

St. Cecilia SCC

As per the directive of the Archbishop 'Anbiam's' or Small Christian Communities were formed in Tamil in the year 2000.

Mrs. Irene Abraham felt the need to start an SCC in English so with the help of her friend Mrs. Jacintha Francis, the then Parish Priest Fr. Amaladoss was approached to start the first SCC in English. He consented and inaugurated St. Cecilia's SCC on 23rd October 2004. The first meeting was held in Mrs. Irene Abraham's residence and 23 members from different areas of Madavaram attended.

For 10 years St. Cecilia's SCC was the only SCC that functioned, until Fr. Singarayyar as Parish Priest gate crashed into different areas and started eight other SCC's with the assistance of Late M.A. Abraham, the Zonal Leader.

The following are the SCC's:

- 1) St. Cecilia
- 2) St. John Paul
- 3) St. Mark
- 4) St. Faustina
- 5) St. Bernadette
- 6) Little Flower
- 7) St. Bonaventure
- 8) St. Patrick & 9) St. Jerome – dissolved with the bifurcation of the parish.

The following are the benefits of being a member of the SCC:-

- 1) We started reading the Bible. Many of us had not touched the Bible till then. We learnt how to read the Bible and slowly began to like reading it.
- 2) We learnt how to share our reflections on the relevant passage chosen based on our own faith experiences which enriched our group as a whole.
- 3) Soon, there was a desire to understand the Word of God and live by it. We began to love the Bible! Our SCC members became enthusiastic crusaders of the Bible. Daily readings flooded our mobiles every morning and we began to look forward to these daily reflections to help us to try to live the gospel. Evangelization had begun. These messages were shared locally and globally.
- 4) Some of us felt the need to know more about the bible and therefore we joined the Bible Study classes conducted by the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre in Santhome. Our study continues on a personal level.
- 5) The fellowship at the meetings brought us closer to one another as families. We began to help each other in different ways and the feeling of belonging to a family set in. Acquaintances became friends and these friends began to feel they were a family. Love and unity blossomed within the group and extended to the other SCCs in the Parish. All the SCCs were enfolded into a zone. Zonal activities engaged all the SCCs into united action.
- 6) Sunday Mass was animated by different SCCs which made the Liturgy more meaningful. Members were encouraged to come forward and read in Public. This helped them to shed their

inhibitions. Children became more self-confident after they get over their initial fears. Sunday Mass was no longer just a fulfillment of an obligation. Catholics became more enthusiastic to attend Mass and there was a beautiful communal fellowship that followed after the Mass. The warmth of Christian love was experienced and shared.

- 7) Outreach programs were organized and visits were made to Homes for the Aged and Destitute, Orphanages, Hospitals and Hospices especially at Christmas time to bring Joy to the less fortunate members of our society.
- 8) There was active participation in Parish activities like Catechism classes, Choirs, Youth Groups and Pious Associations. Carol Night was organized every year and the proceeds donated to the needy.
- 9) Carol singing was organized area-wise to spread the Christmas message of Joy and Peace.
- 10) Cultural Programs were conducted periodically to display the talent in the Parish.
- 11) All the SCC Leaders became members of the Parish Council which discusses, decides, plans and executes all the activities of the Parish and assists the Parish Priest and his team.
- 12) Subscription collection was transferred to the SCCs. This increased the revenue in the Parish.
- 13) The extension of our Church brought about the need for fund-raising. Various methods were adopted to raise funds for the construction in which all the SCCs played a major role in bringing the construction to a near completion.

The former Office bearers of St. Cecilia were:- Late Mrs. Gladys Thomas, Mrs. Petsy Brown, Mrs. Jacintha Francis, Mr. Ben Brown, Late Mr M. A. Abraham, Mrs. Irene Abraham , Miss. Matilda Manuel, Mrs Vanessa Phillips and Mr. Roshan Abraham.

The Present Office bearers are :-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Mrs. Carron McPherson | - President |
| 2) Mrs. Heather Rodrigues | - Vice President |
| 3) Mrs. Christabelle Palman | - Secretary |
| 4) Mr. Andrew Vasanth | - Joint Secretary |

We thank all our Office bearers for their sincere and dedicated services rendered to the building up of our little church.

On the whole, the Small Christian Community has made our neighbour our family and united we serve the Lord by spreading the Good News to all the nations.
