

FATHER JOHNSON'S MISSION STATEMENT

I am Fr. Johnson Tharayil, Pastor of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, in Gardendale, and St. Henry, in Warrior. I am one of several priests serving in this Diocese from the Irinjalakuda Diocese.

The Irinjalakuda Diocese in the State of Kerala in India works very diligently to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome those away from home, clothe the naked, and visit the sick and imprisoned. In Kerala, the need is great; therefore, there must be a focus on social concerns.

The Diocese reaches out to the Community of all faiths to care for those who cannot be cared for by their families. The Diocese receives no help from the government or any other agencies in their efforts to assist these needy families. Some of the areas of focus include: the elderly and the disabled.

To better serve the elderly population, the Irinjalakuda Diocese has established Old Age Homes like 'Abaya Bhavan', 'Providence House', etc. These homes serve older individuals who cannot be cared for at home, by their families. These elderly patients are totally cared for through contributions made to the Diocese. These elderly do not have private rooms, nor are they surrounded by their own belongings. To the best of their abilities, Nuns and Priests offer a loving, caring environment.

Serving the disabled is another focus of the Irinjalakuda Diocese. When parents and/or families are unable to care for these individuals, the Diocese provides. The Diocese has facilities like 'Asha Bhavan' which specialize in caring for the disabled. These mentally and physically challenged individuals are provided the best possible care by well trained staff.

These two vulnerable populations, elderly and disabled, are in need of such specialized, loving care that it is at times beyond our capacity to understand. Please help the Mission of the Irinjalakuda Diocese to serve the less fortunate.