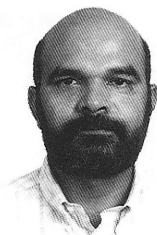


FROM THE GENERAL CURIA

Changes on the General Council of the Curia

Fr. Varghese Thottamkara, C.M.
named Coadjutor-Bishop in Nekemte, Ethiopia

Fr. Matthew Kallammakal, C.M.
appointed new Assistant to the Superior General



The following was released by the Vatican Press Office at the daily briefing on June 26, 2013

The Holy Father has appointed Rev. Varghese Thottamkara, C.M. as Coadjutor Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Nekemte in Ethiopia. Fr. Thottamkara, a former missionary in Ethiopia, is currently Assistant to the Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians). As bishop, he will be assigned the titular see of Cullu.

Fr. Varghese Thottamkara C.M. was born June 2, 1959 at Thottuva (located in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly, India). He joined the Congregation of the Mission in 1982, made final vows May 10, 1986 and was ordained January 6, 1987.

After ordination he held a number of posts in pastoral and seminary formation ministries. From 1988-1990, he was pastor in parishes of Muniguda and Allada, in Diocese of Berhampur, Orissa (India). From 1990-1993, he served Vice-Rector of the Minor Seminary and professor in Ambo, Ethiopia. From 1993-1995, Fr. Varghese was Rector and professor at the Major Seminary of the Vincentians in Addis Ababa. From 1995-1998, he went to Rome for studies, obtaining a Licentiate in Moral Theology at the *Angelicum*. From 1998-2005, he was Director of the Ethiopian College and a Professor at the Theological Institute of St. Francis of Addis Ababa. From 2005-2006, he served at the General

Curia as Procurator General; and from 2006-2010, he was the Provincial Superior of the Province of South India.

Since 2010, he has been an Assistant to the Superior General of the Vincentians in Rome.



The following information was released by the Office of Communications of the Congregation of the Mission on July 5, 2013

Fr. Matthew Kallammakal, C.M., a former provincial of the Northern India Province of the Congregation of the Mission, was named Assistant Superior General, effective September 15, 2013. This announcement was made today by Fr. G. Gregory Gay, C.M. Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission at the International Meeting of Visitors (Provincial Superiors) of the Congregation held July 1-13 at St. John's University in Queens, NY.

Fr. Kallammakal, born in 1959, entered the Congregation in 1983, and was ordained on January 2, 1988. He received a doctorate in philosophy from DePaul University in Chicago, IL, and has worked in seminary formation and parish ministry in the Northern Province of India. In 2004, he was named Visitor and served in that position for nine years, finishing in February of this year. His current ministry is educator at a youth hostel sponsored by the Province, and he also serves as a visiting lecturer in philosophy at a local seminary.

The appointment of Fr. Kallammakal to this position was necessitated by the recent news by the Holy See in naming Fr. Varghese Thottamkara, C.M. (current Assistant Superior General) as coadjutor Bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Nekemete, Ethiopia. Fr. Thottamkara was elected Assistant Superior General at the 2010 General Assembly. He will be ordained a bishop on August 13, 2013 in Rome, and will depart for Nekemete, Ethiopia in mid-September.

Fr. G. Gregory Gay, C.M., Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission, noted: "The news of Fr. Varghese's appointment was bittersweet for all of us at the General Curia. We are sad to lose the advice, wise counsel, and presence of Fr. Varghese among us. However, his appointment as a bishop in Ethiopia, where he previously served as a missionary for ten years, is an affirmation of the wonderful work of our Vincentian confreres. I thank him for his dedication and leadership as an Assistant Superior General, and especially for all he has contributed in his thirty-one years of membership in the Congregation of the Mission. I welcome Fr. Matthew Kallammakal to the General Curia. He has shown himself to be a proven and respected leader in the Congregation, and I look forward to living and working with him".