

Inauguration of the St. Brother André Province

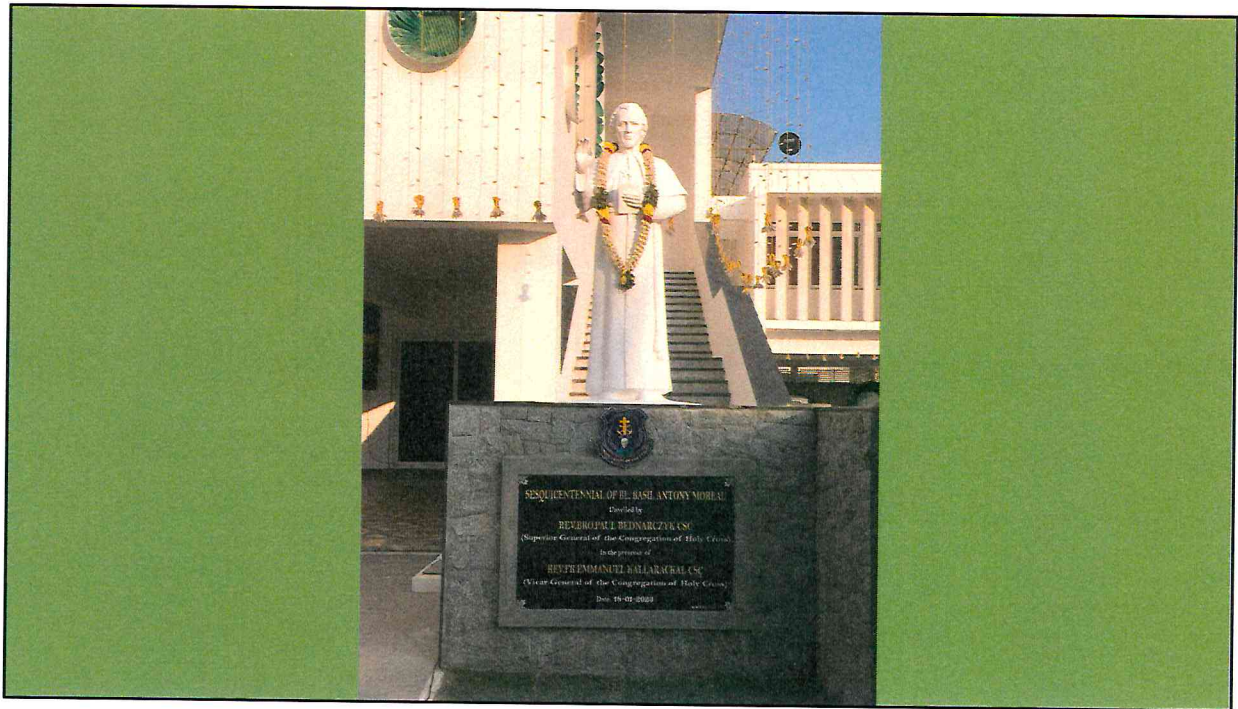
19 January, 2023

Brother Kenneth Haders, C.S.C.

Notre Dame of Holy Cross School

Salem

The celebration was held in a beautiful theater-style assembly hall at Notre Dame of Holy Cross School in Salem. It has both floor and balcony seating.



On the day before the celebration of the new province, there was a dedication of a new statue.

Acknowledging the 150th anniversary of Blessed Basil Moreau's entry into his eternal reward, **Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal**, First Assistant/Vicar General, and **Br. PJ Santosh**, Provincial, presided over the blessing of a new Moreau statue in front of the new St. André Formation House on the campus of Notre Dame of Holy Cross School in Salem.



Brother PJ Santosh, provincial of the new St. Andre Province, welcomed all present (Holy Cross religious, area clergy and religious, friends, and students) to the celebration.

There was an abundance of flowers as well as a custom made backdrop on the stage to commemorate the celebration.



Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, First Assistant and Vicar General was principal Celebrant and many Holy Cross Priests from India, Bangladesh, other parts of the world concelebrated along with some of the local clergy.



The Superior General, Brother Paul, was invited to give the homily. He congratulated the new Province on their successful ministries and their zeal and dedication to the mission of the local church.



Brother Paul accompanied the new provincial, Brother PJ Santosh,, to read the oath of office and his profession of faith.



After Mass, each distinguished quest was honored with flowers and a customary shawl from the new province.



Bro. Baskar Arokiasamy Presented my Shawl, flowers and a special gift. Since there were representatives from Holy Cross from around the world, we were all honored with flowers and Shawls. Among those present (and whom I can remember) were several provincials Fr. Simon Fernandez from North-East India, Fr George Kamal Rozario from the Sacred Heart Province of Bangladesh, Bro Subal Rozario from the St Joseph Province of Bangladesh and Fr. Gaspar Salvaraj from Tamil Nadu. There were also official representatives from the US Province and the province of South India.



Several groups associated with the brothers and their schools were present and also presented flowers and shawls to the distinguished guests



Many of the distinguished guests were invited to share personal congratulations and reflections on the inauguration of the new province. I reminded the province of their importance in preserving and promoting the vocation of the brother in Holy Cross, and I encouraged them, as our constitutions say, to STRIDE, not trudge in living their vocations.

I will admit that with the presentations and the speeches, this part of the program was fairly long, but we still had far to go.



After all the speeches, they began the cultural program, which featured traditional music and dance by students from the brothers' school of Holy Cross and Notre Dame of Holy Cross, as well as an original play presented by the brother aspirants on the charism of St. André Bessette. The aspirants acted out the scenes while a narrator told the story.





Some of the students were liberal in their interpretation of cultural performance and danced to more modern Indian pop music



Each group had their own costumes



And all were carefully choreographed to include precise movement of both feet and hands.





These dancers were very creative – displaying split personalities for both women



And men,



Depending on which way they were facing.



One of the last groups displayed a synchronized "swimming" routine



that ended the formal entertainment with a smile.



Many of the guests did not see this dazzling display of water aerobics because most of the guests had already proceeded to the grounds for a broad and delicious sampling of various local dishes.