



Bishop Aloysius Benziger during his first begging expedition in Europe, as photographed by his brother August, in the latter's Paris studio in 1902.

ARCHBISHOP
BENZIGER

Carmelite in India

By
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assisted by
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The movement started under the auspices of Reverend Father Innocent. But this good priest had far too much work with his other ten parishes. Now, during the absence of Father Innocent, we have decided to divide his District. Thus we will be able to take into hand the desires of Canjirapuram.

3. At Aramanur: where, it is said, there are hopes for the Conversion of over 2,000 (and another Missionary speaks of no less than 3,000). We plan to give to Father Ildephonse, C.D., one or even two assistants. His Reverence will then be able to undertake this tremendous work.

Your Reverence can see that "the harvest is great but the laborers are few." Let us pray to Divine Providence that our confidence does not fail us when it comes to other necessary things, remembering what Our Lord promised:

"All these things will be added unto you." (*Et haec omnia adjicientur vobis.*)
In union of prayer and of sacrifice, Your Reverence's devoted servant.



Quilon, India
May 31, 1924

Reverend and very dear Mother Seraphim,

Benedictus Deus in donis suis! And may He reward our dear benefactors. Yes, many thanks! Your faithful help, again 250 Mass Alms of April 30th, encourages me in the midst of many cares — and your assurance of your holy Carmel's holy prayer, gives me a very special confidence. On my part I do hope all my life to daily gratefully remember you and your dear apostolic sisters. It is surely thanks to such hidden prayers and immolation at the Loving Heart of the Divine Spouse and with Him and through Him to our Heavenly Father, that we can do some good.

Since I last wrote: from a new place (Andukornam) 57 pagan families have asked to convert; — on the same day (29th March) 86 from Thomakal. April 1st we purchased a site for a future Church at Kollathurpugha;

7th we blessed a new Church at Kandanvila in honor of our Little Flower;

8th a prayer shed has been erected for new converts at Kurovria;

25th a site at Cherukode has been purchased to start there conversion work;

25th 47 pagan families of a higher caste begged to convert;

May 1st we have begun building a Church at Chembanacode where already 583 are baptized;

7th the same at Valichol.

2nd 14 Candidates (out of 27 applicants) have been selected for our Small Seminary whence 12 go over to our Higher Seminary;

4th and 5th: 4 Vestitions and 5 Professions of Sisters of the Holy Heart of Mary (an indigenous congregation)

7th and 8th: 4 Vestitions and 7 Professions of our Carmelite Tertiary Sisters.

11th: 100 pagan families of Chellamcode asked to be converted.

15th: I granted another church for Vellicode, where 500 are baptized and 100 ready for it.

23rd: About 200 pagan families at Vellakonam asked to be converted.

26th: We blessed a cornerstone of a church in honor of Our Father St. John of the Cross at Chembanacode.

26th: 96 pagan families of Nedumkottuknam asked to be converted.

27th: a site has been purchased at Kottur.

31st day a church will be blessed in honor of "the Mediatrix of all Graces" at Uthiankulamgaram, where we have about 750 new converts baptized.

May this encourage our zealous spouses of Jesus to continue with Him to plead and plead for always more souls — and for more workers.

With my heartiest blessing,

+Fr. Aloysius Maria
Bishop



Concerning the others — all the Missionaries are doing very well.
I beg that Your Reverence will communicate this letter to Our Very Reverend Father General.
Soliciting your holy prayers, I am Your Reverence's very Devoted servant.

Fr. Aloysius Marie

I am fully in accord with all the above noted facts.

Fr. Bernardine of St. Theresa,
Vicar General



Quilon, India
May 27, 1924

Very Reverend and dear Father William:

I thank Your Reverence very much for your letter of March 29th. I am happy to be able to give you news that will please you.

On January 18th, the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Menzingen (who opened a novitiate at Quilon in 1921) held a ceremony in which six nuns received the habit. Three Europeans and three natives. Two were also professed.

On the 29th of March, we gave Father Ildephonse, C.D., permission to open two new centers for conversion. One in Vallanad, where there is the hope of harvesting 500 families. The other at Puachel, where 657 pagans have turned in their names as desiring to become Christians on the 1st of April.

My Vicar General has blessed a new church at Pylukal under the title of *Pater Noster*.

The zealous Father John Damascene will begin the work of Conversions there next year. During the period of his absence, Reverend Father Gerard, C.D., will continue to carry on the work. There are already over 500 newly-baptized in that place.

April 2nd: The Blessing of the New Church of Corpus Christi in Nellimudu, a very promising center. A native priest has already baptized about 600 pagans and much good seems to spring from there.

April 5th: Ordination of four priests, three subdeacons and six minor orders. Five received the tonsure in our seminary.

April 25th: Admission in our Minor Seminary of nine seminarians — to replace the seven who have just terminated their studies and been promoted to our Major Seminary.

April 26th: When I learned that, at Cruzmala (a new center), about 300 men and boys had been baptized; but that the women and girls, who already know our prayers, have refused to attend services in the tiny Temporary Chapels while anxiously awaiting construction of a Church — I gave my consent to build a new church there under the title of the Holy Cross. It is the zealous Father Ildephonse who is in full charge.

May 4th and 5th: The Clothing Ceremony of three novices and the profession of three Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Canjeracode — an entirely native Congregation for training future teachers for the grammar schools.

May 7th and 8th: Giving of the habit to all novices and the profession of our good Sisters of the Apostolic Third Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

But, I must truthfully say, that all eleven of these novices have come to us from outside of our Diocese. They are from Bombay, Mangalore.

May 12th: The blessing of a new church for neophytes in Tungambaram — in honor of Our Blessed Sister Therese of the Infant Jesus. This is, perhaps, the very first church which has ever been dedicated to her.

The Reverend Father Ildephonse, C.D., has converted over 500 pagans. He has many more under instruction.

May 13th: The blessing of a Church in honor of The Queen of the Holy Rosary in Kottugal — where the work of Conversions had been begun by one of our native priests and, since December, has been continued by Father Ildephonse.

May 23rd: We have decided to open three new centers:

1. In Venyivilagam: where, under the direction of the Reverend John Damascene, C.D., a great number of pagans have requested to be received.

2. In Canjirapuram: where 145 pagans have promised that, of 700 families in that town, 500 families desire to be received into the church and expressly wish to be baptized.

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Ref :

To
Rev. Fr. K. George,
Parish Priest,
St. Therese Catholic Church,
Kandanvila.

Dear Father,

I am enclosing copies of documents on
Kandanvila Church, as requested by you.

You and your Parish Council members
have done well in constructing a very
informative website on your parish. May
this Parish grow into an international
Centre for ~~the~~ spreading the message of
St. Therese's "Little Way"!

Regarding the enclosed documents:

Bishop Benziger's note on Tungambara
Church ("the very first ^{church} which has ever
been dedicated" to Little Flower) may be a
slip of his memory, as he is seen cram-
med with continuous journeys, visits to
parishes and blessing of churches. We
can rest assured, as records clearly indicate
that Kandanvila is the first seat ~~of~~
raised in honour of Little Flower.

Prayerfully,
C. JOHN ROSE

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