



# 40

Years of  
Committed Service

Wonderful Memories - Powerful Vision 1968 - 2008



## A smile upon the faces of Sakkodai and Munai in Jaffna



Apostolic Nuncio addressing the crowd

Amidst the turmoil and war situation, there was a smile upon the faces of Sakodai and Munai when Caritas Jaffna-HUDEC in collaboration with Caritas Sri Lanka(CSL)-SEDEC and other implementing Partners handed over keys to new houses in Jaffna. A total of 96 houses at Munai and 57 houses at Sakkodai in Point Pedro were handed over on January 9, 2008.

The Chief Guest, His Excellency, Most Rev. Mario Zenari, Apostolic Nuncio, Sri Lanka together with other distinguished Bishops, the Diocesan Director of Jaffna - HUDEC, Representatives of the Government and National and Diocesan Centre staff were welcomed to a chorus of traditional song and dance.

The Chief Guest and other distinguished invitees who addressed the gathering at the ceremony, stressed the need for

peace and a lasting solution to the ethnic conflict. The Apostolic Nuncio in his address said, "I wish your beautiful country and people, love and peace. The Holy Father too has shown his interest in the people of Sri Lanka and in bringing about a peaceful solution to the country's burning issue."

Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, Chairman of the Catholic National Commission for Justice, Peace and Human Development reiterated the need for dialogue and strengthening relationships with all communities. "Like these houses have been built with cement, sand and stone, we also should build cordial relationships with each other. Only then would we be able to become bridges of peace connecting the North and the South." Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, National Director was happy that another housing scheme built by CSL was being handed over to beneficiaries with the support of International Partners even under trying circumstances.



The distinguished guests being welcomed

## Handing over of school buildings in Galle



One of the Preschool buildings

Caritas Sri Lanka(CSL)- SEDEC is not only involved in providing shelter in the North, but also schools, in the South. On February 15, 2008 Caritas SEDGalle in collaboration with CSL-SEDEC and other Implementing Partners handed over two-storey classroom buildings for two Tsunami affected schools in Galle and Hikkaduwa.



The Chief guest unveiling the plaque in one of the schools

A two storey building at Gintota Zahira College worth Rupees Five Million and a two storey building including a fully equipped toilet block at Kahawarathanasara High School worth Rupees 13 million, was handed over.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, Chief Guest, said that spending on education is an investment for the future. Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, National Director thanked the Partners for their contribution towards uplifting the educational sector.

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## Lenten Programme



Lenten Poster - 2008

Ash Wednesday, February 6, 2008 marked the beginning of the Lenten season. During Lent, Catholics reflect upon the suffering of Jesus Christ through prayer, fasting and penance in order to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

Caritas Sri Lanka(CSL)-SEDEC will support the Lenten programme through its local network organisations in each Diocese, throughout the country. The Lenten collection from all the Parishes on

the Third Sunday or 'Caritas Lenten Sunday' will be utilised by each Caritas Diocesan Centre to help the poor and marginalised.

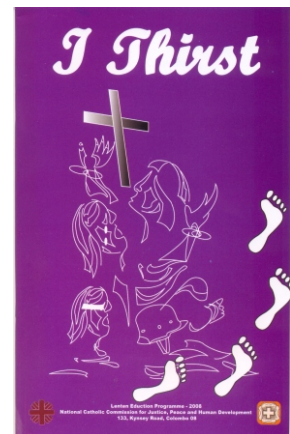
Booklets and posters based on the theme 'I Thirst' prepared by CSL in consultation with the Catholic Bishops' Conference will be distributed to each Diocese to be used as reflections for each Sunday's sermon during Lent.

The Theme "*I Thirst*" chosen by the Catholic Bishops' Conference not only highlights Jesus' thirst but also symbolises the deeper thirsts that every human being has ever felt, the thirst for companionship, love, new life, the end to suffering and most importantly the thirst for relationship with God. This theme is timely, to the current situation of our country as our country thirsts now, more than ever, for peace and love.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Lenten message too speaks about how people thirst for our compassion. He brings out the importance of almsgiving in order to grow in charity and recognize Christ, in the poor.

Rt. Rev. Dr. Harold Anthony Perera, Chairman of the Catholic National Commission, in his Lenten message highlighted that, "In the society we live in.. we are compelled to suffer sadness, poverty, violence exploitation and abuse. We thirst for justice, compassionate love, truth and equality."

National Director of CSL, Rev. Fr. Damian Fernando, in his Lenten message calls all Christians to come forward as one family, to quench the thirst of our Lord by reaching out to the marginalised and destitute people of our country.



Lenten Book

## Inter-religious Thai-Pongal Festival at Valaiyoothu



Celebrating a day of peace and reconciliation

Caritas Trincomalee - EHED in collaboration with the divisional staff of Kuchchaveli celebrated Thai Pongal with people from surrounding communities on January 25, 2008 at the Valaiyoothu Community Health Centre, Trincomalee. The inter-religious

Thai Pongal Festival which was conducted by the Peace Unit of Caritas Trincomalee - EHED included many colourful items such as song, dance and music.

The traditional Pongal rice and other sweet meats were also shared among those present.

The Chief Guest for this event was E.Thayalan, Assistant Divisional Secretary of Trincomalee and the Guest of Honour was Ms. V.Mathiyaparanam, Commissioner of Human Rights and Protection, Trincomalee. In observing the traditions of Thai Pongal, Caritas Trincomalee - EHED, a Diocesan

Centre of CSL - SEDEC expressed their commitment to protect the rich heritage of Sri Lanka and promote peace and harmony among all people.



The distinguished guests at the ceremony

## Organisational Development Process of Caritas Sri Lanka



Mr. Kilesh, ASK representative in discussion

Caritas Sri Lanka (CSL)-SEDEC, in order to respond to the current socio, political and economical scenario of the country and the Post Tsunami scenario realised the need to adapt its approaches and activities to the reality. The demand created by International Partner Organisations to move beyond the present status and to build sustainable relationships with Diocesan Partners, towards shared and owned strategies and programmes, posed an even greater challenge.

Thus in this context, CSL- SEDEC, being a learning and growing organisation realised the need for an Organisational Development Process (ODP). This process would enable CSL - SEDEC to reflect on past strategies and programmes and focus on better future responses.

The OD process, at every stage will be carried out in a participatory manner. This process will be supported by an External Consultant team: The Association for Stimulating Know-how (ASK)

from India. Mr. Aloysius John of Secours Catholique (Caritas France) will play a pivotal role in guiding and directing CSL and the consultant.

Apart from that a Steering Committee was set up, to provide guidelines and follow up on the progress of the process. The Committee comprised of three Diocesan Directors representing three regions, Representatives of the National and Diocesan Centres and a Facilitating Partner Representative.

The purpose of the ODP is to :-

- ✍ Understand the Sri Lankan reality
- ✍ Prioritize approaches and strategise resources.
- ✍ Integrate on-going programmes in relation to the Vision, Mission and Goal of CSL
- ✍ Capacitate management and the staff
- ✍ Re-define the roles and functions of the National and Diocesan Centres

The OD Process will also be aimed at making strategic decisions for the organisation on institutional, programme and financial based relevant issues. Reflections and dialogue will be held along with the planned capacity building programmes to integrate the

Dioceses at different stages of the strategic directions.

The following stages have been identified in this Process to understand the local reality and identify strategic issues for developing a realistic plan:-

1. The Orientation of the Process
2. Programme Evaluation
3. Context Analysis/Institutional Scanning/Stakeholder Analysis
4. Strategic Planning
5. Diocesan, Regional and National Consultation Process.
6. Validation of the Strategic Planning
7. Declaration of the New Strategic Directions for the 40th Anniversary of CSL - SEDEC.

We thank all CSL Partners at all levels who have joined hands in solidarity to make this effort a success. Regular updates of the OD process will be informed to Caritas Partners and Stakeholders.



Some of the CSL-SEDEC and Diocesan Staff at the OD process

## Annual Report 2006 - 2007

The Annual Report of Caritas Sri Lanka - SEDEC for the year 2006 - 2007 depicting the significant achievements and challenges of the ongoing human development programme and the Tsunami Programme can be downloaded from our website: [www.caritaslk.org](http://www.caritaslk.org). The Annual Report also includes the year at a glance, plans for the year ahead and a financial overview.



