mission. He organized financial help from Cardinal Leger Foundation and many other agencies including the State and Central Governments.



I am happy to see among us Mr. Raymond Stark, Chairman of 'Talking Tech Foundation', New Zealand which is also a Partner of the MCDS mission.

Bro. Patrick was a very talented person. He was excellent at relating himself with people. He was good at contacting government officials, political leaders, benefactors, students, and above all, the people in need. He got help from doctors, professors, businessmen, youth leaders, government agencies and foreign agencies.

In, 2003, Bro. Patrick organized an International Seminar in Chennai on Disabilities and Developmental Delays, a Global Perspective. There were a whole lot of dignitaries from India and abroad who participated in this programme. Celebrations marking the Ten Eventful Years of MCDS and its Self Help Groups took place in the San Thome Indoor Stadium on 1st April, 2007. Over 3000 members of the MCDS Self Help Groups and a number of friends and associates participated in this event. Hon'ble Ministers, leaders from various walks of life, Church authorities, MPs and MLAs from the State were also present and appreciated Bro. Patrick and MCDS for its upliftment programmes.

The Golden Jubilee of his Religious Profession was organized on June 25, 2011. In December 2013, he received the Lifetime Achievement award for a life of service to people. This

award given by the Christian Welfare Society of Tamil Nadu was conferred by his Eminence Cardinal George Alencherry, Major Archbishop of the Syro - Malabar Church.

Bro. Patrick had the courage to challenge himself and also quietly question every Brother who is called upon to live a radical evangelical life and give tangible expression to it through their mission according to the Charism of their founder.

**"You are free and totally available,
you can therefore be bold and dynamic
and rush where God beckons
to meet the urgency of men's needs." RL.10**

Through the MCDS activities, Bro. Patrick's contribution to the society attempting to bring about socio-economic equality will never be forgotten. However, I think he has made another equally important contribution by telling loudly to the Brothers of St. Gabriel in India that one does not require degrees, high qualifications or a heavy money bag in order to serve, to strive and to live in the hearts of people.

Bro. Patrick always had the courage to call a spade a spade! He loved his Brothers and never failed to appreciate any good work done by others. He always thought and spoke differently, becoming of a gentleman. His critical attitude and questioning nature were part of a greater vision and the habit of thinking 'big' without being tainted by pettiness and selfishness.





Xavier Kutty, his Brother in law



Daisy Thommikunju



Simon, his Nephew



Rev. Bro. Provincial bids farewell



Rev. Bro. Mariannan, Provincial, Trichy Province



Rev. Bro. K K Thomas



Rev. Bro. Joseph Louis



Rev. Dr. Fr. Abraham

On February 15, 2015 Bro.Patrick had a blackout and was admitted in 'Fortis Malar Hospital'. He was later shifted to Apollo Hospital for an angiogram requiring stents for the 2 blocks. Apparently he recovered well and was very cheerful. When I met him last on 26.02.2015 and later, my telephonic conversations with him indicated that he was recouping fast and preparing to go for yet another gallant bout in the service of the poor.

However, on 7th April at 12 Noon, after attending some work in his office, Bro.Patrick came down to his room for his lunch break. The room door was left open and after 10 minutes, the driver Mr. Thangamani saw him lying motionless in his bed. He alarmed the Secretary and the other staff members; they rushed him to Fortis Malar Hospital. Though they reached the Hospital within 10 minutes, the Doctors declared him dead.

*Dear Bro.Patrick,
at your death,
You have taught us not to postpone our
life as life will not postpone our death.
Death shall not stop for us,
But we can conquer death by 'dying' to ourself!
Your life has been filled with challenges,
You have looked at life differently,
And have taken a road less travelled by others.
You dared to reach the unreachable
Transforming the lives of others, particularly the poor, neglected, abandoned
and those numerous broken men and women.
Your outstretched arms lifted orphans and the differently able...
The blind see and deaf hear,
You are a different type of flower in God's garden
With a hue and colour unseen in the visible spectrum of light.
You have touched the lives of others with all colours of the rainbow!*



In the gloom of the silence around your lifeless body, we can hear you saying to us:

“When I go down to the grave, I can say, like many others, I have finished my day’s work!” But I cannot say, “I have finished my life”. My day’s work will begin again the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight and opens on the dawn. (Victor Hugo) I have got my leave, Bid me farewell, my brothers and sisters! I bow to you all and take my departure. Here, I give back the keys of my door...A summon has come and I am ready for my journey.

With the Montfortian family and your biological family members, along with all your friends, students and well wishers, we say ‘adieu’ to you, dear Brother Patrick with the words of St. Paul, **“You have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. Now there is in store for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to you on that day”.** (2 Tim.4/7,8)

Once again, I take this opportunity to express our appreciation and prayerful condolences to the sorrowful Chamakalayil family, particularly Mr. Thommikunju, his other brothers and sisters who have come from far and wide. I must specially appreciate and thank Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pius for having volunteered and come all the way to preside over this solemn funeral mass and ceremony. I also thank our Novice Master and Novices

for the night vigil and making this funeral service solemn by their singing and effective participation.

From the time Bro.Patrick collapsed in his room on 7th April, Bro. Thomas KK and his Community went out of the way to organize systematically everything in Chennai, especially at Malar and Ramachandra Hospitals. Yesterday, after a special mass and a memorial service at St. Thomas Mount, they accompanied the mortal remains of Bro.Patrick to Eachinkadu. My appreciation to them. Also while expressing my sincere condolences, I must thank the office staff, drivers, programme coordinators, field workers and all other staff members of MCDS for their support and collaboration. I am sure it will continue in the days to come with the heavenly blessings of Bro.Patrick. My appreciation to the Community of Montfort School, Yercaud, all other Brothers from various Provinces, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters and our dear friends who have come together to give a dignified ‘send off’ to our beloved Brother.

Dear Bro.Patrick, we miss you, your relatives, your dear children, staff and collaborators of MCDS miss you, your past students and friends miss you, but it is the poor who will miss you most... our loss is heaven’s gain!

Rev. Bro. George Kalangod

Provincial Superior

Date : 10.04.2015

Venue : Montfort Chapel, Yercaud



Fond Memories...

Dr. Nirmala Alex

Bro. Patrick- a vibrant person, who served the masses unto death. He set the path for the people to follow and he will be ever known and emulated by all of us. I fell deeply sad to miss such a loving and dedicated person, who was always with a smile and his respect for humanity is the highest quality of virtue. A true follower of Christ, who will always be

remembered. May we follow the footprints on the sands of time.

Bro. Patrick was a visionary leader who enlightened the lives of many people. The empowered the underprivileged and gave them hope for a better future. Being a humble person, he treated everyone with dignity and respect.



Dr. Nirmala with Bro. Patrick

He was a channel of blessing to many people and under his expert guidance and professionalism, MCDS grew to greater heights.

Bro. Patrick would identify the innate talent and potential of every individual and give them opportunities to explore and grow into better human beings.

He was a great leader who left a positive mark on anyone who met him. May his soul rest in peace.

**Dr. Nirmala Alex and team,
NSS and YRC co-ordinators and volunteers,
Stella Maris College**



Rev. Bro. Jose Thottiyil



Dear Bro. Joseph Louis,

I am extremely happy to know that you are planning to publish a Souvenir on the dedicated life and mission of Bro. Patrick with special emphasis on his MCDS project. I am sure this Souvenir will highlight the great person Bro. Patrick was and the wonderful mission he did during his life as a Brother of St. Gabriel, particularly at MCDS.

Thank you very much for inviting me to send a short write-up on my personal experience with late Bro. Patrick. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to live with Bro. Patrick. But I did have a number of interactions with him during my visits to Chennai and had the privilege to have a number of interesting discussions with him on various topics. All those discussions gave me a good insight of the man Bro. Patrick was.

I would like to recall to mind one of the interactions during which we discussed some real personal opinions and that revealed to me his anxieties and concerns. One of the concerns he expressed was, "Bro. Jose, We have a number of good schools/ institutions and good Brothers but we hardly have any great

Schools/ Institutions and great Brothers". I told him that it is easier to become good persons, good Brothers, to build up good schools and Institutions because there are set models, rules and norms to be good persons and to build up good institutions where as there are no readymade models, norms or conventions to create great persons, schools and institutions. Great people and institutions are those that are highly creative and innovative, that have clear futuristic vision and big dreams, audacity to take risks, the courage and the will power to face and overcome opposition. Bro. Patrick seemed to be satisfied with my answer. He then asked me another question, "Can good people and institutions become great and if so how"? I replied saying that if people and institutions are willing to change, create a new vision and willing to take risks, they can definitely become great. And this is what 'you have done' by moving out from established good schools and institutions and started this MCDS project with clear vision, big dream and willing to face all opposition, criticism and all the other difficulties accompanying the same.

As I took leave of him I told him, "Bro. Patrick, you are a great Brother of St. Gabriel and I wish you all the best. The Brothers of St. Gabriel will remember you with love and admiration". I could see tears rolling down from his eyes and that was the last glimpse I had of him.

Bro. Jose Thottiyil



Rev. Fr. A. Maria Arul Raja, S. J.



**Empowering the Least with the Best,
Gifting the Broken with Fullness**

Out of four decades of its existence and services in forming the priestly students of the Jesuits of Tamil Nadu, Arul Kadal (AK) Theology Centre in Chennai has been organically associated with Montfort Community Development Society (MCDS) for about two decades. The points of convergence of both MCDS and AK as the people-oriented institutions and the poor-centred charisms could be briefly spelt out as follows:

- Empowering the Least with the Best
- Healing the Broken with Gentle Care
- Good-News-ing the Vulnerable with Compassion

While seeking to accompany God's own people fragmented and strewn across the slums of the city of Chennai and attempting to enable them to stand on their own with the confidence of education and courage of health, we identified the following expressions of the personal charism of Brother Patrick:

- Contemplative Action
- Compassionate Understanding
- Committed Accompaniment

That is why the Jesuits of AK Community have been sending their young brothers each year to be groomed in the school of MCDS radiating the spirit of "Empowering the Least with the Best and Gifting the Broken with Fullness".



Bro. Patrick with Fr. Maria Arul Raja



While facing the disabilities encountered by the impoverished people in their day-to-day context, Brother Patrick had been envisioning a bright future for them simultaneously through the eyes of the Creator God as well as the eyes of the struggling masses of people. This is how he could come out with programmes for developing skills for the differently-abled people and for ensuring the comprehensive medi-care of the slum dwellers. Whenever the young ones or the co-workers or the poor approached him, he affirmed each one of them with a deep sense of belonging. Such moments of empowerment had been helpful for many to face further challenges in life with determined heart. MCDS has been extravagantly generous with others especially while feeding them with sumptuous dinner. All visitors to MCDS will bear witness to the spirit of profuse hospitality of Brother Patrick with sparkling smile with brightening hope. The days of his own birth day and the Christmas celebrations

had been all along great moments of genuine celebrations evoking the spirit of self-gift to one another generously shared with great joy.

Brother Patrick's entire life could be described as a rhythmic precision with harmonious unison with the Creator. His personal prayer, writing letters, physical exercises, personal conversations, or apostolic networking had been organized in perfect harmony with predictable regularity. At this juncture we in Arul Kadal are gladdened to remember him as a compassionate friend of the poor struggling to remove their disabilities with resilient search. We rejoice at his ability to graciously affirm the collaborators for enlivening the victims of history. We take delight in learning from this cheerful sage the spirit of motherly care-frontation and fatherly compassion. We seek to continue to raise the broken from the debris of despair to celebrate life with all its elegance.

Fr. A. Maria Arul Raja, S. J.

"Life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one. In the depths of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; and like seeds dreaming beneath the snow, your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity."

Kahlil Gibran



BROTHER PATRICK

HE DARED AND CARED FOR THE LESS PRIVILEGED

Bro. Patrick was dear to us all! Truly he had become part of us and we part of him. But that day came when we tearfully bade adieu to him. Through this appreciation we affirm that Bro. Patrick is not a past memory but a living 'light' more radiant and challenging than when he walked with us. We shall ever cherish the unique person of Bro. Patrick, his life, and mission of which MCDS is the 'blazing' last chapter, his lesson and legacy. The question 'on the future of MCDS', I have this from his own lips: "I have no answer... I wish only to blaze a trail. Would someone continue the trail...?" Bro. Patrick was unique and different in many ways. He had convictions and was fully himself with his life and ministry.

Dear Friend, now being nearer to Jesus your Master whom you followed and served more passionately in the 'last, least and lost' of God's children, continue to blaze the trail you began... In this short tribute I would like to appreciate and en-flesh the name "P-A-T-R-I-C-K" as an 'acronym'.



Bro. Patrick with Bro. Ignatius

P: PASSIONATE! An outstanding trait of Bro. Patrick was that when he sets his heart on something, he could be trusted to go all out passionately and no looking back. It is both ancient and modern manthra for success: “follow your passion”. Yes, this passion kept him true in his religious vocation as a Montfort Brother. It is with the same passion that he took his ministry among students/youth. In his students and youth he injected contagious enthusiasm and inspiration! How you gelled with them on those play-fields, on those scouting treks, picnic trails, wholesome fun and frolic, and lastly on the dark corners and slums of Chennai to shape the ‘non-persons’ into proud and responsible citizens! A ministry that you invented!

A: ACTIVIST! In the ‘robust’ sense of the word Bro. Patrick was a pro-active person, an action oriented planner. For reaching a set goal, he believed in good planning and execution to perfection. He was intelligent but entertained no intellectual pretensions, and would not suffer aimless intellectual paralysis of analysis! He was more gifted with a practical leadership and a tough mind. Action please!

T: THINK BIG! This was Bro. Patrick’s hall mark! Pettiness had no place in his horizon. Endowed with large eyes, he was able to see the bigger picture of things, plan big when it came to doing ‘good’ for the needy. A brave heart to venture into the unknown and to walk the unknown path for a worthy cause like the ‘MCDS’ saga tells us. In this creative venture, he was able to enlist the good will and joyful participation of people from every layer of society, and from far and near. They all became willing partners in that noble venture. Patrick was a tenacious and tough minded friend of children/ youth, and a good judge of men and matters, and a flare for public relations.

R: REALIST! I would not use the overloaded word ‘revolutionary’ for our Brother. Rather, Bro. Patrick was a Realist who was ‘resourceful’, ‘responsive’, ‘responsible’ and ‘pro-active’ person. In short, he was not a silent spectator of the tragic drama of the “less privileged” brothers and sisters of our society. He dared to care for the blind-deaf-mute, and the faceless, nameless, homeless, friendless and powerless “Children of the Lesser God”. He took responsibility,



realistically responded with all the resources at his reach. We are certain you had a beautiful welcome by the “God of the Poor”, with the words, “Well done good and faithful servant... Now enter into the joy of the Lord”.

I: IMAGINATIVE! As imagination is a great asset, Bro. Patrick’s life and actions speak louder than our poor words can enumerate. Assuring ‘human dignity’ to those who have none is work of deep intuitive imagination. Moreover, sharing in their indignity in practical solidarity was nobler than shedding crocodile tears! He used his imagination well. His Staff and other collaborators will bear witness to his organizational skills, compassion and courageous in seeking solutions to problems.

C: CARING! A great Brother and good fun to be with him, are the first words on the lips of his former students and youth whom he mentored. One who stood with them, understanding, kind, inspiring and enthusiastic; but he also meant business! This is compassionate caring. His ministry with the blind-deaf-mute too was marked by his determination to improve their learning and training, and welfare. The opening of St. Louis College Chennai, for the deaf is due to his imagination, vision and daring. He dared to care and all barriers moved one by one.

K: KEEPER! “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Cain asked God. It is a haunting question... Am I not their keeper? Brother Patrick dared to answer this troubling question positively in his own personal way by giving his 100% for the welfare of youth and the less privileged. This took him far from the safety and comfort of established institutions into the underbelly of the sprawling city of Chennai, at least to a degree of sharing their lot and to work with them, to bring them hope and emancipation. I see in this, in a true sense, nobility and selflessness. Bro. Patrick ‘dared to care’ for the less privileged brothers and sisters of ours. He now challenges us not only to continue his mission, but to go beyond! Do we dare to care?

Bro. Ignatius, Montfort School,
Anakkara, Kerala



A LOVING TRIBUTE TO OUR DEAR BRO PATRICK

Dear Brother Patrick,

I know you are enjoying the most beautiful life with the Lord in Heaven. How fortunate you are to see the Lord face to face. You are blessed indeed to have passed this earth with many souls who bear you in their hearts and minds. Many have seen you, as the image of God as you reached out to share God's love and compassion.

Patrick means noble and your life was truly a message of nobility. You shared dignity and love with the less privileged, accepted the marginalized and silenced, and educated them to lead a noble life fearing none.

Brother, you led a principled and virtuous life through your commitment to humanity and seldom compromised on values and ethics. You stood up for your convictions and served the poor with passion and compassion. You were passionate about social work, principled yet accepted the ordinary, had big ideas but never imposed them on others. You seldom gave orders yet there was hardly anything left unfinished. You spoke less yet many listened to you, you listened patiently and many wanted to speak to you. You had great ideas and expectations but practiced the philosophy of team work and team spirit.

Your... MCDS served the poor with love and compassion.

Your ...MCDS trained many youth to be skilled and strong.

Your...MCDS educated Social Work professional/students about the self-worth and dignity of individuals.

Your...MCDS cultivated standards and confidence on Human Rights and Privileges.

You and MCDS are synonymous and inseparable; those who entered MCDS have seen a person full of passion for mission and compassion for fellow human beings. You always welcomed everyone and none would go without experiencing your kind hospitality.

Your life was a message of "inclusion" and "adoption". Yes, you encompassed every one and embraced all circumstances with ease and gave your best to the people around. You committed yourself to the cause of the poor.

I never heard you prodding over the past or any mistakes of others; you were an optimistic individual who thought only of greater good.

As I stood on that last day to bid good bye to you I gazed reflectively and folded my hands to thank you for all the blessings that you brought to the people and the Social





Bro. Patrick with Sr. Lourthu Mary

Work profession. I join the 72 million people of this state and with tears and folded hands say, Thank You! You have given your best to the poor and the needy and I am sure you are enjoying the best and the very best as a reward- Peace and Joy in your Heavenly Home.

You were truly an extraordinary person who lived an ordinary life. Thank you and Pray for us.

Dr. Sr. Lourthu Mary, fmm, Department of Social Work, Stella Maris College, Chennai-600086

As I stood on that last day to bid good bye to you I gazed reflectively and folded my

hands to thank you for all the blessings that you brought to the people and the Social Work profession. I join the 72 million people of this state and with tears and folded hands say, Thank You! You have given your best to the poor and the needy and I am sure you are enjoying the best and the very best as a reward- Peace and Joy in your Heavenly Home.

You were truly an extraordinary person who lived an ordinary life. Thank you and Pray for us.

Dr. Sr. Lourthu Mary,
FMM, Department of Social Work,
Stella Maris College, Chennai-600 086



HATS off PAT



As I started to pen a few lines about Bro. Patrick, I was overcome with acute nostalgia for my days with him in Montfort Yercaud and in St. Thomas Mount Chennai. I was fortunate to be associated with him in many of his projects and his support in difficult times was so remarkable.

Integrity was his hallmark. Dedication, magnanimity, decency, leadership and wittiness were his distinctive marks. Bro. Patrick was one of a kind with such nobility that he embraced everyone to his fold. The love he evinced to support the less privileged, the personal uniqueness of his works, the role he played in upgrading St. Louis Adyar etc..., displays as a testimony for what he was perpetrating and is a model to emulate for people with similar bend of mind. As in any other system he had to surmount many

mountains to serve the needy in every stage of the development and expansion. His ability to think differently and see things that others have not seen and apply it for the growth of the needy was his uniqueness that made him strive and shine. His inner most thoughts and aspirations were well spell out clearly in his MCDS News & Views which came out at equal intervals which we will miss now. The power of partnership programme in which he connected with the leading educationalists, politicians, government officials and the public demonstrated his vivacious way of getting them to his side to make them realize their true responsibility towards the less privileged. The unified sports he organized incorporating school students with the differently abled students made a great impact on the student community. Every one of them felt delighted to be associated with such humanitarian projects and extended their wholehearted support.





Bro. Patrick with Dr. Abdul Kalam, Bro. George Vazhayil and other Brothers

Dear Pat, we miss you now, our hearts are painful, and as events pass in every field of your activity we miss you more. Your infectious dynamism, caring smile, relaxed face; no one can fill your place. Your frown was so penetrating that we could get ourselves straight without your uttering a word that we will always remember. We miss you in so many ways: we miss the jokes you used to cheer in any gathering, and when we do recall, it's then that we miss you most of all. Nothing can ever take away the love a heart holds dear, fond memories linger on, reminiscences keeps you nearer. Looking back with nostalgia, upon the road you trod, we bless the time we had with you and leave the rest with God. Those were the days.... we loved, recollected, and treasure in our memory.

Where the atmosphere of neglect and abandonment was almost obvious, your heart

poured out tenderness and gentleness in abundance. You were gracious in accepting the defeated to retain their dignity and supported them to live a life of self-worth. Like a river that takes in anything and continues to flow unaffected, your life progressed with such elegance and refinement surpassing all mediocrity and meanness. As your golden heart stopped beating, many hearts went bleeding and created a reality that each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry. In living your life to the fullest, you enriched immeasurably everyone's life. You always identified something good in everyone. Your accomplishments will never be forgotten but will be cherished by the ones you loved and served. R I P Pat.

**Bro. George Vazhayil,
Principal, Xavier College,
Ba, Fiji Islands.**



Lynda Suave at a training session at MCDS



Acting as the Asian program manager for the Leger Foundation, I was truly blessed and privileged to have encountered and worked with Brother Patrick. Over the years, we met on several occasions in India where we collaborated and monitored MCD projects. From the time we met at the Chennai airport, I knew that I could count and rely on Brother Patrick for almost anything. Along with his devoted team, our encounters with various groups of elders, women, children, students and young athletes to discuss the benefits of the MCD's services and activities, were always very prosperous and stimulating. All were extremely grateful for Brother Patrick's support and presence. He was a true motivational leader and social entrepreneur; his actions were beyond his words. A truly energetic individual, with a great sense of pragmatism and effectiveness.

I particularly recall during a working session in Warangal, in the presence of more than 30 project managers, Brother Patrick confirmed me that he would spearhead the cultural program that was to be held on that same evening. He quickly established and put forth an action plan which included: coordinating

the band, the stage, the dinner, the program, the sound system and many more activities that needed to be completed for that same evening and in such a short timeframe. At 9pm that evening everything was in place and ready, he even found time to add some of his own humour into the program.

We had many discussions regarding development between the North and South and he was always exceptionally grateful to the Cardinal Leger Foundation for all of the support given to the MCD program over the years. I ensured that his messages and gratitude were extended to the stakeholders and donators in Montreal, Québec and Canada. When I reflect back on my time spent in South East Asia, the first thing that comes to mind is Brother Patrick, a distinguished colleague and a compassionate friend who inspired me both personally and professionally.

This is a profound loss for everyone and anyone who came across Brother Patrick's path, the memories will be treasured and forever remain.

**Yours truly,
Lynda Suave, Canada**

Priya George with Bro.Patrick at CBR centre



Rev. Brother Patrick, is well known for his selfless service and dedication to the community especially the differently abled, children, youth, women and elderly. A testimony to this commitment to mention a few, are the innovative programmes initiated by him, the numerous centres he set up, the number of women he empowered through Self Help Groups, the widespread network of professionals he has drawn to assist and a team of loyal and motivated staff he nurtured over the years.

To us in the field of Social Work education and practice, Brother was always very supportive. He understood and valued the profession. Student trainees from many Schools of Social Work in India and abroad have grown and benefitted from the training, supervision and experiences at MCDS.

Brother Patrick was very systematic and meticulous in his planning. He was instrumental in organizing several community led programmes which were beneficial, informative and well attended. The programme on International Women's Day is a popular and a very looked forward to event. To be seated among 3000 women and children, watch their performances and enjoy the fellowship has been an unforgettable and amazing experience.

Personally, I am very grateful to Brother Patrick for giving me the opportunity to be part of the MCDS family during my Doctoral Research. The space and assistance provided to me at the CBR Centre at Kannagi Nagar, Chennai made a study of the kind possible. The support helped me to go beyond research. I was able to reach out to many persons in need there making my work both meaningful and an enriching experience.

Rev. Brother Patrick inspired and spread happiness by his powerful leadership, simplicity, kindness, unassuming nature and generosity. He will always be fondly remembered for his contribution to the education, upliftment and empowerment of persons and communities.

May his soul rest in peace.

May God guide and bless Bro. Joseph Louis and the MCDS team as they continue to do the good work, touch lives and make a difference.

Priya George, Ph. D
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Social Work
Stella Maris College, Chennai



Dear Br. Patrick, TANKER FOUNDATION salutes you.

Our association with M C D S for 3 years had been a wonderful Chapter. The awareness programmes on kidney disease that we conducted for your SHG women were really very meaningful. We appreciate the system with which you would send us the monthly schedule for 12 months with dates, and venue would really strengthen our confidence.

There had never been any deviation from this schedule. You had also trained your people (Mrs. Nazreth) to operate in such a system that there would be a reminder call the previous day and people present there (Mrs. Raji) to guide us to the venue.

You were also very supportive to conduct one such programme for the male SHGs members which turned out to be a runaway success. We also conducted a screening camp.

All these had proved to us your passion to bring health care to the last person in Chennai. We appreciate your systematic planning and execution and the trained support system that you have kept in place. And all this you did with a smiling face and kind words.

In TANKER FOUNDATION the association with M C D S will be cherished eternally.

May you continue to shower your blessings on us for the rest of our days to come.

Rajalakshmi Ravi,
Head Tanker Foundation - Awareness and Prevention



Riza Ibrahim FRCS

Dear Rev. Brother Joseph,

It is with great sadness that I heard about the passing of our beloved Bro. Patrick. My condolences to Bro. Patrick's family, the Brothers of St. Gabriel and the wider Montfort family.

Brother Patrick, I can honestly say, has had one of the biggest influences in my life and outlook. Not only was he very enthusiastic and encouraging about sporting endeavours but he exuded positivity. If there is one thing that I have learned from him, it was to look for the positives in any aspect of life. I have never heard him complain or moan if things did not work as well as planned, either in the sports field or life in general. He always asked us to learn from every experience and move forward and strive to do better.

Bro. Patrick was firm but fair. His sly smile when he liked what was happening were worth a thousand words. He carried on sowing his positive outlook to life and helped many less fortunate children that he looked after achieve what they desired. He helped all of us "hitch our wagons to a star".

I am sure he is continues to bring joy and positivity to all up where he is now. May his soul rest in peace. He will be sorely missed.

Warm regards.

Riza. Ibrahim FRCS,

Consultant Vascular and Endovascular Surgeon, Clinical Director for Vascular & Endovascular Services, The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, BMI Highfield, BMI Priory

"Of course you don't die. Nobody dies. Death does not exist. you only reach a new level of vision, a new realm of consciousness, a new unknown world."

Henry Miller



Mr. Walter Ulrich



I met Brother Patrick more than 10 years ago. He told me about MCDS in the most colorful words. His stories were of such intensity. I was happy to fund the “Dental Clinic on Wheels”, one of Brother Patrick’s many projects.



Mr. Walter Ulrich with Bro. Patrick

A few years later, when I was on a business trip to Sri Lanka, I simply had to make a stop in Chennai to see the various initiatives of MCDS for myself.

I was amazed by the great projects Brother Patrick had initiated, especially for socially deprived people, considering what little money he had at his disposal. He clearly had surrounded himself with a great and motivated team. They worked tirelessly to help and support people.

When I visited Brother Patrick last year, he was as full of ideas and zest for action as ever. Not without pride, but full of humility he showed me an award he had received from his bishop to honor his work. He did not seek such decorations; however, they served him as an indication for being on the right path.

Brother Patrick would always act selflessly, as he expected any true Christian to do. He was a gifted speaker, making his important work known to a great number of people, not only in Chennai or India, but throughout the world. He was a master of finding supporters for his cause. I was easily persuaded to donate for MCDS. Not once but regularly, to keep his projects running and help Brother Patrick help as many people as possible. He worked sedulously for what he believed in and for those who looked up to him.

His charisma had an undeniable effect on those around him. He was a role model, a true Christian, and he will be beyond his earthly existence.

His achievements will be an incentive to many to continue his valuable work in his honor. It is through this that his spirit will live on. Brother Patrick left us far too early. But I am sure he found his place in another world.

May his great soul find eternal peace!

**Walter Ulrich,
Zukunftstiftung, Germany (Funding Partner)**





Glen Chatelier

(Montfort School-1971-1978)

Director of the Office of International Affairs

Assumption University of Thailand

(A Thai Gabrielite Institution)

Bangkok, Thailand

In Memory of a Gabrielite Saint-like Soul

The days I spent in my childhood

With a saint of simplicity and practicality

Come flooding into my memory

Across the green misty hills of Yercaud

On the brown hazy play fields of Montfort

When in our childish ways we brat-like students

Ran into the arms of Brother Pat

A white robed figure, always with a gleam in his eye

With his cassock pockets full of candies

And a smile upon his face

He with his fellow brothers

Moulded our thinking, framed our sportsmanship

Taught us in class and watched us play football

Showed us the Tarzan movies, made us laugh with Mickey Mouse and Goofy flicks

Was stern in his warnings, genuine in his concern

Showed us Louis Marie de Montfort's charism

Prayed the rosary with us every day



*Kept up with our progress
As we grew from cradle to bicycles
From the hills of Yercaud to the Universities of repute
Brother Patrick with ever with us
His mind with quick thoughts, his hands slapping our backs
His camera always handy for a "nice photograph"
His memory reminding us of the scratches from the lantana briers
His prayers always with us
On our visits to Chennai, his hospitality and tours of the facilities
For the blind, the deaf, the dumb
His projects for the less fortunate, his lucid planning for the destitute
These taught us that life, though wretched, is still opportune for care
That we could in our ways, progress, but care for the poor
A Spiritualist, a practical religious, a Saint
Who lived that our world become better
Blessings be with your soul
Good Brother Patrick
May God rest you, and receive you
As his cherished son
May you sleep the eternal slumber
May Christ as he is risen
Receive you as his Brother
May Mother Mary Cherish you
May we who live on
Live on for your work
That the Giant you were for charity
Help reduce the cares of the poor.
The hills of Yercaud will receive your body
As their son
May all the flowers of the verdant soil
Blossom in Thanks for your life
God rest Your soul.*



Rev. Bro. Lawrence Joseph SG.



I knew Bro. Patrick, when he was teacher in Montfort School, Yercaud from 1965-1972. . He was asked to look after sports and games. As Sports' Secretary, he had much contact with the students, who appreciated him much. From 1972-1980, he worked at RSK Higher Secondary School, Trichy. Here too he showed much interest in Sports and Games. From 1980-1983, he worked in Montfort School. He always looked after sports and games and he had good influence over the students, especially the senior ones.

From 1984-1990, Bro. Patrick was the Manager of St. Louis Institute Press, Adyar. He paid a visit to Canada and USA. He met people and contacted Agencies with the intention of improving the Press as well as St. Louis Institute. He raised funds and expanded and added two floors to the Press building. From 1990-1995, Bro. Patrick was the Superior of the Institute as well as the Manager of the Press. The Press was expanded and a Printing Institute offering a Diploma course in Printing was started. Further a college offering B.Com. was started for the hearing impaired. Further he registered Montfort Community Development Society.

In June 1995, Bro. Patrick was transferred from Adyar to Alandur. From there he started to function as the Founder-Director of MCDS. Later, he got a house on rent in Adyar area itself and the Society started functioning from there. The Society plays a multifaceted role in developmental activities and provides services through its integrated community based rehabilitation programme. Special emphasis is given to people with disabilities and their families. The programme covers awareness creation, prevention, early detection, education, vocational training, health, recreation and socio-economic rehabilitation.



MCDS' vision is self-reliance to live in dignity and justice, particularly for women. It has concern and care for the disabled and provides for the less privileged access to progress through learning and training. Its activities include physical development, tsunami relief, care for disabled children, help for school going children, child labourers, street children, the aged, visually impaired children, youth development, mobile clinics, open school, women empowerment, etc. The Society has managed to provide appliances to the disabled. Literacy programme in slums, free medical camps, supplementary education to benefit the disabled as well as able-bodied children, non-formal education, special education centres, training disabled people, study centres for poor children, special schools for child labourers, groups inculcating hygiene, orchestra of the blind, etc., are the different activities of the Society. Bro. Patrick has a very devoted team to help him. He also publishes a very informative magazine called MCDS News. Bro. Patrick gets help from Cardinal Leger Foundation, other agencies and from the Government. In December 2014, Bro. Patrick received Life Achievement Award for a life of service to people. This award was given Christian Welfare Society of Tamilnadu. He was a very talented person. He was excellent at relating himself with people. He was good at contacting government officials, political leaders, and people like doctors, professors, businessmen, youth leaders, government agencies, foreign agencies, etc.. His death is a great loss. May his soul rest in peace!

Bro. Lawrence Joseph SG.

"What happens after death is so unspeakably glorious that our imagination and our feelings do not suffice to form even an approximate conception of it. The dissolution of our time-bound form in eternity brings no loss of meaning."

The man who accomplished much



The Child Rights Seminar organized in 2006 by the Montfort Community Development Society (MCDS) superbly succeeded in creating awareness of the atrocious conditions many children are subjected to, and how these evils can be minimized, if not eliminated.

WHAT has been unearthed weeks ago in NOIDA -- 20 odd skulls of children who were abducted, sexually abused and murdered -- is only the tip of the massive ice-berg of the crimes against children perpetrated all over the country. This revelation unquestionably goes to confirm the worth and necessity of the type of seminar held by the MCDS.

What initially struck an outsider like me was the organization of the seminar. It was meticulously managed. There was no confusion or delay with regards to accommodation, transport, food or events taking place. Everything was taken care of from the time the participant landed in Chennai till his departure. I must have seen about fifty volunteers in different departments running the show taking care of every little detail.



The Superior General seen with the Minister for Social Welfare,
Mrs. P. A. Aruna and others.



The air-conditioned auditorium was packed to capacity with about 400 participants mainly engaged in child welfare schemes. They came from all over the country and outside. I met and talked to guests from Canada, France, Tanzania, Philippines, Nepal, and Denmark.

As for the resource persons and panelists, there were a whopping 30 of them -- mostly the very best that could be found in the area of their expertise. It speaks much of the reputation of the MCDS Director Bro. Patrick that no resource person refused to honour his invitation.

Our Superior General Rev. Bro. Rene Delorme rescheduled his travel plan of going to Rome not to miss the inauguration session and pay his tribute to MCDS and the Child Rights seminar. The Executive Director of the Cardinal Leger Foundation of Canada was there with his wife for the entire three days freely meeting participants and the staff of the MCDS. There were VIPs such as the minister for Social Welfare and celebrities like Walter Devaram, ex-DGP who was in charge of capturing forest brigand Veerappan, and the surviving sibling of the Keelor Brothers famed for shooting down Pakistani fighter planes in the late sixties, just to mention a few.

A very pertinent film 'Tamanna' was premiered by filmmaker Raja Dey. Another two animation films exposed the shameful exploitation of children normally guarded as secret. An evening of musical entertainment by a team of visually challenged associates of the MCDS enthralled the otherwise sober audience who broke out into spontaneous tapping and clapping. A few even took to the floor vigorously boogie-boogieing.

THE RANGE OF GOOD WORK carried out by the MCDS among the poor, the aged, the illiterate, the physically and mentally challenged, and the homeless tsunami-affected are impressive as they are heartrending.

It must also be admitted that Bro. Patrick's success is very much sustained by his personal charisma, the aptitude to communicate and to network with people who matter -- teachers, doctors, institutional heads, officials as well as volunteers and sponsors from abroad. His ability to keep them highly motivated and united makes them proud of giving their best. He rightly believes and projects MCDS as a humanitarian endeavour of excellence. Image does matter.

We lament saying, "there's no personnel; there's no money!" And here is a Brother, who is never short of personnel when situation demands. Nor is he short of funds to carry out the mission of compassion.

I am reminded of Mother Teresa who went out with hardly any money or assistance to serve the dying destitutes in the streets of Calcutta. In a very short time, she managed to have all the money she wanted to carry out her work around the globe. I also remember the time she appealed to the sponsors not to send her any fund for some time because she had too much! During the Tsunami that killed lakhs of people and made many more homeless, I rang up to Bro. Patrick to know if he was in need of fund to assist the affected. His honest and confident reply was, "I have the problem of plenty" Bro. Patrick and his MCDS is an example of what ONE person can accomplish in transforming the society or bringing comfort to the afflicted.



K. DORAISWAMY, MIE

International Umpire & Official,
Judge – World Cup Jrs. Signapore
Event Manager, World Winter Olympics S. Korea
National Sports Commentator – AIR and TV, ESPN
Email : doriswamy176@yahoo.com

30, Coconut Grove, 12th Street
Tansi Nagar, Velachery, Chennai – 42.
Mob : +91 – 98844 56497

A TRIBUTE TO EVER LIVING LEGEND, BRO. PATRICK SQ.

I hail from the Queen of Hill Stations, Nilgris and proud to be an old student of St. Anthony's High School Coonoor, managed by the Montfort Brothers. While I was on an assignment at small Arms Factory TIRUCHI in 1970 I met Bro. Patrick at RSK TIRUCHI. I realized that together we could take sports to a Global level. We planned a high order of development in sports.

He was a mentor in Sports and an Administrator in the Social Service. MCDS under the leadership of Bro. Patrick started functioning from 1996. Ever since its inception, it has been involved in various activities for the less privileged people, children with disabilities, children rescued from child labour and opportunity for the youth, women empowerment, care of aged and innovations in the Health care.



On my return from U S A, he entrusted me to take care of catering during 'THE CHILD FIRST AND ALWAYS' International seminar on child rights. I admired his Administrative skills and personal care of the people. Bro. Patrick had his way of establishing rapport with the Police, Educationists, Central and

State Govt. officers and the poor, the poorest of the poor.

Dr. Anbumani Ramdass, Vikram the Film Actor, & Balasubramaniam Adithyan, and Roger Binny the Indian Cricketer are Bro. Patrick's old students.



Andrew Stark, New Zealand

"I first had the opportunity to meet Brother Patrick back in 2007 when I was a volunteer at the transit school in Foreshore Estate. This was an eye opener experience, working with the child labour kids and learning about the many different projects that MCDS run. This is where my interest with India began. I later returned in 2010 for a university project and many times after that for business. I had the privilege to introduce Bro Patrick to Ray Stark and his TALKING tech foundation.

Every time I returned to India, the highlight was always visiting MCDS where Bro Patrick who would drive around the different projects

in Chennai and take me to Dosa restaurants. My last visit to MCDS was with my parents Rosemary and David. He took us on another great tour around Chennai in his Jeep passing on his knowledge of the fascinating Indian culture and the underprivileged.

Over the past 8 years I've had a great friendship with Brother Patrick and I will never forget what he has taught me and the opportunities he has provided. MCDS is a fantastic organization and I look forward to seeing the continuous results which started from the hard work and commitment from Brother Patrick."



**Andrew Stark, New Zealand
with Bro. Patrick**

**Raymond Stark Mathew &
Andrew with Bro. Patrick**





AMBUJ SHARMA, IAS
 ADDITIONAL SECRETARY
 Tele : 23063733
 Fax: 23061785
 Email: ambuj.sharma@nic.in

भारत सरकार
 भारी उद्योग एवं लोक उद्यम मंत्रालय
 भारी उद्योग विभाग
 नई दिल्ली-110 011
 GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
 MINISTRY OF
 HEAVY INDUSTRIES & PUBLIC ENTERPRISES
 DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY
 NEW DELHI-110 011

Message

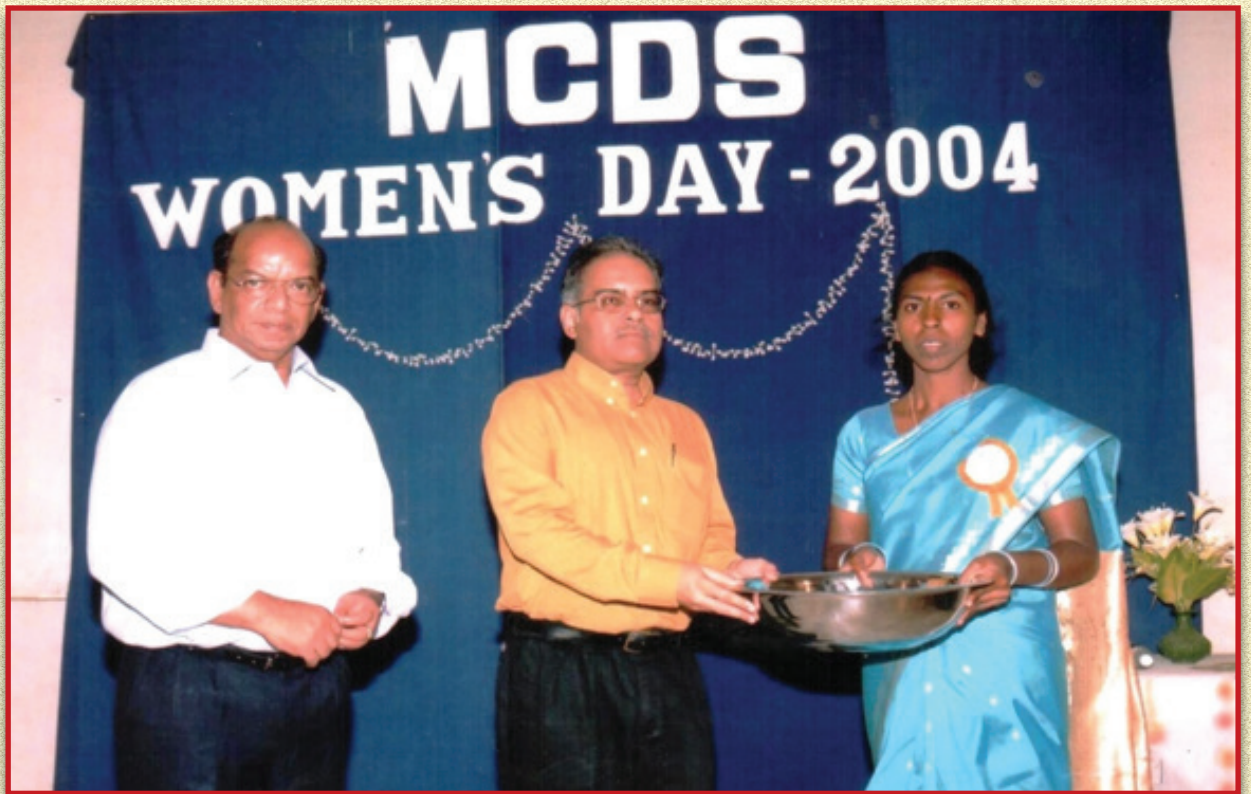
I had a close association with Rev. Brother Patrick (Late), the Founder Director of Montfort India Development Society (MCDS) for over a decade, particularly during 2001-2006, during my tenure as Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board (TNSCB) and Commissioner of Municipal Administration at Chennai. Rev. Brother Patrick worked tirelessly with us in several path-breaking social development projects in a number of slum rehabilitation project sites in and around Chennai. I can particularly recall his extraordinary labour, in taking up a number of such projects at Okkium Duraipakkam where TNSCB was in the process of rehabilitating over 20,000 slum families from Chennai at that time. But for his selfless service and untiring efforts this scheme would not have been successful. He won everyone's heart by his soft demeanour and selfless dedicated service of the poor and disadvantaged at all times. I express my profound grief and sorrow at his untimely demise which is a huge personal loss too. May his noble soul rest in peace.

(Ambuj Sharma)



Mr. Ambuj Sharma, I A S with Bro. Patrick





Mr. Ambuj Sharma, I A S with Bro. Patrick during Women's Day Celebration



Mr. Nagaraj Sundaram,

Dear Bro. Joseph Louis,

I regret to write you under such a sad circumstance. I was a Boarder in RSK, Trichy since 1975 and was under the care of Bro. Patrick and others. I have stayed in touched with him over the last 40 years. I spoke to him after his surgery and found him to be in great spirits. Three days before his passing, I called him again just to check on him. It was a great conversation that lasted more than 20 minutes and asked me about my work, family and our friends. Interestingly, he reminded me to keep a balance between work and family.

Over this long period of time, Bro. Patrick was a key source of inspiration to me. I learned from him at a very young age to be the best at whatever I seek to do. He was an innovator and never settled for the status quo. Something I aspire to in everything I do. I still remember how he and a small team of teachers hosted an All India Sports Championship in RSK – simply phenomenal. Bro. Patrick's drive and energy was also a great source of inspiration to me and many of my fellow RSK Boarders.



Mr. Nagaraj Sundaram and his Family with Bro. Patrick

Over the last ten years, it was always fun to visit him and learn about his work with the needy in Chennai. Truly impressive what he has accomplished for those in need. I have learned from this and use it as a constant reminder to help every year even in small way to those who are in need in our community. Over the years, my wife and kids have met Bro. Patrick. Earlier in 2015, we visited him Adyar and had lunch with him. I have attached couple of pictures from my trips.

My family and I miss him. We will plan to visit you during our next trip to Chennai. We wish you the best in the leadership of MCDS. If I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to call on me. I have attached my contact information for future reference.

Best Regards,

Nagaraj Sundaram, RSK student

Rev. Bro. John Baptist



BRO. PATRICK

(A Brother who used well every talent God gave him)

I could classify Bro. Patrick's career into three periods.

The first is his life in Montfort and RSK teaching the rich boys.

The second his life in Adyar where there were "challenged" children as well.

The third is when he put his maximum to help the poor and the challenged.

I wish to speak about the second.

It was a sudden change for him to be in the company of the challenged ones. He did not want to feel as an expert and wanted the help of others. He contacted me. I was at Pallavaram. He wanted me to go to Adyar every day to give a helping hand to the blind section. Many Brothers were wondering why the auto- rickshaw should go such a long distance to take me to Adyar and take me back to Pallavaram. Though I was in the office, I made a number of teaching aids in plywood.

He was much interested in listening to what the Brothers in France have done to the "challenged" to make them normal citizens of the country. I spoke to him about Bro. Louis who many years after his death is still considered as an authority in the education of the "hearing impaired." I spoke to him about Bro. Thomas who was the eye and ear of thousands of deaf- blind children. Some of his students received awards. We may be quite surprised that Bro. Thomas educated the children through the only sense the sense of touch. He even had correspondence with them through Braille.

I wrote all these to show, that once Bro. Patrick puts his hand on something he will do his best to make it a success. His idea was to make Brothers of St. Gabriel experts in the education of the "challenged people". When the Government of India introduced integrated education in 1975 we had it in Santhome in 1962. Most of our schools have introduced inclusive education from 2015. Bro. Patrick had a hand in it. May his soul rest in peace.

Fr. Abraham Kottooparampil



My association with Bro. Patrick began in 1959 when we were together at Eachinkadu Novitiate, later together for 4 years at Montfort school, Yercaud, a time when our relationship became very close and while I was at Campion, Trichy from 1975-79, he was at RSK and we used to meet often. After my ordination in 1982, we used to meet frequently at Chinglepet, Adayar and later at MCDS. He used to attend most of the functions I arranged at the school, or Parish level, at Srinivasanagar, Kodambakkam, Golden George Nagar etc... Often we used to contact over the phone and recall the good old days that we spent and laugh our stomachs out. A few days before his death, we had spoken to each other, sharing the news about the Province and senior Brothers. It was a shock for me to hear about his sudden departure. As I could not travel to Yercaud, I took a flight to Chennai to bid goodbye to a very close and dear friend. I was also privileged to be the Main celebrant at the Mass and preach a short homily.

I can write a lot on Bro. Patrick, but I shall restrict to 4 points.

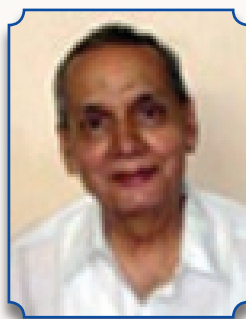
1. Bro. Patrick was a happy and cheerful person and he radiated this to all around him by his jokes, laughter and personal attention, which made them happy and comfortable in his company.
2. He had a mind of his own and did not fear to call a spade a spade. He had courage to look beyond the horizon and dared to dream big and he planned his programs according to that vision.
3. He had a very special concern for the people, be it very high govt. officials, Brothers, co-workers, past-pupils, servants etc... He used to keep in touch with them either by visits or over the phone. His past pupils greatly admired him and he was the centre of many past-pupils get-togethers.
4. His mission for the less privileged. This was a very daring and bold step on his part, There were a lot of teething problems, finance, infrastructure, office etc. Grace of God and coupled with his charism and diplomacy, he was able to overcome all these and establish one of the best social service Unit in and around Chennai.-with many self help groups, women's empowerment units, centres for children with disabilities, open school for school dropouts, mobile clinic to name a few.

How true it is the words of Jesus, "Whatever you did to one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (Mat. 25/40). He can happily join with St. Paul and say, "I have fought a good fight, I have run the race, I have kept the faith... the prize the righteous judge will give on that day..." (2nd.Tim.4/7-8). He richly deserves this reward and may he rest in peace and intercede for us.

Let us also take some inspiration from his life and make our lives sublime and leave our own foot-prints on the sands of time. I also take the chance to wish Bro. Joe and his dedicated team all the best and remind them that sky is the limit for those who dare. Our prayers and support will accompany them. With all good wishes and regards,

Fr. Abraham Kottooparampil

Devendra Oza , IAS



Dear Bro Joseph Louis

Bro Patrick's passing away had deeply grieved me. He was so young, so energetic in his own quite way and so dedicated to those whom he served.

I knew him when he was in St. Louis School for the Deaf and Blind at Kotturpuram in Chennai. He was then partly in charge of visually impaired young people. I remember meeting him many years ago to give a band music program on TV for 3rd December (about 1989) which is celebrated as "The Day for the differently abled". He readily agreed. I gave him the list of the songs which the band can render. He asked the band to practice those songs. I used my influence with the Chennai Doordarshan Kendra to telecast this superb program. This interaction between him and me further strengthened our old friendship.

He was gentle man. He was soft spoken. He was efficient. He had enough time for everyone who wanted to talk to him. He wanted just to serve. He truly lived the spirit of Christian Compassion and Service.

I will miss him. The Montfort Brothers will also miss him. His example will stay with us.

Kind Regards
Devendra Oza I.A.S. (Retd.)



Dr. Elango Edhayan, USA

"MONTFORT BOYS SHALL AYE BE MEN"

You come into Montfort as a boy and you leave transformed into a Man. Brother Patrick was instrumental in turning many of us into Men. Men, who would go on to be captains of business and industry, engineers and doctors but above all Men who are happy and comfortable with everything that life throws at us.

Montfort was our childhood and our habits formed there. We each carry with us a little of the Blue and the Gold traditions. Brother Patrick instilled in us the spirit of entrepreneurship, fair play and determination. Above all he taught us responsibility and a sense of ownership over ones actions. He was ever watchful but gave us autonomy to fail, and correct ourselves... rare qualities whereby he transcended from being a teacher to a mentor.

Many of us who were never Montfort athletes have continued on to run Marathons and play college level sports. Many of us remain active in middle age. Brother Patrick's evening drills of universal participation has a lot to do with this. I still stretch the way Brother Patrick taught me before my weekend golf game and fondly remember Brother Patrick. He would be in his yellow tee shirt blowing his whistle, yelling and egging us on!

Brother Patrick was Father, Brother and Friend, who intuitively knew the role he had to play for the situation. He continued to be a large part of our lives after graduation. It is rare to have a mentor that stays in touch with you 30 years after High School. He cherished our every success and was a welcome presence at our meetings and family functions. He was an advisor we could turn to and a confidant that we trusted.

Although he has left us, Brother Patrick lives on. He lives in our success and in our memories. He turned Boys into Men.

- Dr. Elango Edhayan, USA

BRO. PATRICK – SALT OF THE EARTH

“Well done, good and faithful servant, since you have been faithful in littlethings, I will entrust much more to you. Come and share the joy of your master.” (Mathew 25:21); and “Truly, I say to you, whenever you did this to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me” (Mathew 25:40), must have been the welcome address to Bro. Patrick when he knocked at the doors of paradise.

Bro. Patrick was the coolest of Brothers in Montfort. We, the boys, referred to him as Pat. “Hey! Where is Pat?” one boy would call out to another, not knowing that Bro. Patrick was within earshot. “I am here!” Bro. Patrick responded, not at all upset with the casual reference. Bro. Patrick was also the master of sports and athletics at Montfort; he encouraged physical fitness for even the most sedentary of students. He strongly advocated at least 20 minutes a day of physical exercise. He also ran the Annual Sports Day his gentle authority. He achieved whole-hearted compliance and cooperation by drawing out our sense of responsibility.

He truly cared. This quality endeared him to students. So, it was great news among us ‘old boys’, who were college students in Madras, when Bro. Patrick took over St. Louis, Adyar. We used to visit him there as a group. He

was always the gracious host. Bro. Patrick was completely at home at St. Louis, and enthusiastically talked of numerous plans for extending the school, and providing greater care for the Deaf & Blind. He talked about meeting with politicians and the like, gaining government support.

This was a whole new Bro. Patrick – while we, the privileged, basked in his sunshine at Montfort, we had no inkling that there was an ocean of caring in him for the under-privileged. Truly remarkable and mind-boggling were his vision and determination, managerial skills and networking ability, his suave and authority, and his indefatigable energy. He so effortlessly elicited respect from leviathans in politics and in the community that it occurred to me that it was Bro. Patrick who was in command, and the rest were merely doing his bidding. Even then I could tell that if he tugged at my heart strings to loosen up my college student pocket-money for the greater good, that politicians and others would be unable to resist his charming authority and exemplary caring. He drew on their sense of responsibility as he did with us at Montfort. If we revered him before at Montfort, it was now awe and wonder: Who was this person

we thought we knew? We were mystified!

When I was admitted to graduate school in Canada, I went to St. Louis to bid Bro. Patrick farewell, and during our tea together he gave me the contact details for his uncle Mr. Joseph Pathyil in Canada and insisted that I get in touch with him.

A year after my arrival in Newfoundland, and enroute to a course at McMaster University in Hamilton, I was booked in a hotel in Mississauga close to the Toronto airport. By chance, while aimlessly flicking through my address book, I noticed to my surprise that Mississauga was in Mr. Pathyil's address. On a whim, and with some trepidation as a total stranger, I dialed his phone number from my hotel room to say Hello. Mr. Pathyil did what Bro. Patrick would have: "Stay right where you are! My son will pick you up in 20 minutes!" I was treated to a fabulous lunch at their home, and their loving kindness.

A year later, when I was moving to Toronto to continue my studies, and had no idea of what I'd do and where I'd stay when I got to the city, I again dialed Mr. Pathyil's number. "I have secured admission at the University Of Toronto", I said. Before I could say another word, Mr. Pathyil channeled Bro. Patrick, "My son will pick you up at the airport. Stay at my home until you find a place." To this day I have no idea what I'd have done on arriving

in Toronto, if not for Mr. Pathyil's kindness and hospitality. Mr. Pathyil came to my aid again a year later, when I was stuck in a sticky academic situation, advising me to talk to the student representative and graduate coordinator at my department. It would never have occurred to me otherwise! This saved my graduate studies, moved me into an excellent lab that allowed me to pit my brains against the very best in the world in that field, and forged my career. This is all Bro. Patrick's doing, with his volunteering his uncle's contact information. If one thinks about it, really, it was Bro. Patrick saving my bacon! I still revel in Bro. Patrick's kindness when I visit Mr. & Mrs. Pathyil – such wonderful folk; truly, salt of the earth!

As the Psalmist says in the NIV version of Chapter 116, verse 15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful servants". Hence, while I grieve over Bro. Patrick's parting, I realize that he has left behind the toils of this life to enter into eternal rest in the warm sunshine of God's infinite love.

Bro. Patrick will continue to live in our hearts and our thoughts; and will still find expression in our words and in each of our good, kind and caring deeds.

Rest on, dear Bro. Patrick, for you have certainly earned it!

Jacynth Abraham (Class of 1983,
Montfort, Yercaud)

A TRIBUTE TO BRO. PATRICK



Bro. Patrick, whom I lovingly call Isaac, was very special. I was instrumental in his joining the Juniorate in Kazipet, in 1955. under the watchful direction of late Bro. Vincent . Isaac, not only finished his high school, but learned English, Hindi and Telugu. He admired the unique qualities of Bro. Vincent. Bro. Vincent was one of the best administrators among the Brothers and he was also a visionary - qualities that Isaac acquired in the years to come. After his two year stint in the Novitiate at Eachinkadu under Bro. Stephen, and two more years of scholasticate under Bro. John of God, Isaac was ready and itching for action in schools.

Whether in Montfort school or in RSK, Isaac excelled in organizing sports and games. He earned the admiration of his students by his youthful enthusiasm and involvements with the boarders and day scholars alike. Isaac believed in the old adage that the battle of Waterloo was fought in the playing fields of Eton. He spared no effort wherever he worked to fill his students with a love for games and sports. (In fact recently his name was under consideration to be the person in charge of Special Olympics in Tamil Nadu. He declined the offer.)

A few months back the Holy Father warned Religious Superiors about the evil of gossip. Pope Francis said, rather than gossip behind the back, confront those whom you want to criticize, even to the danger of occasional fisticuffs. Bro. Patrick was one such. If he had anything to tell his local superior or major superiors, he confronted them. But he was also willing to listen and to be corrected. Through it all, he loved the congregation and every action he undertook was to advance the name

of the society and to bring credit and acclaim to the Brothers.

Bro. Patrick's appointment to manage the Press in St. Louis and later to direct the institute opened up new vista to his life and a new vision. After having worked for the rich and the privileged in schools such as Montfort and R.S.K., he plunged into the service of the handicapped and the marginalized. The experience transformed his whole outlook on what it was to be a religious Brother. Serve the underprivileged and the unwanted of society and therein one will find rich reward - not material reward, but emotional and spiritual fulfillment. Thus the years in St. Louis transformed him. Providential help from NGOs such as Cardinal Leger Foundation and others helped him achieve his dreams.

At the end of his tenure in St. Louis, he requested his superiors to allow him to do social service full time and exclusively. It is to the eternal credit of his Superiors, that Bro. Patrick was given a free reign to beat a new path - a path that nobody had ever pursued before. The acclaimed services of MCDS is testament to the newly acquired passion for the underprivileged. His was an option for the poor. He got much satisfaction and his life had new meaning. Not that he spurned the admiration and the friendship of his old students, the privileged and the powerful. In fact he shrewdly used these connections to advance the cause of the poor. It was only fitting that the Good Lord called him at the peak of his activities. Well done, good and faithful servant, said the Lord, receive the reward promised to those who love the poor and the wretched.

My dear nephew, my protege and confidant, farewell. We will meet in the Everlasting Playing Fields above, surrounded by our dear and near ones.

Mr. Joseph Pathyil

A TRIBUTE TO BRO. PATRICK



My contact & experience with Bro. Gerard Patrick

Late Bro. Gerard Patrick and I are co-Juniorate mates at St. Gabriel's Hr. Sec. School, Kazipet from mid 1957 to mid 1959 and as well as co-

novices at Eachinkadu, Yercaud for one year in 1960-61.

He was then known as C C Isaac and is my senior by two years. I arrived in St. Gabriel's Kazipet on 6th June, 1957 and by then he was already two years there. C C Isaac's younger brother, Theophane, and I were play-mates during the summer months of the mid fifties at Kaipuzha. Palathuruth Parish is a sub parish of Kaipuzha and Chamakalayil house belongs to this parish. Though I am originally from Kumarakom, during summer vacation (April-May) my late uncle, Fr. Thomas Chulaparambil, then a Head Master of the diocesan schools of Kottayam diocese, used to get summer vacation duty at Palathuruth sub parish. But before joining Brothers of St. Gabriel, I had never met Bro. Gerard Patrick (CC Isaac). Since my uncle priest (Fr. Thomas Chulaparambil) was known to CC Isaac's father, when my uncle, met him in Kazipet in 1957, and probably told Isaac to take care of me in the Juniorate as he was a senior there. It is Fr. Thomas Chulaparambil who brought me to Kazipet. Anyway, soon we became good friends even if not for the above two reasons.

Isaac was a good sports man and was a team member of the school foot-ball team. I used to admire his sporting abilities. He used to tell me to learn to play foot-ball well and become strong and healthy. He was more of an elder

'brother-guide' type of friend to me. Bro. Vincent de Paul, the Principal of the school at that time in St. Gabriel's School, Kazipet, was a very strict disciplinarian and an efficient administrator. We students were terribly scared of him. But Isaac had a different type of contact/or relationship with him, may be because he was a school team member. I have all good memories of those two years of my association him and his care for me like an elder brother and me being attached to him because of our family contacts and connections. I enjoyed that care, because I was only 13 years of age and one of the smallest – in size among the Juniors.

In 1959 he left for Yercaud, Eachinkadu Novitiate and I joined him again in the Eachinkadu Novitiate a year later. By then he had grown up, strong sturdy and was good at games, manual work etc. and my admiration too continued till he completed his Novitiate and left in 1961. I carried on the Novitiate and also passed out in 1962. After 1962, we never lived together, but whenever I met him in Chennai, Yercaud or wherever, he was very kind, supportive and appreciative of me. I always considered him as an able and efficient organizer. Now that he is gone for eternal reward and out of physically presence with us, I still cherish those happy memories. May God reward him for his dynamic mission at MCDS, Chennai and grant him eternal peace.

Bye Isaac!

**Bro. Mathew Montfort/Chulaparambil,
Province of Delhi, Montfort Inter College,
Lucknow, UP**

There were messages from the following on Face book expressing their shock and condolences at the sudden demise of Bro. Patrick, The Founder of MCDS:

1. **Mr. Antony Samy of PITS (Parishutham Institute of Technology & Proprietor of Hotel Parishutham, Tanjore)** describing Bro. Patrick as Socially conscious Social Worker of great repute.

Bro Gerard Patrick is no more . . . he passed away around noon today . . .

I couldn't believe it. He was speaking to me this morning around 9.30 am. He had been going through the FB postings on this page of late and said that he was really very happy that Montfortians around the globe were interacting so very actively. I had a call from Allan John Pochant at 1 pm informing that Bro Patrick is no more . . We the batches from 1960's thru early 1970's are going to miss him dearly...

Dear Bro. . . May your soul Rest In Peace. . . We are going to miss you a lot Bro....

2. **Old student from Australia posted: Russel Fonceca (Montfort 1958-67)**

It is with much sadness that we in Australia read the tragic news of the sudden passing away of Bro Patrick.

For many of us he was a big part of our school days in the 60's, be it at sports, scouts, in the classrooms or in the dormitories. He was an efficient organizer.

We have sadly lost another link to our school days.

Bro Patrick, thank you for all that you have done. You will be missed by many in Chennai where you devoted much of your time to looking after the poor and underprivileged.

3. **Mr. Mathew George, Kollamkulam** wrote : ... "He was probably one of the most respected and loved of all the Brothers at Montfort. May his soul rest in peace"

4. **Mr. Vijay Kant, COM, Pariwar** writes :

Dear Friends at Mcds,

I just learnt that Brother Patrick, Founder of MCDS has passed away. It is really very sad day for those who have been working with underprivileged and disabled in the community. I have known Brother Patrick for many years and had collaborated in many of his activities. He was a true friend and guide to me all through the years that we knew each other..."

5. **Louise Leblanc, Cardinal Leger Foundation, Canada** writes : To all MCDS staff, In the name of Léger foundation, our collective hearts are heavy with sympathy. We have been co-workers of Brother Patrick many, many years. Words cannot express our sorrow. The office won't be the same without him. Brother Patrick will be missed...



6. **David Cooper writes as follows:** Bro Pat may your soul rest in Peace. In January this year he was the chief guest at our class of 71 reunion & both Zerine & I spent a lovely few hours with him in his car driving down from Yercaud to Chennai. He dropped us right to the door step of our son Shaun's home. He even came up to pay his respects to our son & daughter in Law. Such was the humility & greatness of the man. We are going to miss you Bro.

7. **Gerry Arputhasamy writes :** "Spoke to Bro. Pat during Easter....he said he was feeling alright after his hospitalization in treatment in Jan/Feb.....we spent 2 good days with him at Yercaud in early Jan,2015 during our GT.....he was encouraging us to build on what we had achieved so far, as a Batch and asked us to be present in larger numbers for the Centenary celebrations in 2017..... he was very attached to the Old Boys in especially to the batches of the 60's and 70's.....we will miss U Brother....Rest in Peace, Brother"

8. **Francis Xavier P K, Retired Staff of Montfort Yercaud:** "Toughness, sense of humour and friendship are the

qualities Bro.Patrick inherited to the Montfortians! R.I.P.

9. **Dominic Chackonal, a former Montfort Brother:** Efficient and talented, a Brother whom I admired and followed. I am sad he is no more.

There were short condolence messages from the following members of OBA, Montfort Yercaud:

Old students: Rocky Abraham, James Kanagaraj , Allan John, Suresh Babu, Paresh Patel, Ms. Avantika Raghunandan rather recent old student daughter of another old boy Raghunandan, Ganesh Obla, Dileep Solanki, Anirut O Jaroensuk, Michael Fernando, Arun Raj, Ramnath Annamalai, Ramani Dharmalingam, Siddharth Hindocha, John Balasundaram, M. Sengottuvel, Ramsay Abraham, Vasna Ponchamini, Y. Muralidharan, Robert Bob Nash, G. Palaniandi, Nagendra Babu, Antony Kalliath, Rungsrit Charoensook, Thomas Antony, Vishu Kaliappa, C P Jacob, Davis Sebastin, Gopal N , Ravi Bala Krishnamurthy, Mark J J Fernandes, K. Suyambu, Syed Saif, Ivan Raja, Richard Kanagaraj, Jaisinh Vaerkar, K Mathew, Raymond A. Swamy, John Joseph, Carlton Vernem, Sebastin Thomas.

JOSEPH PANACKEL

PARINATI Rural Development Organization

'Prakruthi' Organic Farm, Behind Kurukul International School, Banavara-573112,

Arasikere Tq, Hassan Dt.

Ph: 08174-290882, Cell: 9448447515 / 9845030517

Dear Mrs. Sayee Ramesh,

Shocked to hear the news of Bro. Patrick's sudden death. I associated with him when he was Director of St. Louis (as Programme Officer of ACTION AID funding them) also associated with MCDS as Programme Advisor and Consultant Editor of MCDS News. From 1996 till 2006 I used to regularly visit MCDS on a monthly basis and I used to stay with him. I spoke to him almost one month ago and invited to him our Farm, to which he had responded positively. I sent him our new address by SMS and the last letter which I sent giving details of the trains passing through this side he could not go through.

Now what is the future plan of MCDS. Some one has to take things forward, what he has been initiated.

Joseph Panackel

Dear Brother Joseph,

I am indeed shocked and saddened to hear the news about Brother Patrick.

After a long, long gap Bro. Pat got in touch with me and I was so happy to meet up with Bro. Pat in Chennai. It was a very good and heartwarming experience to reminisce my school days and the encouragement he had given me during my sporting days, the intent was always to remain in contact and meet up every time my work saw me Chennai. Will plan a trip back soon and hope to meet up.

Regards

Mark Morris (+65 96346285)

Fr. John FJ Manipadam SJ

HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING AWAY OF DEAR BRO. PATRICK

My Dear Brothers,

SHALOM... I was saddened to receive yesterday the news of the sudden departure of our Dear Bro. Patrick. MAY HE REST IN PEACE and MAY HE NOW ENJOY HEAVENLY BLISS!!! If his brother, Theophane, comes for his funeral from DALLAS, TEXAS, kindly convey to him my Heartfelt Condolences, because I came to know him through Bro. Patrick. Actually, I did not receive any news regarding the funeral, but I suppose his mortal remains will be laid to rest in EACHINKADU

Bro. Patrick came to MONTFORT well after me. It was the time of my third and youngest brother, Thomas, and it was through Thomas that I came to know Bro. Patrick. Later I used to visit him in CHENNAI. All the boys loved him because he had a wonderful way with each one of them -- every one of them counted for him.

**John FJ Manipadam SJ,
Manresa Jesuit Novitiate, Lahane, DILI, EAST TIMOR**



Mr. P. C. Joseph

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED BRO. PATRICK

I am an old boy of Montfort School Yercaud (1964-71). During School days and later as an old boy I was closely associated with the late Bro. Patrick, whom we addressed as Bro. Pat.

My most memorable experience with him was when I was in the Std. X. Our School team was getting selected to go to Ooty for the Inter School Games with St. Joseph's Coonoor and Lawrence, Loudale. In the final selection, my name was not included even though I was a good footballer. So I formed a team with my footballer friends and challenged the official team for a game. They played a very rough and tough game; however we won the challenge by a solitary goal, proving our superiority over the First Eleven. The next day, Bro. Pat called me to his room and invited me to join the team. I agreed to join if three more of my team were also given a chance. Bro. Patrick would not accept this condition. Anyway, the team got a bashing at both the schools and consequently Bro. Pat realized his mistake. The following year I was selected as the school football captain and with that our friendship grew strong.





Mr. P.C. Joseph with Bro. Patrick

Among the old boys of Montfort Yercaud, there is a tradition of conducting batch get-togethers and our batch was lagging behind without any one taking the lead. So I asked Bro. Pat for advice and he told me to call up my batch mates George Mathew and P. C. James and just start the process and soon everything would fall in line. This literally happened and we had our first Get-together of the 71 batch at Alleppey with 12 of the batch Old Boys attending with families and we had Bros. Pat and Joseph Louis as well as our beloved Fr. Abraham Kottuparmbil (formerly Bro. Henry – my class teacher in Std VIII). Since then, we had two more GTs attended by Bro. Pat, one in Goa and the last one in January this 2015 at Yercaud. I had the privilege to invite Bro. Pat for our Get-togethers and he always obliged in spite of his busy Schedule. I could not attend the last Get-Together at Yercaud, due to ill health, but he promised me to have a small Get-together, after Easter, at my residence at Pala along with some MOB's living close by. However it did not materialize as God took him away from us. I had been in constant touch with Brother and our calls used to last at least 20 minutes and we used to meet as often as possible. His sudden demise has caused a vacuum in me and I feel deeply deprived, losing my mentor. May his soul rest in peace and the Good Lord keep him by His side forever.

Mr. P.C. Joseph Monfort Yercaud (1964 – 71)



SOME IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS DURING 2015:

Institute of the Brothers of St. Gabriel, Province of Yercaud, has officially taken charge of the MCDS and the Provincial and Chairman of the Society has appointed Rev. Bro. Joseph Louis as new Director and Rev. Bro. Mathew Kuplicat of Hyderabad Province to assist him. They took charge of the management of MCDS effective from June 2015.

Routine functioning of the activities of MCDS for the new academic year commenced by the beginning of June 2015. Hats off to MCDS Staff under the leadership of the Coordinators, Mrs. Nazareth, Mr. Greeto and ably supported by the Secretary Mrs. Sayee Ramesh proved their metal and dynamism to continue and fructify the laudable work initiated and carried out by our legend, Bro. Patrick till his last breath.

On the 4th June Mr. David Dubensky, Managing Director, Ford Motors Private Limited officially launched the 'Medicine on wheels' donated by them. We thank

Mr. David Dubensky and Ford Motors management in the name of the sick and in need of medical care among the marginalized who benefit by this project.



**Rev. Bro. Joseph Louis, Director, MCDS
with Mr. David Dubensky, Managing
Director, Ford Motors Private Limited**



During the course of June the Federation meeting at the various locations and Super Federation meeting of the SHG women's wing, Cancer screening camp, TB awareness programs in association with REACH, Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) Camp for Mental Illness were conducted. Clinic on wheels resumed visiting the regular locations on every day basis. Regular Birthday celebration and monthly Parent's Meeting at the CBR centres went on as usual. Parents of Transit Schools meet on regular basis as means to update them on the progress of their children.

- Mr. Raymond Stark and Mr. Gus Row, representatives from 'Talking Tech' Foundation, the main sponsors of MCDS visited MCDS office on 8. 7. '15. They were accorded a traditional welcome at the office as well as a grand welcome at the Semmencherry CBR centre where they distributed Uniforms and ID cards to our Special Children.



**Mr. Raymond Stark distributes 'Uniforms'
to our Special Children**

- During the official function at the TN Rajarethnam Auditorium they officially inaugurated 14 Transit Schools and released the Book on 'Child Labour' penned by Late Rev. Bro. Patrick.



Book Release Function



Mr. Raymond Stark and Mr. Gus Row of 'Talking Tech' during Inauguration of Transit School for the year 2015-2016

- The CBR staff attended a Training program organized by Vidya Sagar followed by their regular Assessment of our Special Children.



Assessment of our CBR children by Ms. Navamani, of 'Vidya Sagar'



Assessment by Vidya Sagar staff for our Special Children

- Regular Health check-up for our children of Transit School, CBR and Open School children was conducted.



'MCDS Mobile Clinic on Wheels': Doctor Revathi examines a Transit School

'REACH' conducted 'Cough and Hygiene Awareness programme' for the SHG women Leaders.



Cough and Hygiene programme in progress for our women leaders

- Our Special Children, Open school children and the elders had a joint Get together on 10. 7. 15.



Our Elders dance with a Transit school boy



Passing the ball game at Unified Sports



Games for our Elders and children



Rev. Bro. Paul Raj, General Assistant, Rome, visits MCDS office along with our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Francis Xavier

- Our Special Children had a picnic to Children's Park on 19. 8. 15



Rev. Bro. George Kalangod, Provincial Superior visits MCDS office on 28.07.15

- **Unified Sports Meet:** Transit School and Special School children.



Our Special Children at the Children's Park



Our Special Children excited at the Children's Park



Friendship Day celebration at Sreenivasapuram for the Open school, Transit School and the Special Children.



- Inauguration of Pre-marital counseling by Rev. Fr. Jerry SJ for 30 youth took place on 6.8.2015 as part of the ten sessions program given by specialists in the field, and the tenth onewas by Dr. Fr. Alangaram.



- **Rev. Fr. Jerry SJ, at the inaugural session of Pre-Marital Counseling Session**



Youth all attention at the Pre-Marital Counseling Session

- MCDS staff had a training session by a Jesuit, Brother Baskar of Arul Kadal on 21st and 22nd August.



Jesuit Brother Baskar, the Directors at the staff training session



With the Teachers during training

- Women's SHG members were given Awareness on Cough and Hygiene. Cancer Screening was also conducted for them.



Cancer Awareness programme in partnership with Sundaram Medical Foundation

Our CBR children attended the integrated sports meet organized by St. Louis Institute.



Ready for the start at the Integrated Sports meet



Proud winners at the sports meet

All the 14 Transit schools had the Independence Day celebration in their own respective Schools along with awareness program on importance of Education. We succeeded in mainstreaming 212 of our Transit School children of last year to regular school for this academic year.

- Representatives from Montfort OBA 'Aloha' Batch (1990) visited our CBR centres in lieu of their resolve to upgrade our CBR centres.



Dr. Balamurali, ALOHA batch (1990) with his group-mates during their visit to one of the CBR centres

- The Open School children had a get together with the CBR children. Our Transit School Children participated in Child Fest organized by Loyola College and secured prizes. Transit School students from Suriyanagar and Kotturpuram had an exposure visit to the Anna Library.
- Multi camp in association with Rotary Club of Besant Nagar organized at Kannagi Nagar with 264 beneficiaries in the areas of Eye care, Diabetes care and General Medicine.



Mr. Kiran & Dr. Balamurali interacting with our Special Children

Montfort Old students Aloha Batch (1990) making on the spot study at our CBR Centres



Youth all attention at the Pre-Marital Counseling Session



Eye -Testing



At the Multi camp held at Kannagi Nagar

- Dental camp in association with SRM Dental College was organized for our Transit School children at Srinivasapuram.



- 'Parents meeting' of Open School children was held on 8. 10. '15 to motivate them on the importance of Education.



SRM Dental college doctors with our children during Dental checkup

- Our Tuition Program children were taken for a study tour to 'Dakshinchitra' and 'Tiger's Cave' on the 3rd of October.



- Inter Transit school sports meet was conducted on 9th October.



Lemon and spoon race



One for the album

- Rev. Bro. Yvan Passebon, Vicar General, Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel, Rome along with Bros. Maurice and Thomas, visited MCDS Clinic on Wheels in action at Surya Nagar followed by a visit to our CBR centre and other units in Srinivasapuram on 13th.



- Our Transit Schools Teachers attended a 'Two Day' training program organized by the Corporation of Chennai.

Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board entrusted MCDS with the task of organizing of Five Health and Hygiene awareness programs at different parts of the metropolis with their support to give awareness on hygiene.



Health and Hygiene programme in collaboration with TNSCB

- Acupressure Awareness seminar was conducted at the office premises for selected staff members.



Acupressure training session

- Omega Ecotech, Coimbatore conducted a Seminar at MCDS office on solid waste Management and Kitchen Gardening on 17.10.'15.



Rev. Bro. K. K. Thomas sharing his experience on Roof Garden

- Our Elder's participated in the Elder's Day celebrations held at St. Louis Institute, Adyar on 20. 10. '15.



Dance performance by Elders



- Our transit School participated in the Drawing and Cultural Competition conducted by St. Louis Adyar.

- Dr. Balamurali of ALOHA BATCH (Class of 1990) conducted a 'One-day Workshop' for the parents of Special Children at Kannagi Nagar CBR centre on 31.10.15 as part of intervention program to upgrade the CBR centres, a special initiative by the BATCH.



Special Children parent interacting with Dr. Balamurali during the workshop



Ms. Navamani, Vidya Sagar- Centre for Special Children interacting with the parents



Power point presentation to our Special Children parents

CHENNAI Floods:

Unprecedented flood in Chennai has been focus of media during the course of the month from the 3rd week of November. The three MCDS centres in different parts of the metropolis and particularly Semmencherry centre suffered heavy damages.



The MCDS staff surveyed the area right from the start of the floods

MCDS was probably the first to start the distribution of relief materials. With the collaboration of St. Louis Institute, Adyar under the leadership of Rev. Bro. John Xavier who brought in students and faculty along with donors and collaborators of St. Louis Institute saw the first spell of distribution.

Mr. Paul Sathya Chelladurai of Montfort '90 batch "Aloha" was the first to contribute towards this noble cause.



Our own staff were affected by Floods



Rev. Bro. John Xavier, Principal, St. Louis Institute along with Sponsors staff and student representatives during the distribution at Semmencherry.

The floods did not recede with this, but instead the situation grew worse with the passage of time. Our well wishers like Mr. George Mathew, OBA, Montfort Yercaud, the M.D. of Duroflex company came forward with flood relief materials.



Our staff inspecting the Flood Havoc



Rev. Bro. K K Thomas, Principal, Montfort Matriculation School St Thomas Mount participated in the Flood relief distribution



Duroflex staff during the distribution

A truck load of materials for distribution reached Chennai on 8th December accompanied by staff of Duroflex and with the assistance of MCDS staff saw to the smooth distribution. He topped it up with a donation too. The Montfort Yercaud batch of '98 under the leadership of Mr. Thangaprabhu has forwarded fifty thousand. We really appreciate the good gesture of these donors for this worthy cause of relief work.



The Director, Bro. Joseph Louis helping out at the distribution



The Director with the Duroflex and MCDS staff along with M. E. Sisters

Dr. Bala Murali and Mr. Kiran Kumar Reddy of Aloha Batch, provided essential medicines for distribution through our Medicine on wheels programme.

The Provincial Superior of the Province of Yercaud instructed the Communities of the Province to make a special effort to join hands with MCDS in the Flood relief work efforts. We thank the Communities who sent in their contributions.

Christmas Celebrations: MCDS celebrated Christmas with Staff, Friends and well-wishers of MCDS on 19th December. Rev. Fr. Maria Arul Raja SJ along with Fr. Baskar Antony celebrated with Holy Mass. Rev. Bro. Thomas Kalathikottil from St. Thomas Mount Community joined us. MCDS Staff were presented with gifts and the celebration ended with a sumptuous lunch.



Rev. Fr. Maria Arul Raja, Arul Kadal and Fr. Baskar during Christmas Mass celebration



Rev. Bro. Thomas Kalathikotil distributing Christmas Gifts to staff

ANNUAL STAFF TRAINING:

The so called '3-Day Annual Staff Training', in essence, the evaluation of the previous year and the planning for the New Year for all the sectors started on 4th of January with the evaluation and yearly plan. Each and every staff of MCDS is evaluated as per the performance and given the target for the next year. Using the latest Technology the statistics and evaluation were projected on the Screen for keener participation.



Community based Rehabilitation sector evaluation

PONGAL CELEBRATIONS:



'Pongal Celebrations' at Federation Level in Progress

Rangoli Competition, Biscuit Eating, Lemon and Spoon, Musical chair were some of the events.

Pongal was celebrated with women SHG members in three different areas namely Kannagi Nagar, Shemmencherry and Srinivasapuram. Women leaders were eagerly waiting for this event and participated in all the competitions. Not only women leaders participated in this huge feast but also our children with disabilities and our senior citizens performed mind blowing dance performance. Our Men SHG members participated in this colorful event and won prizes for games conducted on that day.



TAILORING TRAINING VALEDICTORY FUNCTION:

Yet another batch of Women leaders completed their six month 'Tailoring Training' conducted in partnership with 'Rotary Club of Madras Besant Nagar' and were awarded certificates. We place on record our appreciation of our partners in the skill training of deserving candidates of Kannaginagar.



PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING COURSE VALEDICTORY:



In February 2016, yet another batch of Young boys completed their Pre-marital training with 10 different topics handled by competent resource persons. It is remarkable that the first session was conducted by Rev. Fr. Jerry SJ and the last by Rev. Fr. Alangaram SJ of Arulkadal.

THINK TANK GROUP MEETING:

On 27th February 2016 a selected band of Well-wishers and Associates from different walks of life assembled at the MCDS office joined together for a preliminary session and formed a Group to evaluate our functioning and brainstorm us on how to take MCDS further. Periodic meeting of this group will widen our outlook and result in the fine tuning of our functioning reorient our direction.



Think Tank Meet in Progress



WOMEN'S Day CELEBRATION

The aim and purpose of SHG for women is to empower them. Various programmes like leadership training, family counseling, awareness programmes, skill development, assistance for vocational training, promotion women entrepreneurship are some to the means organized to achieve this empowerment. International women's day is usually celebrated in a grand manner at MCDS.



MCDS Vadapalani Federation leaders during Women's Day programme

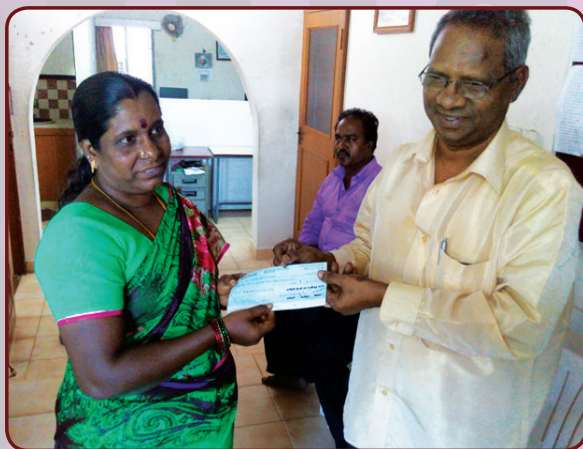
To prove their empowerment, the SHG women's wing was given an opportunity to organize women's Day celebration at the Federation level in their own local area. They proved their worth and made MCDS proud of our women's SHGs. Here are some visuals of their functions.



SHG, 'Adyar Federation' celebrates Women's Day on 9th March

Men's SHG

MCDS organized loan from the bank for the men's SHG federation to buy Auto-rickshaws at a concessional rate and made arrangements to repay the loan at easy installments. The cheques were issued to the beneficiary on 10th March.



Rev. Bro. Mathew, Asst Director hands over Bank Loan cheque to Men's SHG members



Rev. Bro. Joseph Louis, Director hands over Bank Loan cheque to Men's SHG members

A special Awareness seminar and rally was organized on 12th March, 2016 to conscientize our Auto drivers about the Child Labourer menace and to empower them to take necessary initiatives to liberate them and enroll them to our Transit Schools.



The Director addresses the Auto Drivers during their 'Child Labour Eradication Seminar'



MCDS 'Men's Self Help Group' Auto Drivers take oath to eradicate 'Child Labour'

Clean Chennai Awareness Marathon

A mini Marathon Race was organized on the Beach Road to create awareness of cleanliness among the School and College going students on 12th March. In the concluding function organized at Santhome Hr. Sec. School, Mr. Vivek, the Cine Actor cum Social Activist, also an Alumni of Santhome humorously stressed on the importance of Tree Plantation by cleanliness in our day to day life.



'Anti-Child labourer stickers' pasted in our 'Men's Self Help Group Autos'



Mr. Vivek, Tamil Actor/Comedian and Social Activist, presents awards to the winners of the 'Mini Marathon'



Mr. Lakshmiopathy Balaji, Member of Indian Cricket Team at the Mini Marathon

