



E-BULLETIN #243

23-Oct-16

"Let the holiness of God shine forth" (cf. Mt 5, 16)

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new SAC bishop of Gwalior

On 18 Oct last Pope Francis appointed **Fr Thomas Thennatt sac** as the new Bishop to the *Diocese of Gwalior*, India. The announcement was simultaneously made at Nagpur by the local Archbishop in the presence of the provincial, the vicar general of the Archdiocese and various local Pallottine priests, sisters and laity.

He takes over from retired Bishop Joseph Kaithathara.

Thomas Thennatt was born on 26th November 1953 to the late Mr Kuruvilla Thennatt and Mrs Annamma at Koodalloor, Kerala and was baptised on 4th December 1953. He has a brother and four sisters. His present home parish is St Joseph church, Ettumanur.



He completed his matriculation in St Mary's high school at Kidangoor in 1969, during which he came in contact with Pallottines and joined the VOC – Vocation Orientation Centre – at Trivandrum. Following two years of minor seminary he travelled north to Nagpur for philosophical studies then entered the novitiate in Bangalore in 1974. Returning to Nagpur he completed theology and was ordained in 1978. In 1983 he obtained a masters degree in pastoral theology from the Papal Seminary, Pune.



St John's Cathedral - Gwalior

Across the years he has served the church in numerous capacities and locations:

- assistant parish priest [Amravati and Nidadathavolu]
- parish priest [Mudfort],
- director of the Youth Commission and YCS/YSM, Families and Laity [Archdiocese of Hyderabad]
- parish priest and director for Laity, Families and SCC's [Diocese of Indore]
- regional director for Laity, Families and SCCs [states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh]
- rector of Khrist Premalaya Regional Theologate [Ashta]
- director of Regional Commission for Formation and Consultor of SAC Prabhu Prakash Province
- parish priest [Ishgarh]
- president of CRI unit - member of Council of Priests and College of Consultors [Diocese of Jhabua]
- parish priest [Mankapur]
- president for the Pastoral Commission of SAC Prabhu Prakash Province [Nagpur]



SAC Nagpur Province website
18.10.16
<http://www.napallottines.org/>

item 459

Cuba call

Only recently – 22-29 Aug – I visited our two priests undertaking a new mission of the *Annunciation of the Lord* Province in the Archdiocese of Havana, Cuba. These first confreres, Frs Stanislau Skrydalevich and Lukasz Kluska, arrived on this beautiful island only six months ago.



After a brief but intense pastoral introduction in different parishes of Havana, they were sent to Managua, a small city some 30 km south of the capital where they were entrusted with a parish. But, in reality, they are assuming pastoral care of three parishes: St Isodor the Worker in **Managua**, with a connected chapel of Our Lady of Mt Carmel [**Las Guasimas** - 5kms away], St Antonio [**San Antonio of Las Vegas** - 25kms away] and Blessed Trinity [**Guarra** - 30 kms away].



It is not easy to describe the situation of the Catholic church in Cuba. The majority of the population are Christian. It is considered that in the 11 Dioceses, which make up the church territory on the island, 60% of the population are baptised, but only 3% are practising Catholics. The fact that the construction of the first church on the island since the Revolution, i.e. 1958, happened only two years ago, is very indicative of the situation.

Our two confreres are in effect entering a mission land, in a country short of vocations but 'rich' in social and religious challenges. The most difficult of all challenges seems to be the meeting with beliefs of African origin, such as Santeria, Palo Monte, Palo Mayombe, Regla Arara and the Abakua Secret Society – and with religious indifference.

Both deserve our gratitude and appreciation for their missionary zeal and for their pastoral workload. Congratulations to the *Annunciation of the Lord* Province for this courageous missionary enterprise that surely will bear fruit for the



whole Society.

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16.09.16
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a e-bulletin

you commented...

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