The birth of a child brings joy to its parents, relatives and the circle of close friends, and is an occasion for celebration. Yet there is something “homely” about this celebration, and something limited. By contrast, for the birth we celebrate at Christmas, the rejoicing is unlimited – shared by millions the world over, who are physically dispersed and humanly unrelated. What makes this birthday so different and so unique?

This year the Christmas comes at the conclusion of the year of consecrated life. While we bask in its atmosphere of peace, brotherhood, understanding and
love, charmed by those unforgettable carols, we must beware of those facts that spoil our consecrated life like selfishness, non-cooperation, etc. God did not become man like us to take us away from our humanness, but rather to teach us how to become and be truly human. Christmas is the celebration of our humanness – not a feast of sweet dreams. It is a call to challenge ourselves to immerse in our work of heralding the good news. The angelic message of love must resound in our ears today like a call to be fully involved in the ongoing task of building a better world of true dignity for all. Our love must model itself on the self-emptying, self-giving love of the God Who, being rich, became poor for our sake.

Christmas is probably the most popular and best loved of all Christian feasts. The pity is that with our cosy cribs, sentimental carols, greeting cards and parties, it is in danger of becoming just one more social event even for Christians. We need to “put Christ back into Christmas” and to make it primarily a religious event: the celebration of the Christ-like virtues and values of simplicity, respect for and love for the poor and needy. It should strengthen the brotherhood of all men and women, irrespective of creed, social status, personal talents and achievements. For us it should be an occasion and a call to work with a sense of greater urgency and earnestness for the realization of the fellowship, freedom and justice, the building up God's Kingdom on earth, which Jesus proclaimed and brought in his own person and work.

I wish you all a Happy, Christ-filled Christmas and a richly blessed New Year 2016.

Fr. Thomas Olikunnel, HGN
Dear members of the Pauline family of Heralds of Good News,

We are already in the season of Advent, preparing ourselves spiritually and waiting for the celebration of Christmas. In this important season of our spiritual journey, let the words of the well-known Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer echo in our ears: “The Advent season is a season of waiting, but our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and a new earth,” (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *God Is In the Manger*). Advent is the waiting for the Lord who comes to meet us. Let us remember that this year, we celebrate Christmas (Christ’s Mass = Sacrifice, offering, of Christ) in a period that converges two important years in the history of the Catholic Church: Year of Consecrated Life (30 November 2014 – 2 February 2016) and the Holy Year of Mercy (8th December 2015 – 20th November 2016). A realistic awareness of the truth of Christmas is very significant for living and celebrating meaningfully these years in a spiritually edifying and transforming manner. God offers and shares Himself with the humanity in a manger at Bethlehem. The logic of the love of God (life offered and shared) in the incarnation is a paradigm for every Consecrated person to be in a continuous and demanding processes of offering himself/herself to God and sharing his/her life for His people. As saint Faustina affirms, Christmas is the celebration of the mercy of God as Jesus is the Mercy Incarnate. “The Word becomes flesh; God dwells among us, the Word of God, Mercy Incarnate. By Your descent, You have lifted us up to Your divinity. Such is the excess of Your love, the abyss of Your mercy. Heaven is amazed at
the superabundance of Your love. No one fears to approach You now. You are the God of mercy. You have compassion on misery" (Diary of St. Faustina, 1745).

Christmas reminds us of the past event of God visiting us in history, that is the birth of Jesus, the merciful act of God becoming one of us and One for all of us. It reminds us of the existential presence of God who continues to be Emmanuel in the present in our history, God with us as our neighbour. Remembrance of the past becomes the power of the present because of the living God who once acted for us, reminds us of that today. It reminds us of the eschatological, future, presence in His encounter with us to ask us an account of our lives. The past is the memory, the present is the reality and the future is the possibility.

Let us live these seasons of Advent and Christmas, recapturing and recapitulating the historical surroundings of Jesus with variety of events and people manifesting different backgrounds, status, characters, emotions and attitudes so that our celebrations may help us to have lasting experience of encountering the Lord. With the birth of Jesus, our story became History. The epoch of the earthly life of Jesus was characterized by the political turmoil and upheaval caused by the arrogance of Roman imperialism under Augustus Caesar, economic exploitation due to the overburdening and unbearable taxes imposed on people, and victimization of the poor and the marginalized in the social anarchy created by the despotic rulers. It was in this socio-political and economic environment that Jesus was born in a stable considered to be not healthy and decent for a normal child to be born.

Let us review the protagonists in the central scene of the first Christmas night. Mary, the lowly handmaid of God who was found favourable by the Almighty to be the mother of God, Joseph the just man, who was destined to be the foster father of Jesus, the young couple who have no place to give birth to their first born, the inn-keepers and house owners who were inhospitable and consequently rejected the privilege of having the son of God born in their houses because of their disregard for the poor couple of Nazareth, the King of the universe born in a manger wrapped in saddling cloths, the angels who sang the gloria and announced the good news of the birth of the Messiah, the vigilant shepherds who received the great joy of the advent of the Messiah and recognized the presence of the Divine Saviour in the babe of Bethlehem, the arrogant and power-addicted Herod who was restless, jealous and disturbed on account of the fear of the most powerful ruler of the universe, and the brutally massacred innocent children who sacrificed their lives for the sake of Christ.

As Jesus continues to visit us in our neighbours in the milieu we live in, let us ask whether the history is being repeated today. Is not Jesus finding the same situation as when he was born 2000 years back? Is it not the
political, social, economic situation today same as that of His time? Are there not here still people who are mad after power, positions and privileges and go for any means to get them or secure them even though they don’t deserve them? Are there not people in every walk of life who are afraid of truth in our time? Are not our people under the heavy economic burdens and exploitations on account of the inhuman economic policies for the vested interest of the few in the name of false promises of our rulers and leaders for an utopian Accha Din? Are there not in India increasing number of women who give birth to their children in the slums and in public places as they have no house of theirs? Are there not people in our society like the innkeepers and house owners and like that of Bethlehem, who close the doors of their hearts to be indifferent and unwelcoming to the Daridra Narayana of our time? Are there not hundreds of children who suffer and lose their lives because of the selfishness and cruelty of the beasts in the human garbs? Are there not many in our country who experience constraints and persecution, to worship the true God? Are there not many who continue to proclaim the good news of hope and salvation in the midst of darkness that surrounds us? Are there not still simple and humble people who are privileged to hear the good news of salvation and respond to it with their lives filled with initiatives and actions like the shepherds of Bethlehem? Are there not still people in our society who recognize the revelation of God in the people they encounter, especially in the poor and the needy and pay homage to Him with worship and praise in their selfless service?

Amidst these categories of people, where do we stand in waiting for the Lord in our lives? In which group does Jesus find us? Is he feeling at home with us because we are humble, simple, generous, welcoming, obedient to will of God, pondering over the Word of God, willing to make any sacrifice to share our lives and all that we have with others, especially poor and needy? Or are we frightened, hesitant, lukewarm, selfish, cruel, passive, inactive, irresponsible, revengeful, reprehensible, and addicted to power, positions and comfort? Are we open to the Word of God and receive it in our lives and translate it in our actions? Are we able to focus and fix our eyes on the face of God revealed in the faces of the persons we live with? Are we able to serve the Lord in serving His people? Are we able to bear the good news of salvation and announce it to others giving them hope, and invite them to open themselves to the horizon of God? Are we active and vigilant in carrying out our responsibilities? Are we restless and resistant to the Word of God and the ongoing revelation of God in our lives begging for our recognition and respect?

Let these questions disturb us to be dynamic in finding the answers that can transform our lives to be dwelling places of
God's revelation, singing glory to God and leading people to God. Amidst our celebrations of Christmas, let us pause a while to look around us to recognize that Jesus who was born in the world two thousand years ago. He is among us in every person and in every trial and tribulation we encounter in our lives. By being born to poor parents, in an environment of extreme poverty, Jesus is telling us He dwells not in places of majesty and glamour but among the poor and the down-trodden, the sick and dying, the hungry, the oppressed and in those we love and even in those we hate. Let our hearts be open houses to receive the Lord. Let us take a moment to look around to recognize Him in those who do not have joy and peace in their lives. Like Jesus, let us have the humility to come down from our positions and zones of comfort and power to meet Him in the people around us. If we isolate ourselves from the masses by building a fortress around us with all our wealth and power together with greed, selfishness and pride, then we can keep waiting for Jesus all our lives, but it will only be in vain. Let us offer and share our lives with God, who shares Himself with us, and with His people who are our brothers and sisters. Let us transplant our hearts with the heart of God full of mercy and be Mercy Incarnate in this Holy Year of Mercy.

Let me conclude, inviting you to join me in the following prayer:

*Block us, O God*

from saying that we are born 2000 years too late to give room to Jesus (Dorothy Day)

*Block us, O God* from saying that we should have been there to invite Jesus then, 2000 years ago when he was born in a manger at Bethlehem.

*Block us, O God* from running away from the greatest seriousness and from the greatest blessedness of the Advent-message (Bonhoeffer) each and every year, and why not, each and every day.

*Block us, O God* from every note of pessimism, from every bit of negativism, from every point of escapism, from every detail of exclusivism.

*Block us, O God* from every refusal to exercise, from every refusal to express, from every refusal to expand, your power-filled gifts and graces of dynamism and optimism…!

(Ref. Rev. Dr. Jerry Rosario, Keep going...! Keep Growing...!)

It is my joy to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2016 filled with experiences of receiving and manifesting God’s Mercy.

*Fr. Saji Sebastian, HGN*
1. Fr. Siby Peedikayil: Mission Superior of St. Paul Province in PNG.
3. Fr. Shijomon Vazhapillil: Parish Priest, Pisa, Italy.
4. Fr. Bosco Puthiyakunnel: Parish Priest, Pisa, Italy.
5. Fr. Kevin (Edriance) Pereira: Asst. Parish Priest, Pisa, Italy.
6. Fr. Abraham Thadathiparambil: Procurator, Community- Varazze, Italy.
8. Fr. Shiju Lukose Thekkevalayil: Associate Pastor, Diocese of Eichstatt, Germany.
10. Fr. Bejeesh Kunnathel: Associate Pastor, Diocese of Trier, Germany.
11. Fr. Jineesh Emmanuel: Associate Pastor, Diocese of Trier, Germany.
12. Fr. John Paulose Alakkattuparambil: Diocese of Muenster, Germany.
13. Fr. Binoj Jose Elukkunnel: Associate Pastor, Diocese of San Atonio, USA.
14. Fr. Rojy Peter Myalil: Associate Pastor – Diocese of San Antonio, USA.
15. Fr. Jipson Perumpuzhakadavil: Procurator – St. Mary’s School and Hostels, Bonakal, Telengana
17. Fr. Francis Medanki: Pastoral Ministry, Andhra Pradesh.
18. Fr. Noble Thottathil: German Course, Trivandrum.
19. Fr. Joby Nadayil: German Course, Trivandrum.
21. Dn. Shabu Varghese: Pastoral Ministry, St. Antony’s Church, Kannamaly, Diocese of Cochin.
   Dn. Shabu Varghese – 16th April 2016
2. GET-TOGETHER OF THE PARENTS OF THE MINOR SEMINARIANS, KARUNAPURAM

19th December 2015 was a memorable day in the history of St. Mary’s Minor Seminary, Karunapuram, Minor Seminary of St. Paul Province of Heralds of Good News. Parents of the minor seminarians gathered together for the first time to be with their children and the Fathers of the Province. Most of the parents participated in the event despite the difficult situations of the family. All of them were happy with the premise of the Seminary and the way their children are being formed to become the future labourers of the vineyard of the Lord. The day was marked by an input session by a diocesan clergy of the archdiocese of Thalassery, interaction between parents of the Fathers of the Province who were present, Solemn Eucharistic celebration and the cultural fest of the Minor seminarians.


The annual gathering begins at 9 am on 21st April. The venue of the gathering is St. Mary’s Minor Seminary, Karunapuram. All the seminarians are expected to be in seminary before 9 am. It will be very encouraging for our seminarians if our Fathers also could be present on the occasion.

3. ANNUAL RETREAT FOR FATHERS: 01-05 MAY 2016

Dear Fathers, please take note of the date of our annual retreat and make the necessary arrangements in the place of your ministry so that you can do the retreat together with the members of our family of St. Paul Province without fail. If anyone has any difficulty of getting permission from the superiors or the bishops of the places of your ministry, please let me know it earlier, so that I can speak with the concerned persons and get the needed permission.

4. PROVINCIAL FORUM: 05, 06 MAY 2016

In accordance with the General Directory, no. VIII, the Provincial Forum of our Province will be held on the 5th and 6th of May 2016. The Provincial Forum consists of all the members of the Provincial Administration, a delegate of the General Administration, Regional Superiors if any, all local superiors, all heads of the institutions, the vocation promoter, and all the permanent members of the Province at their choice. It is to re-assess the progress of the province as well as to better implement the resolutions of the previous Provincial Assembly. All our members are highly recommended to attend the event and make valuable contributions to the progress of the Province. It would be very much appreciated if our members abroad can arrange their annual holidays in India so as to participate in the Forum.

5. DIACONATE ORDINATION: BRO. JEFFY ILLICKAL - 7 MAY 2016

The Diconate Ordination of Bro. Jeffy Illickal will be held at Good News Retreat Centre, Pampady by Most Rev. Sebastian Thekkatheccheril.
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phi: 4:13)

Wish you all A Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year in the name of all the Fathers and Brothers from our Minor Seminary.

The days are gone, but the memories remain ever cherished. The Seminary was delighted to celebrate the Feast of the province in a meaningful manner on June 28th. On the same day we also celebrated the feast of Fr. Sinoj Pynadath, the Rector. It was a great day of joy as we had solemn celebration of Holy Mass and cultural Program in the evening. The day was memorable with the presence of many of our fathers Fr. Baiju, Fr. Nickson, Fr. Ajish, Fr. Jinto and other fathers and sisters.

Another great day in the Catholic Church as well as to the citizens of India was the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Independence Day of our nation. We had the solemn celebration of the Eucharist. After the mass we invited our Panchayath member who
St. Paul Province of Heralds of Good News

hoisted the flag and gave us a thought provoking message. After that we had the volley ball match. The rest of the day went on joyfully.

As we all know the state of Kerala is known as God’s own country because of very many heritage, cuisines and festivals. And among the festivals one of the famous and most important is Onam. The day was celebrated on 22nd August with Holy Mass. And peak moment of the celebration was the meal with a number of curries and different dishes. And as a community we enjoyed the day meaningfully.

Fare well is the meaningful celebration of wishing a person for a future ministry. So in this way our community had moment of joy and sadness on the farewell day of three of our fathers, namely Fr. Roji Peter, Fr. Kevin Pereira and Fr. Noble Thottathil. We bid farewell to Fr. Roji on 20th August, to Fr. Kevin on 14th September and to Fr. Noble on 17th October. These three of our fathers served our seminary with lot of dedication and commitment. So as a community we thanked God for the gift of all these fathers.

Another memorable day in the history of St. Mary’s Minor Seminary was the visit of our beloved Bishop Mar. George Njaralakatt, the Archbishop of Thalassery to our community on 27th October. As soon as he arrived, brothers all extended a hearty welcome to the Lordship and after that he gave us a wonderful message about seminary formation and its importance in our religious life. It was really a memorable day.

Every seminary formation consists of intellectual formation, human formation, pastoral formation and spiritual formation. Among all these formation programme, spiritual formation is the most important one for the students for the future priests. The annual retreat was started on 25th November by Rev. Fr. Jose Poothrikayil OSH and his team. They gave us a wonderful spiritual renewal for our brothers. And the retreat ended on 29th of November.

Once again we wish you all a joyful celebration of Christmas and New Year.

Fr. Antony Das, HGN

ST. JOSEPH’S MAJOR SEMINARY, KHAMMAM, TELANGANA

Greetings of happy Christmas and prosperous New Year from St. Joseph’s community to all the members of the Pauline family. The blessing of the Lord is always upon us to strengthen us and to go forward in life. It is a great privilege to mention some of the salient events of our seminary. On the day of St. John Maria Vianney’s feast day fourteen of our brothers
received the ministry of acolyte and fifteen brothers received the ministry of lector. On August 15th we celebrated the 68th independence day of our nation together with the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On the same day we had the musical night also. On 29th August the Malayalies had the privilege of celebrating our peculiar and traditional festival of Onam.

On September 3rd the students of second year theology organized Faith and Facts on “Go and Proclaim: A Response to Divine Call.” The following day a team namely “Chennai Harvest Bible team” came to the seminary and taught us to do new way of evangelization through sports. We were inspired by their classes and the active participation of their ministry through sports. On 10th September we had the annual seminar on “Family: The Nucleus of Ecclesial Life and Pastoral Care - A Return to the Fundamentals” by the resource persons which lasted for two days. On 16th of September Deacons presented the symposium on “Laudatosi” (The Encyclical Letter of Holy Father Francis on Care for Common Home). Philosophers had their chance of debating on “Law: In Today’s India.”

25th September was another great day for our seminary because it is for the first time that our seminary had the presence of His Grace Most Rev. Salvattore Pennacchio, the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal. His presence was more solemnized with the inauguration of Marian exhibition on which the Nuncio, bishops of Khammam and Nalgonda and our Superior General appreciated us for our initiative.

On 17th of October we began the annual sports meet of 2015-16 with the solemn Eucharistic celebration and from 19th onwards our second semester classes began. On November 26th we celebrated the 21st seminary day. The Lord is with us always to guide. Once again we, the Josephite family wish you all a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year 2016.

Bro. Johnson Antony, HGN

ST. PAUL PROVINCIAL HOUSE, PAMPADY, KERALA

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

As the angels sing the glory of God, we come to you bringing God’s peace, love and fellowship on this special eve of Christmas. At the very beginning wish you all loving Fathers and Brothers “A Merry Christmas and A Gracefilled New Year”. May God’s love be with all of us.
Here at home, we Fr. Saji, Fr. Selvan, Fr. Thomas Alencherry, Fr. Jipson and Fr. Joseph Thundathil are fine and happy by the grace of the Lord. The Lord’s kindness is so evident in our house because many of our fathers come to share and taste the brotherhood and friendship.

We were embellished by so many sweet memories and events. On 1st of July Fr. Saji and Fr. Selvan left for Kammam for the diaconate ordination which took place on 3rd in which Bro. Shabu and Bro. Vipin from our province were ordained deacons. On the feast of the apostle of India, we celebrated the feast of Fr. Thomas Alencherry. On 29th July Fr. Selvan left for Italy and came back on 7th September. On 9th August the fathers of the province administration had a meeting in our house. On 16th August Bro. Shaiju joined our community as regent, and after being here for two months, he left for Kannur minor seminary to continue his regency program.

An unforgettable moment took place as we had the celebration of the Onam festival, in which the three communities here gathered to enjoy the festive meal. 20th September we celebrated the birthday of Fr. Selvan. On 24th of the same month Fr. Saji left for Europe, visiting our fathers in Germany. Fr. Jipson left from here on 2nd October to our school at Patharlapadu. On 12th October Fr. Philip came with the teachers and students of St. Joseph’s E. M. School, Yernagudem, for their scholastic tour for five days. We could express the love for our society on 14th October through the meaningful celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by Very. Rev. Fr. Philip, and concelebrated by Rev. Frs. Thomas Alencherry, Tony, Sibi Thadathil, Paulose, Noble, Selvan and Justine. On this same day Fr. Provincial returned from Germany.

The sharing of fellowship and fraternity was crystal clear when our senior priests gathered for two days seminar and discussion at Vagamon from on 15th-16th. There were few days of praying and bidding farewell to Frs. Roji and Binoj on 8th September, Fr. Kevin on 24th of the same month, and Fr. John on 24th October. On 31 October was a grace showering day, as we had the Japamala rally. It was witnessed by so many priests, religious and faithful. On 3rd November Fr. Saji left for Malabar for his visit to the Minor Seminary.

Most of the time there has been joy filled moments at home with the visit of most of our fathers who came to share their love and joy. The Lord’s blessing has been ever binding each one of us together in many ways directly and indirectly. Remembering you always we still await your love. Once again wish you all dear fathers and brothers the blessings of Christmas, praying for you. May God bless all of us.

Bro. Shaiju B. HGN
Loving Greetings from Good News Sneha Bhavan, Kakkoor, Kerala. With the blessing of God and your sincere prayers everything is going well. We are happy to know that you all are doing well in the place of your ministry.

We would like to share with you some events that occurred in these past months. We celebrated the festival of ONAM in a grand manner. Rev. Fr. Provincial, some of our fathers, neighbours and well wishers were present for the celebration. It was a memorable day for the inmates here. Different organizations like Kudumbasree, Senior Citizens and Red Cross conducted their meetings and presented some programs on different days. We sincerely thank our dear Frs. Noble, Subin, Joby and Manu for leading “one day retreat” on every second Saturdays. We thank all the Fathers who visited and spent their valuable time with us. We are happy to inform you that all our inmates are keeping their good health and are happy here.

Finally we wish you all a Joyful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2016. We also request your valuable prayers for us.

Bro. Alex Andeenatt, HGN

Greetings from Good News Asha Bhavan, Vagamon. As we have entered into the Advent season, we may be busy in preparing ourselves for celebrating the great feast of Christmas. Here all of us are keeping fine and doing well. We have increased the number of inmates to twenty two and they all are very happy. The climate over here is so good that many visitors come often. In the month of October the Provincial administration organized an “On Going Formation” for our fathers and a day of spiritual renewal. The daily activities are going on well.

St. Antony’s Church, our parish is blessed with many gifts from the Lord. The long awaited Parish hall blessing was done on 24th August by His Lordship Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekethecheril,
the Bishop of Vijayapuram Diocese. Rev. Dr. Thomas Olikunnel, HGN, our Vice Provincial, many Fathers, Sisters and many people were present for the function. It was a great day with different programmes. The cooperation of parishoners was so great that everything went on well. On the same day we had the “Parish Day” celebrations with cultural programme presented by our catechism children. For the children in the parish we have started Cherupushpa Mission League and Thirubala Sakiyam.

We take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support and wish you all a happy Christmas and bright New Year.

Fr. Vinod Plackal, HGN

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GOOD NEWS AMMAVEEDU, PAMPADY, KERALA

Greetings of Peace and Joy from Good News Ammaveedu, Pampady. It is also a great joy for us to greet you through this Newsletter. By the Grace of God everything is moving good. At present we have hundred and twenty members. We have also begun the new kitchen work. Rev. Fr. Saji Sebastian, our Provincial Superior, has blessed the site and started the work. At present the work is in progress. Fr. Joseph Kandathiparambil has gone abroad for the retreat ministry. We have also begun a new ministry of giving food for the poor in the district hospital, Kottayam with the permission of the district collector. Wishing you all an advance Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year. Thanking you all for your loving support and prayers.

Fr. Joby Michael Maramattathil, HGN

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GOOD NEWS RETREAT CENTRE, PAMPADY, KERALA

Greetings from Good News Retreat Centre, Pampady. Our activities are going on well. Month of October was a very busy time. We had the celebration of the perpetual rosary and Japamala rally. A lot of people participated in the perpetual rosary. Around 4000 people participated in the Japamala rally, which was organized and guided by the Fathers of the Retreat Centre and Ammaveedu. Experiencing the love of God and our heavenly mother, all could receive many many graces. All retreats are going on well and the participants are very happy of the retreats.

Fr. Biju Thoompukal, HGN
Dear fellow brothers in Christ,

Greetings from the North East. Together with the winter we have started the second semester of our scholastic year 2015-16. The first semester was hard with various factors. We had heavy rain and flood for all three months and it affected us so badly. As our class rooms were insufficient we had to make some adjustments. We lacked two teachers initially but by God’s grace we could solve it later.

In the month of August, Most Rev. Bishop George Palliparambil visited the school and hostel and gave an inspiring message to the children. We have conducted a medical camp for the children by providing vaccination for the epidemic. We have celebrated Independence and Teachers’ day.

In the Parish unit, prayers and monthly Mass celebrations are regular. In the month of October, we had common Rosary in every family and then 10 days in the Church. On 31st we had candle light procession in Dhone Khona. We had monthly recollections with all the fathers and sisters of the region. Every month we have get-together of all the religious of the neighbouring communities with an hour of adoration followed by sharing of mission experience and conclude with supper. We just reconstructed the church in Luckiding village where the Church was damaged due to heavy rain and wind. All other things are going smoothly. In union with prayers and love we remain.

Fr. Tomy Ambattu, HGN

Greetings and warm wishes to you all from Frs. Thomas Naidu, Jinu and Philip. Everything goes fine over here and we are happy with the frequent visit of our fathers both from the Province and the Centre. Thanks to all.

The strength of the school has gone up to 1230 despite the tough competitions from the nearby corporate schools. Though parents have many
options they prefer to send their children to our school. One of the reasons for their preference is that our students are really good at maths and English. Also besides academic excellence, we instil strict discipline to the students. Recently CEMSA sports and games competitions were held here and our students got over-all championship. Since the half yearly exams are coming closer, the students are busy with their studies.

Fr. Thomas Naidu is busy with pastoral work by way of organising various pastoral programmes in the parish and villages in view of Christmas.

Wishing you all A Merry Christmas and A Grace Filled New Year 2016.

Fr. Philip Kulathinapadickal, HGN

Greetings from St. Paul School. It is our pleasure to give you some more news from our mission here. We celebrated the Independence Day in our School on August 15th in a grand way. Some parents were also present at the celebration. We had our Teachers’ Day Celebration in a simple way. We conducted unit test for our children for the first time in September. In the month of October we had Quarterly Examinations followed by Dussera holidays. In November we celebrated Children’s Day in a solemn way. Our children were thrilled to perform some cultural events like dances songs etc. to mark the occasion of children’s day celebrations. Many parents were present and they all appreciated our efforts in the school. A special word of appreciation and thanks to our teaching staff, Br. Paul Arora and all the non teaching staff for their hard work which resulted in the wonderful performance of our children. We hope to mark the celebration of Christmas by a Semi Christmas Celebration in our school on 22nd December before the children depart for Christmas Holidays.

We specially thank some of our Fathers who supported us financially to purchase some needed items for the school. Fr. Saji Pamplaniyil sponsored a Samsung All in One Printer.

Similarly Frs. Sunny Velamparambil, Shijomon, Bosco & Abraham supported us in purchasing an Amplifier, Sound Boxes and Microphones for the school. We thank them in a special way for their generous gesture. We need some more financial assistance to purchase a few more things for the school. We hope that the Lord will provide the needed help through
some generous people. Our land conversion process is completed and we are also awaiting the Passbook for our land. We have applied for opening permission for classes 1 to V for the coming school year and the file work is going on.

At present we have 62 students in Nursery, LKG & UKG Classes. We wholeheartedly thank all those who help our school one way or another for its growth and slow establishment. Many of our Fathers visited our community here and spent time with us and we thank them all for their kind visits. We thank in a special way the provincial administration for its timely help and assistance in all the ways needed for the running of our school. We assure you our prayers and request you for your prayers. We wish you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Let us be united in prayer for each other and may God bless us all.

Fr. Sibi Thadathil HGN & Bro. Paul Aurora HGN

ST. MARY’S SCHOOL AND HOSTEL, BONAKAL, TELANGANA

May your christmas sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill, and may the year ahead be full of contentment and joy.

Have a Merry Christmas.

Dear fathers and brothers,

Very glad to meet you through this Newsletter. We wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. Here at Bonakal, Fathers, Sisters, Staff and Students are fine and preparing for the half yearly exam.

We bring to your attention some of the happiest moments that we experienced in our community. On 15th August, we celebrated Independence Day, on September 5th we celebrated Teachers’ day and on 14th November we celebrated children’s day. On 12th December we had parents meeting and around a hundred of them took part in the meeting. We began the meeting at 10 am and lasted till 12.30. Frs. Paulose, Sibi and Jipson, Srs. Resmy and Sicily and all the teachers and non teaching staff were present for the meeting.

Now we are busy in preparing crib in our hearts as well as outside. We are planning to organize semi-Christmas celebration on 23rd December and children will have their holidays for 5 days from 24th December. Our third phase of construction is at progress and the slab work is complete. By the end of January it will be ready for blessing and inauguration.
Asking you all your valuable prayers, once again wish you all a happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Rev. Fr. Jipson Perumpuzhakadavil, HGN

LOURDE MATHA CHURCH, EZHIMALA, KERALA

Greetings from Ezhimala! After the initial difficulties in the new parish, now I am slowly getting into the normal life and feeling at home. The months of September, October and November were filled with a number of events. On October 30th there was Japamala rally conducted in honour of the feast of our Lady of Rosary. On November 1st we celebrated “All Saints day” and on the next day we remembered and prayed for all the faithful departed with special prayers for the souls in purgatory. The day was memorable as many parishioners participated in the holy Mass and prayed for their dear ones. Apart from these events, every second Friday we have Night Vigil to nourish ourselves spiritually. On every second Saturday we have monthly recollection for our Catechism students.

Requesting you all your valuable prayers and wishing you all a fruitful season of Advent & Merry Christmas.

Fr. Ajish Azhakulathil, HGN

ST. MICHAEL’S CHURCH, PERINGAMALA, KERALA

Greetings from St. Michael’s church Peringamala & St. Sebastian’s church Punnamood. I am happy to share a few activities of last four months. On August 4th, we celebrated feast of St. John Maria Vianny in the parish and all fathers of Kovalam forane gathered together and had a one day picnic. On August 15th we had solemn celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Independence Day in both churches and in both schools. We too celebrated Onam in a grand way with cultural and sports competitions. From September 27th to October 4th we had the celebration of feast of St. Michael. It was very grand. From September 28th to October 1st, we had retreat for parishioners. On October 2nd, we had religious gathering in the parish as part of the year of consecrated life. 36 religious from neighbouring communities participated and parishioners wished them by giving them memento and performing cultural programs.
In the month of October, we had 30 days of solemn Rosary in unites. There was Rosary procession organized joining both parishes. On November 2nd, we commemorated all souls day in the Parish and houses as most of them are buried in the house compound in a special way. From November 13th to 15th, we had Christeen Retreat. It was the first experience for both parishes and was a great blessing to the children. On 14th November, we had grand children’s day celebration. Many newly elected political leaders participated in the children’s day rally and made it a colourful one. On the same day we too celebrated 35th anniversary of St. Sebastian’s kurissadi at Punnamood. From December 1st to 20th we are going to have Christmas carol.

All other daily parish activities are functioning well. Sincerely thank you all for our prayers and support. I invite you all for celebrating Christmas with us. Wish you all very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Jofin Amarakattu, HGN

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Advance Christmas day wishes from Puthencruz parish. It is exactly 2015 years since the history is parted as “Before Christ” and ‘Anno Domini’. The very proud moments will be celebrated by all of us and Puthencruz parish too is all set to start of Jingle bells.

Before I pen down the same let me recap the tale of my previous message. We had a grand celebration of our parish day in the presence of His Excellency Bishop Jose Puthenveetil. We could really make it a memorable one with all your prayers and support. It was our pleasure to receive a perfect and positive remark from Bishop Jose Puthenveetil about our parish and parish day celebrations.

Coming are the days with a number of celebrations in the parish. Following the guidance from the diocese we have planned the announcement of “The Holy Year of Mercy” on 8th December 2015, along with the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Christmas celebration will commence on 20th December with Christmas Crib competition followed by Carol Song competition on 22nd December. Unit level carol will be conducted on 22nd December. Christmas events will end up on 25th with the solemn Holy Eucharistic celebration of Christmas.
Our Church is dedicated to ‘St. Theresa - The little Flower’ and the parish feast is scheduled on 15th, 16th and 17th January 2015. We welcome all of you to come and receive blessings from our Patroness, Little Flower. As we request your prayers for us, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a happy New Year, 2016.

Fr. Sunny Parambukattil, HGN

Greetings of love from St. John’s Catholic Church Irawi. Here everything is going on well by the grace of God and by your loving prayers. I would like to point out a few events that took place in my parish during these last few months. In the month of September 10 children received their First Holy Communion. On 4th of October the parish was blessed by the visit of our bishop. He gave Confirmation to 22 children and on the same day he installed me as the parish priest here. As we know the month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, we made it a point to organize the prayerful recitation of the Holy Rosary every day in our main church and on 31st of the same month we arranged a solemn concluding ceremony of it with a rosary procession from one of our outstations to the main church. Many participated and had the Holy Mass after the procession. I have started to visit all the houses of my parish and hope to finish it soon. Fr. Johnson also is keeping fine and busy with the ministry there in his parish. Once again prayerful greetings from PNG.

Fr. Shijo Mattathilanickal, HGN

Greetings of love and prayers from Fas Catholic Mission, PNG. First and foremost let me wish you dear Fathers and Brothers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year in advance. May the Infant Jesus fill our hearts with His peace and joy.

Hope you are all keeping well by the grace of God, the Almighty. Happy to hear that everything is going on well with you all. I wish and pray that the good Lord may help us to carry out His work here on earth.
Along with my parishioners I am keeping fine. Now I am in a new place called Fas. People are very good and kind to me. On July 4th I took charge of Fas Catholic Mission. There are six communities. On July 12th we celebrated the Day of Catechists and Youth. We had Holy Mass, entertainment programs performed by the youth and then we had a great meal.

On July 18th the newly built Chapel at Tamin, a substation of Fas was blessed and dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. On alternative Saturdays we have Confession, Adoration and Holy Eucharistic celebration there.

On September 10th we started our Independence Day celebration which lasted till 16th of the same month. Normally on this occasion People from Uttai, Fr. Pradeep’s parish, and many other communities around the region gather together to participate in the programs. I am very happy about the sportsman spirit of my people which brought good name, fame and prizes to our Mission.

On October 24th and 25th we celebrated the feast day of Fas Catholic Mission. People from the substations gathered and had sports meet and cultural programs for two days. On the last day we had a solemn Holy Mass and a fellowship meal.

Month of October is very special to us since it is dedicated to our Blessed Mother. We had the solemn recitation of the Holy Rosary every day in the parish and we had a solemn closing ceremony of the month of the Holy Rosary. The month concluded with the solemn rosary procession with the statue of our Blessed Mother. Children enacted each mystery and helped people to meditate and pray better.

On October 30th we had the dedication Mass for our first batch of grade 8 students as they were getting ready to appear for their grade 8 public examination. These 12 are the first fruits of our school, after the school was raised to primary level.

I am very happy here with my people. Dear Fathers and Brothers, thank you so much for your prayers. Please do continue to pray for us. Our Fathers Siby Peedikayil, Pradeep, Robert, Donatus and Suganthan are rendering me their valuable support and help very much. Once again dear Fathers and Brothers, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2016.

Fr. Jins Kuppakkara, HGN
Greetings of Christ’s peace! I am happy to meet you through our newsletter. Thanks be to God that things are going on well here in our mission.

In our Parish we have the preparation for and administration of the sacraments going on all through the year in one community or the other according to the need and availability of the people and the catechists. Thirty baptisms were administered in two communities in the month of August. On 6th September His Excellency Most Rev. Cesare Bonivento PIME presided over the Holy Mass in Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, Oup and administered the Sacrament of Confirmation on seventy eight children and adults, from four communities of the parish. The Bishop in his homily invited the children and the youth to lead holy and chaste lives. He explained to them the stories of the Martyrs of Nagasaki, Blessed Laura Vicuna of Chilea, and St. Dominic Savio. He also recalled the life of a young girl, Freeda from Krisa, a village close to Vanimo, who resisted to the sexual molestation of a man and finally was killed by him in 1993. She died in her purity with the words, “Jesus, help me” on her lips. All these people had received the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation and were strengthened by the Holy Spirit to give witness to Jesus, the Bishop said in his homily. He invited everybody to lead pure and holy lives and give witness to Jesus every day.

Currently we are preparing around to fifty children and adolescents for baptism in one of our communities. This community was almost abandoned for some years. Most of our parish Catechists, Prayer Leaders and Sunday School Teachers have attended their ongoing formation conducted at the diocesan pastoral centre during the last few months. The construction of a village Chapel is going on in one of our Substations. My works in the diocesan office and the seminary are also going on rather well. Fr. Prabhat Bastiray MSFS, the Rector of the Major Seminary, and some major seminarians are helping the parish on Sundays. In the first week of December we are going to have our annual retreat for the clergy here in the diocese. In less than two months’ time Fr. Robert HGN with the help of his parishioners has completed the work of a parish Church which was pending for almost 10 years for various reasons. The structure of the Church was built by Fr. Roy Vazhapolamkudiyil, HGN in 2006. The Church was blessed by our Bishop on the 23rd of November 2015. Now Fr. Robert is in India for his vacation. Fr. Donatus, HGN had to go home unexpectedly as his father died last month. He
was already due for vacation. Fr. Pradeep, HGN, Fr. Jins, HGN and Fr. Sughundhan, HGN are doing their ministries well in their respective parishes.

Let us keep each other in our prayers that we may have the fervour to go out and look for souls following the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, and the invitation of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

God willing soon we will be preparing for and celebrating Christmas. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a graceful New Year 2016. *Gloria in exelsis Deo!*

Fr. Siby Peedikayil, HGN

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**HOSPITAL MINISTRY, ROME**

Greetings from Fr. Jaison Mathew Edathil. I am glad to share with you about my new ministry. After having served our community at Varazze for almost two years I was called to dedicate myself to a new mission. From 1st October I am chaplain of Madre Giuseppina Vannini hospital in Rome. I thank the Provincial team for the trust they have on me. It is a big hospital with 300 beds. I am called to be a presence of God’s love and care to the sick and the suffering. Every day I meet hundreds of people with suffering and pain. I also witness people accepting the cross with faith in Christ and great courage. It is Jesus himself asking us through the suffering brethren to bring consolation and love. I start my day at 6 a.m. with Morning Prayers and Holy Mass. I have to be available throughout the day and night even at midnight I may be called to administer the sacrament of anointing of the sick.

After the Holy Mass I visit the sick, distribute Holy Communion, hear confession and administer the sacrament of anointing of the sick. Our presence, a smile, a few words can bring big consolation. To be sincere I started this new ministry with fear and anxiety but now I know that it is Christ whom I serve to whom I bring consolation, and He strengthens me and guides me. Please do sustain me and my suffering brothers with your prayers. Please do pray in a special way for Children and young people suffering with cancer.

During the day I have very little personal time. Only on Wednesday I get a few hours for myself. Recently Fr. Superior General and Fr Jose Kaniyamkunel had visited me. I thank Fr. Lijo Alanickal, the Superior of Varazze Community for arranging a farewell party for me. I
had a good time with him and the parish. Really I miss them all. Fr. Lijo and Fr. Vinod Edoor accompanied me to Rome. Thanks a lot for all the help dear fathers.

Happy Christmas in advance!

Fr. Jaison Mathew Edathil, HGN

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**DIOCESE OF TRIER, GERMANY**

Happy to inform you the news from Trier, Germany. From the month of September, we, Fr. Jineesh and me are appointed as assistant parish priests in the diocese. Although we had the initial difficulties in the new place and new culture, now our life here in Germany goes well.

We acknowledge and thank for the visit of Rev. Fr. M. Ignatius, the Superior General and Rev. Frs. Saji Sebastian, our Provincial Superior and Fr. Alex Raveendran, the Provincial Superior of Mary Queen of Apostles Province, in the month of October. We had a fruitful meeting in which all the members of Heralds of Good News participated. Fr. John Paulose has arrived here on 25th October. He is progressing with his language studies in the Akademie Klausenhof, Münchter Diocese. We assure you of our sincere support and request your prayers for us. At the end I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year 2016.

Fr. Bijeesh Kunnathel, HGN

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**DIOCESE OF EICHSTATT, GERMANY**

Dear Paulines,

Greetings and prayers from Frs. Praveen and Shiju. Wishing you all a very blessed Advent season and Joyous Christmas!

We both are keeping fine in Eichstätt. We have taken charge of our respective parishes from September. We stay at a distance of 33 kms. I have a parish with 900 families and Fr. Shiju and his team has 12 churches to take care. Although I had taken charge of the parish in September, my house was not ready and I was staying in the Seminary. From 30th November I stay in the Parochial house near to the Parish. Life is quite fine here. It’s almost winter in Germany. These days we have temperature
between +4 to -3. This might reach to -10 by end of December and January. The nature is extraordinarily beautiful during snowfall.

We are in touch with all our fathers working in Germany. They are all fine. We had a meeting of all priests working in Germany and the Provincials and Superior General in October. It was a fruitful meeting by giving directives for the mission in Germany.

The priests working in Belgium are about to pay a visit to Eichstätt in December. Hope we will have a nice time.

Please keep us in your prayers as we too do the same. God bless you all...

Fr. Praveen Puthiyamangalath, HGN

VARAZZE COMMUNITY, ITALY

May God’s blessings be with you
And your family on this Christmas and always!
May you experience the wonder of His abiding love,
As He guides you through each day of the coming year 2016.

Here comes Christmas Greetings from the community of Varazze.
As the winter season setting in we are reminded of preparing for the great event of the birth of our Lord. May this Christmas season brings us peace, joy and happiness. The summer season which is just passed brought us pleasant and unpleasant events. Fr. Jaison who served our community for almost two years received a transfer to Rome as a chaplain of Madre Giuseppina Vannini hospital. He was a faithful friend, brother and a spiritual guide to all of us. On this occasion we bid him farewell on 27th of September. The Provincial Superior Fr. Saji Sebastian and Fr. Santhosh Kochuprambil were present. All the faithful of Varazze parish who participated in the farewell Mass were filled with the feeling of sadness as he was very good to them and served them with a spirit of dedication and love. We wish him all the best in his new mission.

On 4th October we celebrated the feast of our Patron Saint Francis of Assisi. Fr. Abraham Thadathiparambil, the new member of our community presided over the holy mass and we welcomed him to our community. In the same month we had the joy and privilege of having the visit of our Superior General Rev. Fr. M. Ignatius. On this occasion Fr. Jose Kaniyayamkunnel
had arranged that all the priests who are working in Italy have the opportunity to meet the General. One of the gatherings was held on 19th October at Varazze. The fathers belong to all the four provinces working in north Italy were present. The gathering began on 19th morning with an hour of adoration followed by holy mass presided over by the Superior General. In the afternoon we gathered together with Superior General to discuss about matters pertaining to our Society. The Superior General shared the present situation of the Society and Provinces and the members shared their opinions of the ministry in Italy and gave various suggestions so that all members serve the Lord in a better way.

After the dinner the Superior General expressed his gratitude to all the members who support and collaborate with him and with the Society by their selfless service in the mission entrusted to them. May God bless us all.

Once again wishing you all a joyous Christmas and prosperous new year 2016.

Fr. Lijo Emmanuel Alanickal, HGN
Vatican City, 12 April 2015 (VIS) – The following is a summary of the Papal Bull “Misericordiae Vultus”, by which Pope Francis convoked the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

The Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy is composed of 25 numbered sections. Pope Francis has described the most salient features of mercy, focusing primarily on the theme of the light of Christ’s face. Mercy is not an abstract word, but rather a face to recognize, contemplate and serve. The Bull is developed in a Trinitary fashion (Nos. 6-9) and extends to a description of the Church as a credible sign of mercy: “Mercy is the very foundation of the Church’s life” (No.10).

Pope Francis indicates the salient phases of the Jubilee. The opening coincides with the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Vatican II Ecumenical Council: “The Church feels a great need to keep this event alive. With the Council, the Church entered a new phase of her history. The Council Fathers
strongly perceived, as a true breath of the Holy Spirit, a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way. The walls which too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way” (No. 4). The conclusion will take place “with the liturgical Solemnity of Christ the King on 20 November 2016. On that day, as we seal the Holy Door, we shall be filled, above all, with a sense of gratitude and thanksgiving to the Most Holy Trinity for having granted us an extraordinary time of grace. We will entrust the life of the Church, all humanity, and the entire cosmos to the Lordship of Christ, asking him to pour out his mercy upon us like the morning dew, so that everyone may work together to build a brighter future.” (no.5).

A special feature of this Holy Year is the fact that it will be celebrated not only in Rome, but also in all the other dioceses of the world. The Holy Door will be opened by the Pope at St. Peter’s on 8 December, and on the following Sunday in all the Churches of the world. Another novelty is that the Pope will grant the possibility of opening the Holy Door also in Sanctuaries, where many pilgrims will go in order to pray.

Pope Francis resumes the teaching of St. John XXIII, who spoke of the “medicine of Mercy”, and of Paul VI who identified the spirituality of Vatican II with that of the Samaritan. The Bull explains, furthermore, various salient aspects of the Jubilee: firstly, the motto, “Merciful like the Father”, then the meaning of pilgrimage and above all the need for forgiveness. The theme that is particularly close to the Pope’s heart is found in section No. 15: the works of corporal and spiritual mercy are to be resumed in order to “reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy”. A further indication is offered by Lent, with the sending out of the “Missionaries of Mercy” (No. 18), a new and original initiative by which the Pope intends to emphasise his pastoral care in a more concrete way. In paragraphs 20 and 21 the Pope considers the theme of the relationship between justice and mercy, showing that he does not stop at a legalistic view, but rather aims at a path that leads to merciful love.

Paragraph 19 is a powerful appeal against organised violence and against those who are “advocates and accomplices” of corruption. The Pope uses strong words to denounce this “festering wound”, and insists that during this Holy Year there must be true conversion: “This is the opportune moment to change our lives! This is the time to allow our hearts to be touched! When confronted with evil deeds, even in the face of serious crimes, it is the time to listen to the cry of
innocent people who are deprived of their property, their dignity, their feelings, and even their very lives. To stick to the way of evil will only leave one deluded and sad. True life is something entirely different. God never tires of reaching out to us. He is always ready to listen, as I am too, along with my brother bishops and priests. All one needs to do is to accept the invitation to conversion and submit oneself to justice during this special time of mercy offered by the Church” (No. 19).

The granting of indulgences as a traditional theme of the Jubilee year is expressed in section No. 22. A final original aspect is offered by Pope Francis with regard to mercy as a theme shared also by Jews and Muslims: “I trust that this Jubilee year celebrating the mercy of God will foster an encounter with these religions and with other noble religious traditions; may it open us to even more fervent dialogue so that we might know and understand one another better; may it eliminate every form of closed-mindedness and disrespect, and drive out every form of violence and discrimination” (No. 23).

The Pope’s wish is that this Year, experienced also in the sharing of divine mercy, may be “dedicated to living out in our daily lives the mercy which the Father constantly extends to all of us. In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of throwing open the doors of his heart and repeats that he loves us and wants to share his love with us. … In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love. May she never tire of extending mercy, and be ever patient in offering compassion and comfort. May the Church become the voice of every man and woman, and repeat confidently without end: ‘Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old’.”
### Days to Remember

#### DECEMBER

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<td>Rev. Fr. Maramattathil Mathew (Joby Michael)</td>
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**JANUARY**
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## FEBRUARY

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