

In 1985 the His Grace Anthony Soter Fernandez decreed that Parish Councils in the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur to have it's own constitution according to the guidelines detailed by the Archdiocese. Fr. Anthony Thomas commissioned Louis Kanoo, Valentine Peters, Benedict Nettare, A. C. Pereira and Justin Ng to formulate the constitution for the Parish Council of St. Joseph. In mid 1985 the final draft was accepted by His Grace and subsequently put into effect.

The candidates who were sent for the lay ministry course in 1980 completed successfully on 26 March 1985. Archbishop commissioned them on 3 April 1985 for a period of three years at a ceremony held during the Chrism Mass at St. John's Cathedral. St. Joseph's lay ministers commissioned were Valentine Peters, V. Stanislaus, Francis Nair, G. Arulnathan and Maria Soosay Thas.

In 1986 the building committee obtained the approval from Datuk Bandar after months of groundwork preparations, engaged the services of contractors, J.A Manan & Company to construct

the community centre. Hubert Pereira, a parishioner and an experienced clerk of works, was engaged to supervise the construction. The building was completed at the end of 1986. It was officially opened on 12 May 1987.¹⁷



Deacon James Gabriel (second from right).

¹⁷ *At this time Fr. Anthony Thomas desired to relocate the shrine of St. Joseph at a more prominent location. He chose a site in the centre of the tarmac right in front of the parochial house. Fr. Anthony Michael bought the statue of St. Joseph from France in the fifties. The youths from the building committee brought boulders from Templer Park to erect the shrine. Mdm. Therasamma built a shrine of St. Joseph where the present shrine stands in memory of Fr. Anthony Michael. Originally the shrine was in front of the Church, which was eventually demolished to make way for the road extension.*

In 1987 the seed for a community centre that was set in the heart of Fr. Anthony Thomas by his predecessor Fr. Laurent Le Guen was nurtured to be what we see today. Yes, although a seventeen year-old dream for a Community Centre has become a reality, a success, yet the a deeper sense of success and achievement over the years has been the generous and pains-talking struggle, cooperation and support of the parishioners of St. Joseph's. This Parish is noted for its PEOPLE'S POWER, though simple as they were.

The whole community has and will rise up on any occasion to meet the needs of the Parish. The year 1987 especially, 12 May will go down in as a unique day in the history of St. Joseph's parish, for on that day at 10.45am, His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Tan Sri Dominic Vandargon declared open the Community Centre for Human Development, which stands tall as a symbol of great achievement of the simple working class community in the backwaters of the City of Kuala Lumpur. It was recorded through the efforts of Fr. Anthony Thomas, miserior (charitable agency) of Germany, contributed a generous sum of money towards the cost of the centre. The Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur provided the parish a soft loan, through the generosity of His Grace Archbishop Anthony Soter Fernandez, which was duly settled before Fr. Anthony Thomas left the parish.

In conjunction with this celebration Stanislaus Jesiah Paiva was honoured with an award for 35 years of dedicated service to the Lord.¹⁸

In 1987 His Grace Archbishop, Anthony Soter Fernandez appointed Fr. Jestus Pereira assistant parish priest of St. Joseph Sentul after his ordination at the Church of Good Shepherd, Setapak on 21 October 1987.

Fr. Thomas declined the Parish Council's desire to celebrate his silver jubilee. His silent friend Fr Jestus Pereira however, called on Louis and Mary Kanoo to do something to mark the occasion. They got hold of the A Team a group of dedicated young people who looked into the A-Z of the odd works in the parish. News of

¹⁸ *In 1990 whilst holidaying with his beloved wife Mdm. Josephine Rodrigo in India, Stanislaus J. Paiva is called to the Lord on 1 June 1990 during a train journey in India. In July Fr. Thomas presents a plaque to Josephine Paiva in honour of her husband's selfless to the Church in Sentul. Then the Choir become the responsibility of Charles Paiva.*

the function was passed on under cover to most of the parishioners. Mary Kanoo arranged the Breakfast whilst Josephine Leo brought in a lot of jasmine to be strewn as Fr. Thomas walked to Church from the parochial house. The priests from the Archdiocese joined in the silver jubilee of Fr. Thomas with the parishioners on 2 February 1989 to the surprise of Fr. Thomas.

In 1989 the parish prepared for the ordination Deacon James Gabriel. Fr. Thomas suggested to the Parish Council that the community celebrate the ordination. Fr. Thomas appointed Louis Kanoo as organising chairman for the ordination.

The ordination of James Gabriel took place in August of 1989. It was a very grand celebration presided by His Grace Archbishop Emeritus Tan Sri Dominic Vendargon. The parishioners fully supported the event. After his ordination Fr. James Gabriel was appointed as assistant parish priest of Our Lady of Lourdes Klang.

Facilitate change - the step forward...

In February 1990 Leo Nathan replaced Louis Kanoo as chairman of the Parish Council. Shortly after, Fr. Anthony Thomas was transferred to the Church of Visitation in Seremban whilst Fr. Jestus



IM Anthony with Fr. Thomas.

Pereira was transferred to St. Jude's Church, in Rawang as parish priest.

On 21 March 1991 the parishioners had a grand farewell dinner party for both Frs. Thomas and Jestus Pereira.¹⁹

Fr. Edward Soosay one of the sons of St. Joseph's was appointed as parish priest and administrator of the parish of the Risen Christ, Ipoh Road and the Chapel of Christ the King Selayang in February 1991.²⁰

However, at Sentul Fr. Soosay who by then had celebrated his sacerdotal 25th anniversary in

¹⁹ *Life for the two priests was not a bed of roses. They had their fair share of difficult moments. Fr. Thomas was constantly haunted by anonymous letters from Taman Greenwood and Taman Sri Gombak. The Parish Council chairman has read the worst of the letters.*

Fr. Jestus Pereira physically handled because he conducted funeral service instead of a mass on a Sunday. Furthermore, he was attacked for not going to the cemetery. There was a signature campaign, conducted in mid 1987, addressed to the Archbishop to oust Fr. Thomas from the parish.

²⁰ *Before Fr Soosay involved himself of the real situation of the parish, he reconnoitred the parish. Only after a careful observation he got involved actively in the life and mission of the parish. In March 19 1991 was the feast of St. Joseph, Fr. Soosay was not there to celebrate the evening mass; Louis Kanoo received a phone call to fetch His Grace Anthony Soter Fernandez from the Cardijn House to celebrate the feast in the evening. During the journey to Sentul, Archbishop discussed with Louis Kanoo some matters and the topic of the massive 1989 transfer of priests surfaced. His Grace placed his hands at the side of his heart and said to him that while in Rome he had prayed at the tomb of St Peter that the Holy Spirit would guide him to execute the transfer he desired for the archdiocese. He then requested Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kanoo to pray for priests that they accept the transfer in good spirit for the betterment of the archdiocese.*



IYY First Youths' Anniversary.



Donation to the poor by the Franciscan Third Order.

Mentakab (Pahang) and having served in several parishes in the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur, moved with caution and planned for the continued progress of the parish.

In 1991 Louis Kanoo replaced Gabriel Moses as head of the Catechetical team and planned with teachers for the on-going faith formation in the parish on the framework conceived by Michael Wright the first formal head of Catechetical committee. Fr Soosay agreed to help in areas deemed fit for his assistance. The other heads of the Catechetical team who had contributed greatly to faith formation were A. Teresa, Mathew Nambirajan, Eleanor and Aileen Paul.

In March 1991 Archbishop Soter officially adopted the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) on the first Sunday of Lent. This programme was conducted in 1989 by a team from United States. It was a massive training session for priests, religious and laity in the archdiocese. Fr. Thomas, Fr. Jestus Pereira, D. Alphonse and Louis Kanoo represented St. Joseph Church.

In July 1991 the North District of Kuala Lumpur held its first preparatory Eucharistic Congress to prepare the faithful for the first Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress at the Monfort Boy's Town in Shah Alam. The love for the Eucharist was very much evident by the large turn out comprising of adults, youths and children from the four Churches and three chapels conducted in four languages. The spiritual director for the parish event was Fr. Soosay and Fr. Eugene Benedict the assistant parish of Good Shepherd who assisted in other aspects.

In April 1992 Fr. Soosay desired to celebrate St. Joseph's feast in a festive mood culminating the Eucharistic celebration with a carnival. He called Leonard Paiva and Joseph Fernando to help out in the carnival

Deacon Edwin Paul was assigned to the parish to assist Fr Soosay from March 1992. His Grace Archbishop Soter ordained him priest on 4 August 1992, at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Salak South. The ordination was the last major event in that Church. Later the Church was acquired for a highway project. After his ordination, Fr. Edwin Paul continued to serve St. Joseph Church as assistant parish Priest.



After the Jogathon.

Fr. Edwin Paul a God-fearing person having come from a humble home led a simple life. He would even fish out a good shirt from the clothes donated to the Church for the poor.

Fr Edwin is very responsible that he informed Fr Soosay about his late nights spent in some parishioners' home sometimes. He was very protective of his superior. When any parishioner misunderstood the parish priest, Fr. Edwin stood by him and confronted those who accuse him by explaining to them the need for such actions. He took good care of the parish in the absence of Fr Soosay and maintained good office hours. He was responsible in carrying out the entire pastoral work assigned to him to the best of his ability.

1993

Fr. Edwin was good in carpentry and had some knowledge of electronics and thus was able to advice the parish priest on such matters. It was during this time that the public address system was upgraded for the third time in the parish with the help of Leonard Paiva.

Fr. Edwin was easy to talk to and had winning ways and with children and youths. The youths were often found tagging him around the parish. He was a kind of a big brother to them offering advice.

In August 1993 Sr. Anne Marie introduced the Children's Liturgy in St. Joseph, Church with the help of Violet Gomez, Mary Fernando and Annie Nayagam.²¹

The parish prepared for the ordination of another son of the parish, Deacon Velangkani Arokiasamy Michael on 31 August 1993 by His Grace Archbishop Soter. The celebration was attended by a very large congregation comprising of priests and laity both local and visitors.

Early 1994 the Archbishop of Kuala Lumpur arrived at the parish on his first pastoral visit for duration of seven days. During his stay he was taken to the various BECs. Towards the end of his visit, the BEC coordinator Edward Chua briefed the Archbishop of the activities and plans formulated towards the future development of

the BECs. The Archbishop was pleased with the administration of the parish and was encouraged with the well being of his flock.

He then congratulated the parish priest and his assistant for being good stewards. The Archbishop ended his pastoral visit with a Eucharistic celebration.

In 1994 Fr. Soosay foresaw the need for a new parish in the North District of Kuala Lumpur to serve the Catholics living in Selayang, Seri Gombak and Batu Caves in Selangor. He formed an adhoc team comprising of Fr. Edwin Paul and Louis Kanoo. They were to look for a suitable site and anyone knowing of a prospective dealer was requested to inform him.²²

In 1994 Eleanor Tennakoon observed a young special child about 10 years old who had not received his Sacraments, on enquiry she finds that the parents did not know how to go about the problem, it then dawned to her that there were possibilities of many such cases of similar plight. She approached Fr. Edwin Paul the chaplain for faith formation for a solution. Subsequently, a class for special children started with the blessing of the parish priest. The formation committee was to provide the necessary assistance for the smooth functioning of this class. It was the first of its kind in the parish. The class had an enrolment of 12



Fr. Edward Soosay (left) and Fr. Edwin Paul (right) with Victoria.

21 The purpose of this activity was to highlight to the children in the primary school the meaning of the Liturgy of the Word through animation and mimes. They then joined the elders in the Church just before the start of the I Believe and thereafter continued with the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This activity, conducted on the first Sunday every month, was a good programme that would give the children a better understanding of the Mass.

22 A landowner who wanted to dispose off his land offered Fr. Soosay the deal. The team went to view the land in Selayang, Fr. Soosay was pleased with the location and observed ample parking space in the adjoining TNB land reserve. On the same day, another site was also viewed in the Batu Caves Industrial area but Fr. Soosay placed his hope on the land in Selayang. Later, the landowner refused to sell the land. Another parcel of land was viewed in Sri Gombak but did not proceed further as plans were underway to build a highway across the said land. Though he slowed down his search a little but his aim to acquire a piece of land was engraved in his mind.

children, the class progressed well, and the children received their Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. It was encouraging to see them participating at the many activities with their counterparts. The class ceased to function after 2003 as there were no more to register.

150 youths from the parish participated in the *youth explosion* organized by the school of evangelization in 1994.

On 18 September 1994 His Grace Archbishop Soter ordained yet another son of the parish, Jean-Claude Lourdes. After his ordination, Fr. Jean-Claude served as assistant parish priest at the Cathedral of St. John, Bukit Nanas, Kuala Lumpur.

Land issues began to surface sometime in 1993 when the Principal of Convent Sentul sought the approval of the ministry education to put an extension to the school's science laboratory. The application was duly rejected, as the land did not belong legally to the school but the Church. The Principal met Fr. Soosay to seek his approval. He was upset over the issue. She then apologised saying that she was ignorant of the matter, as she had not discussed the said extension with Sr. Hyacinth Yeoh, chairperson of IJ Commission for lands and buildings.

Fr. Soosay then called for a meeting attended by Fr. Edwin Paul, Louis Kanoo, Olivia Yeoh and Kamariah Bustaman (Convent School), M. Saraswathy (Tamil School headmistress), Sr. Hyacinth Yeoh and Sr. Maureen Chew (Councillor for Education, IJ Provincial Council). Louis Kanoo with the aid Cadastral Plans explained to those present the extent of the Church land comprising of lots 56, 109, and 113 of which two-thirds of the entire parcel was used by the schools.

Fr Soosay pointed out when the nuns were residing within the school premises (until April 1992) the school grounds were readily available to the Church during weekends for parking. Towards later half of 1994 accessibility to the school grounds was difficult as the gates were locked and keys were not available to the Church when required.



Fr. Anthony Thomas addressing First Holy Communion children.

The Principal of the Convent school explained that security measures had to be taken because incidents of drug addicts and exhibitionists finding their way into the school compound. Fr. Edwin Paul stressed that the Church was equally responsible as to the safety of the school grounds.

At this point the Sr Maureen Chew drew the attention of those present to item 33.1 of the Constitution (instrument) of the Board of Governors/Managers of Mission Schools, which states:

The Authority (owner), or any organisation officially sponsored or recognised by it, which has been using the building, facilities and equipments of the Institution before the date this Instrument came into force, shall continue to enjoy such use without limitation or restrictions. Approval, of the owner, is required for any usage of the land and also in the case of maintenance (repair of existing road).

On 25 February 1996 four octogenarians parishioners were identified (eighty years and above). They were I. M. Anthony, Valentine Peters, Benjamin Ng and Joseph Chong. They were honoured in a befitting manner. Fr Soosay thanked God for blessing the parish with these elders, who had contributed in many ways in the development of the church and hoped for God's blessing for more of this calibre.

1997

In the year 1995 Fr. Soosay set up a committee towards the purchase of a property in Sri Gombak, with Major Vincent as chairman and assisting him was Soosay Mariadass. The Committee with the help of Leonard and Joseph Fernando held two gala dinners to raise money for the project. The people of Sri Gombak were very eager to have a service centre in their area to hold BEC functions. To make this project viable, they formed a group called *The Sunshine Group* headed by Pauline Yeap who organised bi-weekly breakfast sale to fund this project. The various BECs also contributed towards this worthy cause.

The *Teh-Tarik* boy, Deacon Mari Arokiam was ordained priest by His Grace Archbishop Soter on 8 September 1992 and was posted to St. Anthony's Church. In November 1995 Fr. Edwin Paul left for Rome and was replaced by Fr. Mari Arokiam.

Fr. Mari a prayerful person who is faithful to his daily encounter with the Lord, had the ability to capture the attention of his congregation with



Fr. Mari Arokiam.



Fr. Edward Soosay.

his homilies and meaningful anecdotes with his vocal strength. He was responsible and obedient to his superior and worked true to the calling of his vocation. He stood up for his rights and some of the people whom he trusted tried to pull the strings of discord between him and his superior.

A friendly person by nature and was able to capture the love of the parishioners young and old. Fr. Mari was appointed Senator of the North District of the KL Archdiocese and subsequently President of the North District Pastoral Council until his transfer in 1998. His very popular phrase *I do it my way*.

In June 1996 Fr. Soosay saw a need to restructure the Tamil-speaking under a single umbrella call *Tamil Pothu Pani Iyakam*²³. With this structure he foresaw a better coordination among Tamil-speaking community thus providing efficient service to the parish. Tamil Apostolate consists of two representatives from legion of Mary, third order, youth, charismatic, choir, liturgy and catechetical ministries.

At this meeting Anthony was appointed chairman of the *Tamil Pothu pani iyakam* (Tamil Apostolate) and assisted by Gnanapiragasam.

After this there was a better understanding among the members of the Tamil Apostolate

²³ *The objectives of the Tamil Apostolate were: to identify the needs of the Tamil-speaking parishioners at the BEC'S and in the parish; to brain storm with the parish priest the findings and work out amicable solutions to over come the concerns at hand and thereby emulate with the English-speaking of the Parish; To organise and conduct formation programmes on social concerns towards uplifting the standards of the Tamil-speaking poor of the parish in the light of the Gospel, working hand-in-hand with the Society of St. Vincent De Paul; To organise and manage formation programmes for better presentation of commentaries and prayer of the faithful; To recruit new members in the light of ones personal sanctification.*



A class for special children was started with the blessing of Fr. Edward Soosay.

Tamil pothu pani iyakam and they were seen to be working closely with others. Their feelings of marginalisation in the BECs and the parish improved.

The Tamil Apostolate identified some BECs that were predominantly Tamil speaking and started working closely with these BECs organising area sponsored Masses and Fr. Soosay encouraged the Tamil charismatic prayer group to offer their services to the BECs as well. They progressed well under the guidance of Fr. Soosay.

The sales and purchase agreement of the service centre in Taman Sri Gombak was signed on 27 August 1996 by Major Vincent, Soosay Mariadass and Fr. Soosay. The initial sum of money towards the purchase was settled with a soft loan given by the parish.

The seed that Fr. Pierre Bretaudeau, MEP sowed in 1967 that was nurtured by Fr. Le Guen, MEP blossomed in 1997 as Cahayasuara Communication Centre equipped with modern equipments to facilitate world-class production.

In 1998 Fr. Soosay urged members of the Tamil Apostolate to take part in the formation programmes formulated by the Archdiocesan Tamil Apostolate.

Fr. Soosay observed the Church and the community centre were infested by termites needed face-lift. He formed a renovation committee in 1997.

In 1998 the committee moved into action and sent out tender documents, on receipt of the tender documents and after carrying preliminary studies of the documents, the renovation committee invited the contractors for interview. The committee employed *Glory Constructions* to carry out the job. To cut cost the committee approached Harold Fredericks to supply ICI paint at cost. Paul Leong agreed to help the committee to purchase the door and window panels at cost. The selection and matching of colours, for both the internal and external walls was conducted by the ICI Interior Design Department at gratis.

The Hammond organ installed by Fr. Swaminathan Savery, had to be replaced as rats had destroyed the cables of the organ. Fr. Soosay bought a new Yamaha organ and made it clear that only the Church organists are permitted to play.

In May 1998 the parish organised a dinner to bid farewell to Fr. Mari Arokiam who had been transferred to St. Anthony's Church at Jalan Robertson and simultaneously to welcome Fr. Ferdinand Magimay²⁴ from St. Jude Rawang who replaced Fr. Mari Arokiam as assistant parish priest of St. Joseph.



Octogenarians of the Church of St. Joseph, Sentul.

²⁴ Fr. Ferdinand served as an assistant priest to Fr. Stanislaus prior to his new appointment.

1999

In 1998 Fr. Soosay pointed out to the BEC leaders that they are responsible to choose committed youths assume responsibilities, attend meetings regularly and work within the framework of the Vision and Mission statement²⁵ of the parish.

On 7 April 1999 Fr. John Gnanapiragasam briefed the Kuala Lumpur North District Boundaries and projects committee that the process of demarcating the parish boundaries would be carried out on consultation with the people, at the following levels:

- i. BECS' of the Parish in the Archdiocese
- ii. Parish Boundaries and Projects Committee
- iii. District Boundaries and Projects Committee
- iv. Archdiocesan Boundaries and Projects Committee
- v. Council of Priests
- vi. Finally to the Archbishop for decision

Proposals for future Parishes:

1. New Parish in Damansara
2. Present parish of Jesus Caritas in Kepong
3. New parish in Sri Gombak
4. Present parish of St. Joseph in Sentul
5. Present parish of Good Shepherd in Setapak



Recognising senior parishioners.

In April 1999 Msgr. Daniel Lim announced on behalf of the Archbishop that the school of evangelisation (KLASE) was dissolved, thus in Sentul KLASE also ceased to function.

In August 1999 Fr. Soosay explained the new concept of the Parish Pastoral Council²⁶, which differed from the old view of the parish council. He said that a minimum of five people would make up the council with three people elected by the parishioners and two or three appointed by the parish priest. He further stated that for St. Joseph he would propose that three elected members would be made up of two from the English-speaking and one from the Tamil-speaking.

In October 1999 Fr. Soosay and his co-workers (Tamil Apostolate) took some time off. They wanted to be by themselves. Through this retreat they got to know each other better. Fr Soosay in his keynote address encouraged²⁷ them.

²⁵ *We the people of God in St. Joseph's Church Sentul, Kuala Lumpur, solemnly pledge to witness Christ's presence in our BECs and parish groups by working together as a united community, deeply rooted in prayer and pastoral concern, through co-operative action and collaborative action responsibility. Target: Becoming a more caring community. He stressed that there should be a spirit of tolerance, understanding and positive attitude when dealing with the youths. He further pointed out that the youths be allowed to grow in their natural surroundings and elders of the Church should learn to think from their level. As the present day youths, undergo many problems.*

The youths worked with their respective BEC leaders. They formed the Parish Youth Committee under the guidance of Fr. Soosay.

²⁶ *The Parish Pastoral Council with a fresh mandate was formed and called for its inaugural meeting on 28 September 1999. The composition of members formed the cross-section of the Parish with Fr. Soosay as President and Louis Kanoo as Chairman, G. Francis Joseph as Secretary and John Simon as treasurer of the council.*

²⁷ *We could learn to accept and appreciate, what each is doing for the community and maybe we could also discover what hidden talents and potentials we have in those who have yet to come forward to serve the Lord. This coming together like this, helps us to learn from each other, how to cooperate and support each other in our Apostolate, especially in times of Joys and Sorrows. Also today's coming together, is a gentle reminder to all us that we can no longer be silent bystanders but to be active participants and journey together...in the life of the Church. Also today's coming together, is a gentle reminder to all us that we can no longer be "silent bystanders" but to be active participants and journey together...in the life of the Church.*

Parish vision – shared mission...

In January 2000 Archbishop launched the jubilee year with the blessing of the Jubilee Door at the Cathedral of St. John. In the jubilee year, St Joseph Church was designated as a pilgrimage centre.

On 13 January 2000 Fr. Soosay explained the difference between the jubilee event and the millennium event. He said that in celebrating the jubilee year we were celebrating 2000th year of the birth of Christ and the focus should be on the Jubilee year.

In January 2000 Fr. Soosay established the very first Finance Committee²⁸ of the parish.

In February 2000 Fr. Soosay spoke of the small number of committed members of the Society of St. Vincent De Paul. Vincentians should be better Christians and follow Christ in their leadership stated in the Gospel of St. Mark “Christ went about doing good”.

In the same year, forty-four week Bible course was introduced in the parish and chapels in the North District. The course was implemented by the Archdiocesan Pastoral Institute and conducted by the Archdiocesan Biblical Apostolate.

Thanks to you for accepting our invitation to come for this Tamil Apostolate Night and let us continue to serve with love, always trusting in the Lord and asking Him to bless our families and us and our apostolate work for his people, whom we serve. May the good Lord bless each and every one of you here tonight and may you go forth filled with joy in your hearts and with the spirit of the Risen Lord, to motivate and inspire you to continue your tomorrows...to build God's Kingdom here in the Parish of St. Joseph.

²⁸ Fr Soosay appointed Justin Ng Chairman and Louis Kanoo secretary of the newly formed committee. Fr. Soosay briefed the new committee on the proper management of the parish funds and the need for monthly statement of accounts. He stated that the accounts for the parish and the centres that he administers (Risen Christ Church and Church of Christ the King) had to be submitted to the Archdiocesan Financial Committee. He stressed the need to submit similar statements submitted annually.

²⁹ It was reported that some 300 participants took part in the seminar. A number of resolutions were adopted. The pertinent one being the formation of parish based workers committee to look into the shortcomings faced by workers in their places of work. The NGOs were willing to look into their concern. The day culminated with a Eucharistic celebration and Archbishop Soter in his homily thanked the organisers.

At the priests recollection the Archbishop informed Fr. Soosay that the St. Joseph's Feast on 1 May 2000 be celebrated at Archdiocesan level. The Archbishop appointed Fr. Mitchel Anthony who was serving the parish of Batang Berjuntai to organise a seminar²⁹ on workers issues. The theme for the day was *Solidarity and Justice for Workers*.

On 5 May 2000 Fr Soosay's application to the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila had been approved.³⁰

In June 2000 Fr. Soosay briefed the BEC coordinators, the Parish Pastoral Council, and the Parish Finance Committee at a special meeting that in his absence, Fr. Ferdinand Magimay would administer the parish. Before he left for Manila, the Sri Gombak property committee settled the loan borrowed from the parish.

A farewell dinner was organized at the Pan Pacific Hotel for Fr. Soosay in July of 2000 to bid *bon voyage* to a priest who had served for ten years³¹. Louis Kanoo gave a farewell speech.

Fr. Ferdinand Magimay replaced Fr. Soosay as administrator of the parishes of St. Joseph's, Risen Christ and Christ the King in July of 2000.

The Sri Gombak property (Service centre) was transferred to the Archdiocese on 19 September 2000 and the strata titles will be ready for collection at the Land Office in 2008.

³⁰ Fr Soosay joined the institute in January 2001 with the first programme on Steward Leadership in the Church.

³¹ It is reported that one afternoon as he was standing at the porch of the parochial house he observed an old man tugging his bicycle two or three times along the road, curious to know what the man was up to, he called for the man. On enquiring he found that the man needed money to repair his bicycle and a friend of his promised some cash but had not turned up. He needed the bicycle because he was vending old newspapers. Fr. Soosay gave him the required sum and instructed the man to report to him after he had repaired the bicycle. The man returned and father was pleased with him and told the man that he could come any time to collect old newspapers from his junkyard.

Fr. Soosay's motto: *I expect to pass through this world but once, any good thing, that I can do or, any kindness that I can show to any fellow human, let me do it now, let me not defer nor neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.*