



Central Association *of the* Miraculous Medal

475 East Cheltenham Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19144
(800)523-3674 • (215)848-1010 • MiraculousMedal.org

Contact:

Beth Racine
Director of Communications
215-848-1010 x226
215-833-6116 cell
BRacine@CAMMOnline.org
475 E. Cheltenham Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19144
www.MiraculousMedal.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PHOTOS**

Catholics Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Good Health Vailankanni at the Miraculous Medal Shrine

On Saturday, September 8, 2018, the Indian Catholic community celebrated Our Lady's Birthday in collaboration with the Miraculous Medal Shrine.

Photo: Our Lady of Good Health Vailankanni statue was displayed for all to venerate.

Click the link to download the above photo: <https://flic.kr/p/29S7vdy>

Germantown, Philadelphia, PA – September 11, 2018 – Known as the “Lourdes of the East,” the Shrine of Vailankanni, India, is a place of miracles that dates back to the 16th century. The Indian Catholic community of St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Forane Church gathered at the Miraculous Medal Shrine to celebrate the Feast of Vailankanni, Our Lady of Good Health on Saturday, September 8, 2018.

More than 600 individuals gathered in the Miraculous Medal Shrine to pay homage to Our Lady. The evening began with a Solemn High Mass, which included Novenas for the Miraculous Medal and Our Lady of Good Health. The congregation prayed the Rosary in a variety of languages and dedicated a special time to pray for all those who are suffering and ill. A beautiful procession occurred throughout the Shrine, as the community carried Our Lady of Vailankanni up and down the aisles for all to venerate.

Pastor Rev. Fr. Vinod Madathiparambil from St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Forane Catholic Church and Fr. Francis Sacks, CM, were co-celebrants for this memorable observance. Following the Mass, attendees gathered for refreshments and fellowship in the Lower Shrine.

The Apparitions of Our Lady of Good Health

Three major apparitions are associated with Our Lady of Good Health in Vailankanni, India. In the 16th century, Our Lady and her infant son appeared to a young Hindu boy selling milk to merchants. The boy offered Our Lady milk for her baby and Our Lady graciously accepted. When the boy told his superior there was no milk left over, he became enraged. Suddenly milk overflowed the boy's pot, and the superior recognized this as a divine moment.

The second apparition occurred a few years later, when Mary appeared to a paralyzed boy. Our Lady requested that the boy deliver a message to a Catholic man in his city. Sadly, the boy explained that he was unable to walk and could not fulfill her wish. Mary directed the boy to stand up and to his surprise he could walk and run like any other child. A church was built soon after on the site of this second apparition.

The third apparition occurred to a group of Portuguese merchants, whose ship was caught in dangerous ocean swells. The men prayed to Mary that they survive the storm. If they lived, they promised to build a chapel in her honor wherever they landed. Suddenly, the seas calmed and their ship reached the shore of Vailankanni on September 8. The sailors kept their promise and built a church on the beach. Pope John XXIII recognized this church as the "Lourdes of the East," where more than five million devotees visit the church annually.

A recorded video of the event can be viewed here: <https://vimeo.com/288899795>
and <https://vimeo.com/288903524>

To view more photos from this celebration, please visit our flickr page here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsmgRsvs1>

###

The Miraculous Medal Shrine, home of the Miraculous Medal Monday Novena, welcomes all visitors to our beautiful Shrine, located in the heart of Philadelphia. The Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal provides a sanctuary for prayer, meditation, and pilgrimage to God and to The Blessed Virgin Mary. Visitors are also encouraged to enjoy our Museum's historical collection of Marian and religious artwork. The Shrine and Museum are run under the auspices of the Vincentian Community and The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal.

For more than 100 years, The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal (CAMM) has dedicated itself to spreading devotion to Mary Immaculate and her Miraculous Medal. CAMM also supports the formation and education of seminarians, provides care to the aged and infirm Priests and Brothers of the Vincentians' Eastern Province, and supports programs that assist the poor. For more information about upcoming events at The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal and the Miraculous Medal Shrine, please visit www.MiraculousMedal.org.