

MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

APRIL 2014

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

CALL TO RENEW AND RE-ORIENT OUR STRUCTURES

Dear Brothers,

As directed by GC 35, Fr. General has asked every province to come up with concrete plans for renewing our structures at different levels based on the following criteria: a) The strength of local vocations and effective formation programmes; b) Adequate number of active Jesuits, with capability for providing mature leadership as superiors and directors of work, along with suitable governance structures; c) Relevance and dynamism of our missions/apostolic works, along with well-trained personnel and an adequate amount of financial resources; d) The capability and willingness of the Jesuits to collaborate with lay people and other religious and with other Jesuit provinces; e) Reviewing

constantly our apostolic plans, their implementation, follow-up etc., so that we always move according to the signs of the times.

We need to assess our province objectively on these aspects, in the true spirit of Ignatian discernment and take the right decisions. The guidelines from Rome speak of four types of response, while planning and implementing the renewal programme: a) Taking new and pioneering initiatives to launch new ministries or starting ministries in new places, which implies that we are in a position to find adequate human and material resources; b) Ensuring that the existing relevant and useful ministries are carried out in the most effective manner, through proper training, application of relevant methods, allocation of adequate resources, etc.; c) If the present circumstances clearly indicate that while a particular ministry is still relevant in itself, but it is advisable

that another religious or lay entity should be found to guarantee the continuance of its mission, being prepared to hand over such ministries to them; d) If we find any unit of the apostolate or its sub-unit, not relevant or useful to the people whom we serve, having the humility and courage to close it down or discontinue it.

This is a challenging task given to each province by GC35 and by Fr. General. We have been working on it and let us continue in this same spirit of courageous discernment about the relevance, suitability and desirability of our ministries, each sub-unit within every ministry, the methodology we follow in our ministries, the type of training we give to those assigned for financial, administrative and other responsibilities.

Fraternally,
Sebasti L. Raj. SJ
Provincial



Easter Greetings!

Fr Provincial and the members of the Province Curia wish every reader of the MNL a happy and hope-filled Easter!

Provincial's Programme:

APRIL

- 09-10 Visitation: Salem, Dharmapuri
 11 TNPCRI Function --
 LUMEN Institute, Tindivanam
 13-20 Holy Week – Personal Retreat
 22-23 Consult
 25-30 JCSA Meeting --
 Bhubaneswar

MAY

- 01-02 JCSA Meeting --
 Bhubaneswar
 04-16 Visit to Kenya, Tanzania,
 Zimbabwe and Zambia
 18-19 Formation Meeting --
 Shembaganur
 29 Jubilarians' Day –
 Beschi Illam (morning)
 29 Consult (afternoon)

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

April

- 01 Vocation Camp, Chennai
 02-03 Teachers' Orientation Prog,
 Vadampakkam
 05-06 Pundy
 08 B. Ed. College, Chennai
 09-10 Salem & Dharmapuri
 12 Chennai Mission Consult
 17-20 Easter Ministry
 21 Exodus Camp,
 Loyola, Chennai
 22-23 Province Consult

May

- 03 Rayapuram Feast
 17-19 Scholastic Meet, Shembag
 29 Jubilee and Province Consult ,
 Dindigul

PCF's Programme

April

- 1-4 Classes, Kodaikanal
 5 Vocation Camp, Madurai
 8 Vocation Camp, Chennai
 9-12 Arul Kadal
 13-15 Selection of Novices &
 Pre Novices, Beschi
 21-23 Regents' Meet, Beschi
 24-30 JCSA Meeting,
 Bhubaneswar

May

- 2-3 Retreat arrangement
 Shembag
 4-5 Retreat arrangement, B'lore
 14-15 Retreat arrangement, B'lore
 16-21 Scholastics' Summer Meet,
 Shembag
 27 SUPAM Meeting, Arul Kadal
 29 Jubilarians' day, Beschi

Announcements

Pope appoints:

Fr Francis Serrao Bishop of Shimoga
 Fr Ernesto Giobando Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires

Fr General appoints:

Fr P. S. Amalraj the Provincial of Andhra
Fr Stanislaus D'Souza the Provincial of Karnataka
 Fr Jakub Kolacz the Provincial of Southern Poland
 Fr Francisco J. Pérez the Provincial of Spain
 Fr Patrick Magro the Provincial of Malta.

POSA appoints:

Raj Irudaya (MDU), ADF
 Arun Kumar (KAR), Sp Dir, Papal Seminary
 Caesar D'Cunha (GUJ), Sp Dir, DNC
 Christdhari Kujur (MAP), Adm & Treas, Jor Bagh
 Edwin Rodrigues (BOM), Faculty Member, VJ
 Hermon Anthony (NEP), Adm & Treas, Sadhana
 Joy Pulikunnel (PAT), Staff, Sadhana
 Patras Kujur (MAP), Sp Dir, Papal Seminary
 Pravin Severekeer (BOM), Staff, Sadhana
 Vincent Crasta (KAR), Registrar, JDV (Additional)
 Alwyn Vaz (PAT), Convener, COJET

Reverting to their Provinces after serving the Common Houses:

Gratian Carlo (KHM), **M.J. Victor** (MDU), Thomas Rodrigues (HAZ), John W. Lobo (DAR), **Swaminathan Krishnamurti** (MDU), **Selvam M. Xavier** (MDU).

Province Common Retreat

Starts on 02 May evening and ends on 10 May. Venue: Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur. Preacher: Fr Fermin D'Souza, SJ. Please contact Fr PCF at once to book your place.

TERTIANSHIP: Fr Provincial has approved the following members for Tertianship:

NAME	FROM	TO
Fr Irudaya Valanarasu I.	Loyola Academy, Vadampakkam	Shembaganur
Fr Joseph Ignaci G.	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Hazaribag
Fr Leolin Arockia Dass A.	Chennai Mission Office	Shembaganur
Fr Loyola Antony Savari A.	St. Mary's, Madurai	Sri Lanka
Fr Manuel Savariar	KARISAL, Alangulam	Goa
Fr Santiago Sebastian	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Goa
Fr Stephen Selvanathan A.	Afghanistan	Shembaganur
Fr Victor Roch G.	St. Mary's, Madurai	Hazaribag

Transfer List II

Effective from 01 June 2014

NAME	FROM	TO	STATUS/DESIGNATION
Fr Alangaram Arockiam	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Innsbruck, Austria	Sabbatical
Fr Alphonse William L	Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur	St. Xavier's, HSS, P'Kottai	Correspondent
Fr Amaladoss Anand	Satyanilayam, Chennai	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Research
Fr Amaladoss Xavier S	SXC, P'Kottai	Sabbatical	--
Fr Amalraj Santhanam	LTI, Madurai	Kadamalaikundu	Parish Priest
Fr Ambrose Arockiam	St. Mary's, Madurai	St Paul's Seminary, Trichy	Spiritual Guide
Fr Antony Inigo D	Tertiaship	Madrid, Spain	Study: Spiritual Theology
Fr Antony Samy M	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Maduralaya	Manager, Sirumalai
Br Augustine James	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	St. Mary's, Madurai	Medical Treatment
Fr Clement Jesudoss S.	Supam	DNC, Pune	Study: MPH
Fr Devadhas Muthiah	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Arrupe Illam, Mettupalayam	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Dominic Savio M	Tertiaship	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	JRS Country Director
Fr Fernandes Jesuadimai	Palamalai	Ayyampalayam	Spiritual Ministry
Fr George C. Joseph	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur	Teaching and Counseling
Fr Gerlin Amaladoss	AHAL, Kilpennathur	Sentharaipatti	Parish Priest
Fr Gnanaraj Arul Francis	Kalangerai, Nagapattinam	Loyola Academy, Vadamel.	Teaching
Fr Ignatius Britto	Loyola Academy, Vadamel.	Loyola Academy, Vadamel.	Principal
Fr Infant Kingsley A.	Tertiaship	Loyola College, Chennai	Staff
Fr Jesudoss Irudayam	Sabbatical	SXC, P'Kottai	Staff: B. Ed College
Fr Jeyabaskaran Savariraj	Supam	Kalangerai, Nagapattinam	Treasurer and Staff
Fr Jeyaraj Michael	IDEAS, Madurai	Sabbatical	--
Fr Jeyaseelan Saminathan	Supam	Oilpatti (Salem)	Migrant Workers Project
Fr John Irudaya Kumar	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	Loyola College, Chennai	Director: Social Watch
Br Joseph Raja	Beschi illam, Dindigul	SJC, Trichy	Hostel Mess in charge
Fr Joseph Royappan	Kadamalaikundu	Rayapuram	Parish Priest
Fr Justin Y. Emmanuel	Tertiaship	LCC, Chennai	Staff: LICET
Fr Karickamapilli C. George	AAC, Karumathur	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Rest
Fr Kulanadaisamy Antony	Sabbatical	Kalanagarai, Nagapattinam	Team Leader and Director
Fr Leo Anand M.A.	Supam	St. Mary's, Madurai	Asst. Parish Priest
Fr Leo Correya	AAC Karumathur (Chaplain)	LTI, Madurai	Medical Treatment
Fr Louie Albert	JRS, Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Loyola College, Chennai	Teaching Staff
Fr Maria Felix Kennedy M	Supam	AHAL, Kilpennathur	Tribal Ministry Project
Fr Marianathan Chinnasamy	DACA	AHAL, Kilpennathur	PP, Team Leader/ Director
Fr Maria Packiam	Loyola College, Chennai	Loyola Uni., Chicago, USA	Post Doctoral Study
Fr Maria Wenisch S.	Tertiaship	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	Minister & Treasurer (Staff)
Fr Mathew Cyril Antony M.	Thozhamai Illam	Bodhi Zendo, Perumalmalai	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Michaelraj L. Rethinam	LAAS, Madurai	SHC, Shembaganur	Director, PEAK
Fr Mount Joseph Selvan D	SJC, Trichy	Honolulu, USA	Parish Ministry
Fr Packiaraj Gnanarethinam	AAC, Karumathur	St. Mary's, Madurai	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Paulraj Packiam	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	St Joseph's, Trichy	Regional Advisor: AICUF
Fr Richard Lourdu Dass A.	SJIS, Ooty	LTI, Madurai	Teaching Staff
Br Savarimuthu Michael	SJC, Trichy	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	House Kitchen in charge
Fr Theresenathan Susai	Supam	Palamalai Estate	Asst. Manager
Fr Thomas Visuvasam	Rayapuram	Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur	Headmaster
Fr Vazhapilly Francis	Carmel, Nagercoil	Manalur	Rest

HOMAGE TO MARTYRS

As a follow up of 3rd Chennai Mission Assembly, LISSTAR of Loyola College organized a one-day seminar on Irular Tribe at Loyola, Chennai on 1 March. The seminar opened our eyes to the reality of life of Irulars. The keynote speaker, a renowned anthropologist, Dr Pakthavachala Bharathi spoke about various aspects of the life and culture of Irular tribe. Other speakers shared the success stories of their movements, rich heritage of their harmonious living with the nature and their traditional practice of natural medicine and healing with herbs. Representatives of Irulars talked of their existential struggle to get ration card, voter's ID and land patta. They appealed to the Jesuits to join their

were poisoned to death and whose cemeteries are preserved at Karuveppampoondi Madam. Initiating the pilgrimage from the church campus to the cemetery Fr Ignacimuthu invited the pilgrims to draw inspiration from these martyrs to deepen our commitment to God and His people. The parishioners accorded a warm welcome to the Jesuit pilgrims. More than 100 villagers joined the procession to the cemetery, praying the rosary and singing. And the pilgrimage concluded with a concelebrated Eucharist at the cemetery, presided over by Fr Jabamalai Raja, the Chennai Mission Superior. "We are gathered here in this sacred place after a gap of 303 years," said Fr Mark Stephen in his homily. After the Suppression,



livelihood struggles and help their children pursue higher education.

To mark the Twin Jubilee, the Chennai Mission undertook a pilgrimage on 16 March 2014 to pay homage to the two French Jesuit missionaries, Frs Maudiyt Pierre and Maximilleu de Courfil, who



New Releases

மனம் ஒரு மரம்பெட்டகம், by Fr Michael Jeyaraj, SJ, Vaigarai, Pages:112, Price: Rs. 60 /-

வேர்கள் (மதுரை மறைமாநில இயேசுசபைச் சகோதரர்கள் - (1872 முதல் 2011 வரை), by Fr. V.M. Dasan, SJ, Vaigarai, Pages:336, Price: Rs.150/-
புனித இஞ்சூசியாரின் வாழ்க்கை வரலாறு, by Fr Mampra, SJ, Vaigarai, Pages: 80, Price: Rs 45/-

these two missionaries moved to seclusion in Ongur and laid the foundation of the present Ongur church in 1789. He explained how Karuveppampoondi Madam flourished as a hub of Jesuit Carnatic mission in this region. Citing sources at the Archives at Pondicherry and the annual letters written by St John De Britto, he also highlighted how a Jesuit formation house at Puliur served the mission. He expressed the desire that Chennai Mission may give birth to a formation house in the area. He also invited us to walk with the poor, especially the Dalits and other marginalized groups such as Narikkuravars (gypsies), Irulars and Migrants.

The Jesuit community of Kuppayanallur, under the able leadership of Fr Joe Mike SJ, made the pilgrimage spiritually nourishing. More than 70 Jesuits left Kuppayanallur with appreciation for the food and the warmth and hospitality of the Kuppayanallur Jesuit community.

- Dominic Jayakumar



Events



WOMEN'S VEERA VILAYAATTUKKAL

The highlight of Women's Day celebrations at the Women's Hostel of **Arul Anandar College** on 8 March was *veera vilaiyaattukkal* (games of valour) in which women students proved they are second to none when it comes to courage and guts, skills and strength. The Hostel Day was celebrated on 15 March. The retiring staff members of our college, Dr Solomon Bernard Shaw, Dr Salai Pargunan and Mr. Joseph Gregory were the chief guests of the day. The presence of the Jesuit community along with the parents of both boys and girls doubled the joy of the inmates. On the College Day on 21 March Fr Xavier Vedam, the principal, listed the academic achievements and the new innovations and research that helped AAC to get a CGPA rating of 3.66 by the NAAC. The chief guest, Mr. Xavier Britto, the Chairman of INDEV Groups commended the great contributions of the Jesuits and motivated the students to become achievers. Servants of Many Homes, a book written by Fr Xavier Vedam on the rights and dignity of women domestic workers, was released. He gave a talk on "Innovations in Teaching and Learning in an Autonomous College" to the Principals and College Officials of International Federation of Catholic Universities organized by Christ University, Bangalore on 14 March. On 18 March Tamil

scholars talked of the contribution made by the Jesuits to Tamil at the high tea organized by the Director of Tamil Aaivu Maiyam, Fr Mani Valan.

- Rufus

AWARENESS OF ALCOHOLISM

On 2 March, during the monthly training programme at **AHAL** Fr Wilson helped the animators to understand that alcoholism was a disease that affected one's body, mind and soul. Around 200 women celebrated Women's Day here on 9



March. Ms Lalitha was the chief guest and Sch Selvendhiran and his team made the day memorable through games and cultural programmes. Kuppayanallur JMAADD's cultural troupe toured AHAL's contact villages to create awareness on alcoholism and drug addiction through cultural programmes.

- Antony

NOVICES WAIT AT RESTAURANTS

On 24 Feb the first year novices, accompanied by Fr Wilson, Socius, left **Beschi Illam** for their work experience to Thiruvannamalai. Fr Eugene from Loyola, Vettavalam and the Parish Priest of Thiruvannamalai made the necessary arrangements for the Novices to stay there for 30 days and

gain valuable work experience as waiters in restaurants and hotels. Fr Wilson preached a retreat to the parishioners of Thiruvannamalai. On a day off, they visited a cave at Vettavalam in which St John de Britto stayed when he was persecuted by the local zamindars.

On 3 March the second year novices started their hospital experience at five places. On their return to Beschi from the two experiments the novices shared their experiences. On 26, 27 March Fr Arul, OFM gave a course on chastity to the second years that emphasized affective and psycho-sexual maturity.

At CIS on 27 March 23 sisters finished their long retreat directed by Fr Dhanaraj, and assisted by Fr Deva. At the recommendation of Fr Provincial, four sisters of the Sacred Heart Congregation, Tuticorin, have come for a 1-month preparation for their final profession.

The recovery of Fr Amal (DEL), who had a perilously close encounter with a four wheeler, has been remarkable because the reconstructive surgery was meticulously planned and progressively accomplished by Ganga Hospital, Coimbatore. He was discharged on 28 March and moved to St Mary's Hospital, Podanur, Coimbatore, from where he would be required to go to Ganga for weekly check-ups during the physiotherapy phase intended to restore the functionality of his arms and legs.

- V. Karlin Viju

FR LEVEL AT DE BRITTO

New priests, Frs Felix Kennedy and Therasunathan, who were regents here at **De Britto, Devakottai** shared their experiences, when they presided over the Eucharistic celebration on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. The alumni of De Britto from Chennai, Rameswaram and Trichy zones added flavour to the Annual Day celebration of our Alumni Association, organized by Fr Gualbert. The presence of Fr Xavier Vedam, an alumnus and Fr I. Arul, a beloved warden, was a source of joy for the alumni. Going on a pilgrimage to Idaikattur on 15 March, our staff members, walked from Manamadurai nearly 12 k.m. before they reached the shrine.

On 19 March a book, *Uligal Vaditha Thulikal*, was released by Fr Provincial. This book is the brainchild of 27 teachers of our school and the inspiration of Frs Ignatius Britto and Y.S. Yagoo. A memorial for Fr Level, SJ in our campus became a reality on 21 March, his death anniversary, thanks to the efforts of Fr Yagoo. The little grotto near the Junior hostel with a statue of Fr Level at the centre was blessed by Fr Tagore.

- Kennedy

THEOLOGY OF CITTARS

All the students of **Arul Kadal** went to Muhil Health Centre, Thirumangalam, for a course on the Theology of Tamil Cittars on 17-22 Feb. Fr Clement Joseph, CSsR and Dr Fathima Rani introduced them to the world of Cittars. All Arul Kadal Staff and student's representative, Sch Victor participated at the Plenary Academic Committee meeting at Vidya Jyothi, Delhi, on the 17-20 Feb. On 12 March we visited cancer patients in the Adyar

Cancer Institute and expressed our solidarity during this challenging phase of their lives and prayed that they might get well soon. We also distributed some toiletries.

On 19 March we gathered the pastors from the weekend ministry parishes and conducted a workshop titled Kudumbam Oru Koil (Family as a Temple of God). Fr Maria Arul Raja organized the sessions. On 21 March we joined Fr Jerry Rosario to organize a blood donation camp at Dhyana Ashram that drew about 50 donors.

- Pugazhendhi

SILENT PRAYER

The entire **Dhyana Ashram** community gathered in the chapel for 15 minutes of silent prayer after supper for three days. We have decided to concelebrate at the big chapel on important feasts like St Joseph's on 19 March. Fr Thambu guided lay people in two places in the 19th Annotation retreat. Jerry, besides his many programmes for the Religious, is busy strengthening Dhanam Movement and inspiring parishioners during this Lenten season to donate blood. In a recent camp on a Friday before the Way of the Cross about 50 donated blood. Fr D. Jeyaraj and Fr Xavier Irudayaraj are guiding two priests in a long retreat. Fr George Joseph recently guided the deacons of Madras-Mylapore archdiocese in a retreat.

- Xavier Irudayaraj

'HIS HIDING PLACE IS DARKNESS'

IDCR organized a lecture by Msgr Francois Fonloup, Bishop of Rodez, France, who spoke on 'Multiculturalism in France' and was eager to learn how India handles this issue. There was a preliminary meeting of Jesuits who teach religions in Arts and Science colleges and B.Ed. colleges to prepare a common syllabus on Religions. IDCR had a

book discussion with Rev. Dr. Francis X. Clooney, SJ, the author of *His Hiding Place Is Darkness* - a Hindu-Catholic Theopoetics of Divine Absence, a comparative theo-literary reading of the biblical Song of Songs and the Hindu *Tiruvaymozhi*. Mr Yaseva, Founder-Director of Propel Global, explained its objectives for a dynamic, inclusive, democratic governance. Vincent Sekhar is now a section editor to *Jeevadhara*, a journal for socio-religious research from Kottayam. He was invited to give lectures at Arul Anandar College. In March he was in China and Hong Kong to study the functioning of the Beijing Center for Chinese Studies in Beijing and gave lectures in three well-known Chinese universities. Fr Michael Amaladoss gave three lectures in a Lutheran-based interreligious forum in Tiruvannamalai. IDCR had the third doctoral viva, this time of Fr Ivon Alexander D'Almeida. His thesis was on 'the Sikh-Christian Theological Training of Religious Leaders for Societal Transformation'. Dr. Alangaram Arockiam from Arul Kadal was his guide and Fr V.S. George was the external examiner.

- Vincent Sekhar

ALL-NIGHT VIGIL ON FULL MOON DAYS

Chennai Mission Pilgrimage to Karuveppam Poondi Madam was organized by **Loyola, Kuppayanallur** community on a grand scale on 16 March. Eighty Jesuits from Chennai Mission Region actively participated in this pilgrimage. Br Irudayam and Sch Francis Xavier meticulously planned the liturgical celebration and the procession to the cemetery. Fr Masillamani, Br Bruno and Sch

Lawrence took excellent care of the Jesuit pilgrims. Fr Joe Mike, the Superior, encouraged the initiative and ensured its success.

Kuppayanallur JMAADD organized a one-day session on alcoholism for 40 fathers of C.F.C.A. beneficiaries. Fr Jayapathy extended generous hospitality to our JMAADD staff for a one-day programme at Loyola, Chennai. We organized awareness sessions on alcoholism for the students of LTI, Madurai and the Government Higher Secondary School in Endathoor. The JMAADD Street Theatre Troupe, apart from their regular week-end performances in the villages, was invited for special programmes in villages near Kilpennathur.

At the Ongur parish the all-night vigil prayer on full moon days is picking up with the active participation of the parishioners. The Parish Council is doing their best for the welfare of the parish. Women from the parish won the second prize for a skit they put up at the vicariate-level competitions on Women's Day. - **Lawrence**

REGIONAL MEET IN DELHI

In the month of March, JRS organized teacher training programmes for the teachers of different Zones in various places. There were about 30 to 40 teachers in all the zones. 16 teachers attended the new consultants meeting at JRS, Beschi. Fr Louie and the JRS TN Members attended the South Asia Regional Team meeting in Delhi. Students from Girihini took part in the Personality and Social Analysis course for a week at IDEAS. Thereafter, they went on an excursion to Vellankanni on 18 March. 37 students from Sivagangai district and 35

students from Abdullapuram camp eagerly participated in the English coaching classes conducted by Sch Mag Bay. - **Mag Bay**

TRAINING FOR PARALEGALS

LAAS Illam organized training for paralegals at Vadipatti on 21-23 Feb. The participants visited four nearby police stations and interacted with police officers and inspected station records. Mr



Muralidhar, advocate and guest lecturer of Madurai Government Law College, spoke on implications of Lokpal Act 2014 on 20 Feb and Fr Santhanam spoke on legal remedies for the victims of domestic violence on 25 March as a part of the lawyers' fraternity program. In both the events there were about 60 advocates and law students. Fr Santhanam highlighted women's rights enshrined in the Constitutions in a Women's Day celebration on 11 March at Viruveedu near Batlagundu, organized by SHGs of DEEPAM centre. Impressed by a day-long session led by Fr Michaelraj, the JMPSA project director, and attended by Jesuit coordinators of training and research units and field animators on 20 Feb, Mr Marcos and Ms Sandra from ALBOAN visited Sivakasi, Sattur, Kodaikanal and Odanchatram taluks, the fields of the project on 21-23 Feb. The first booklet of modules for paralegal training was released by ALBOAN friends on this occasion.

- **A. Santhanam**

FOR THE FIRST TIME

The notable event at Loyola College, Chennai was the 89th College Day Celebration, which saw Fr Anto delivering for the first time the usually-tedious Annual Report in a digitized format. This well-prepared report was not only refreshingly short but also a visual treat. The guest of honour, Shri V.Nandakumar, IRS, Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax, Chennai inspired the students by recounting his own life story of being a school drop-out but with working hard with sheer determination to reach the position he occupies now. The Chief Guest was Dr K. Shekar, Vice-Chancellor, Vels University and former Chief Controller, Research and Development, DRDO, Ministry of Defence, New Delhi. Recalling his humbling but learning experience with Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in their initial failure in launching missiles, he narrated to the students how with intelligent hard work we all can achieve success.

For his hand-driven mixie, David of LICET won the first prize for innovative gadget designing in a national competition organized by IIT-Madras. Anna University has already taken this up for patent. LICET celebrated the 4th annual day on 22 March. Mr. Bharat Joshi, British Deputy High Commissioner, was the Chief Guest.

LIBA organized a Budget Analysis on 7 March. LIBA conducted a workshop on 25 March for the heads of educational institutions in Chennai. Fr Emma, Dr Srinivasa Raghavan and Dr Susan Thomas talked about educational innovation by bringing the corporate culture into the class

room without affecting the core of education. When many B-Schools are struggling to survive, LIBA's popularity can be seen in the dramatic increase in applications received for admission - a thousand applications more than last year. Recruiters have, time and again, mentioned that they are happy with the students of LIBA. One HR manager stated that his company has not gone to any other institute except LIBA for this year's recruitment.

Fr Emma gave a talk to all the employees of TEEMS India about the importance of psychology in management and human interactions with all stakeholders. Fr Anto was recognized as an Ambassador for Peace by Interreligious & International Federation for World Peace in a function held at Madras University. - **Emma**

CO-OPERATION ASSURED

On 25 Feb about 35 priests from the neighbouring parishes and institutions came to the Jesuit residence for a get together cum feedback session. They offered their valuable suggestions and cooperation for the growth of the college. They assured us that the pastors and the people are proud of **Loyola College, Vettavalam**. Our college students have won the overall Championship in the Inter Collegiate Competition conducted in Mailam College of Engineering on 1 March. Fr Alphonse Manickam was invited by Jayaraj Annapackiam College for Women, Periyakulam as Chairperson to organize Mock and Peer Team visit prior to NAAC visit on the 6, 7 March. The college sports

day was celebrated on 8 March. The meticulous organization of Fr Arockiaraj, the Secretary, and the sports committee made the event grand. Because of the tireless efforts of the Principal all the government buses stop at our college gate from 20 March.

- **Alwin**

TEACHING ENGLISH CREATIVELY



Xpressio-2014, an event to exhibit talents in and through English was organized in February in all our Jesuit schools on various dates under the guidance of Frs. Albert Joseph and Stephen Pragasam, the co-ordinators of **Secondary Education Commission**, Fr Paul Benedict, ELT coordinator and Mr Anbu Selvam, the ELT manager. It was the culmination of the annual ELT activities featuring in Future Perfect project for the Tamil medium students. It was a breath-taking show of talent and eloquence in English by the Tamil medium students. Each school made creative contributions to the development and execution of this mega event and made it memorable for the students by inviting parents, staff and students from other schools. The guests were highly impressed by the magnificent performance of the students and the meticulous planning of all the correspondents, headmasters and AHMs who hosted Xpressio 2014 successfully. - **Paul**

NEW BASKET BALL COURT

On 29 March the ITI Annual Day here at **LTI, Madurai** was presided over by the Deputy Director and Principal of Government ITI, Mrs Arivumani in the presence of Fr Maria Singarayar. Mr Antony, the Correspondent of CSI - ITI and our illustrious alumnus, Mr German Jesuraj were the chief guests. Fr S. Amalraj, also an alumnus, who retired from Government service was the guest of honour. Parents appreciated our service to the poor and the cultural programmes by our students. Thanks to the hard work of our staff and students we have a new basket ball court which was blessed by Fr J. M. Lourduraj. Fr. Lawrence Gabriel preached a one day Lenten Retreat for the IGFA members on 30 March and on the same day Fr Rajarathinam conducted GSP core committee meeting in our campus. Fr. Maria Louis is convalescing after a cataract surgery in his left eye.

- **Lawrence Gabriel**

LENTEN RECOLLECTION

Frs P.S. Arul and Darwin of **St John de Britto Shrine, Oriyur** have started saying Mass in the substations of Oriyur and hearing confessions during the Lent. A New Hall is getting ready for the pilgrims to stay.

On 15 March we had a felicitation function for Mrs Annal Sundari, a teacher who is retiring this year after serving our St Arulanandar Hr. Sec. School for 30 years. Fr P.S. Arul appreciated her selfless service and dedication and invoked God's blessings on her. In her

response Mrs Sundari said that it was the Jesuits who helped her cultivate good values in her life.

The two communities at Oriyur and Devakottai came together on 29 March for the Lenten recollection, Mass and meal. - **Robinson A.**

LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

At 7.35 p.m. on 9 March Fr Ignatius Jesudasan of **St Mary's, Madurai** breathed his last in a local hospital. The next day Fr Joe Antony, the Acting Provincial, presided over the heart-melting funeral Mass, attended by more than 60 priests, several Sisters and a number of lay people. Fr Britto Bonaventure preached the homily and Fr S. Anbarasan, Director, Gansoville and Fr Stephen Iruthayaraj (DUM), his nephew, spoke of his contribution to the Church and rural development through SHEPHERD and Ganzovile. Fr Jebamalai Raja offered the final prayers and Fr Stephen said the prayers at the cemetery before Fr Jesudasan's mortal remains were laid to rest.

As the Lent is on, different groups of Basic Christian Communities lead the Stations of the Cross every Friday. On one of the Fridays Fr Roch showed the students clippings from the film, the Passion of Christ. The parishioners went on a Lenten pilgrimage to Velankanni Church, Anna Nagar. - **Felix Joseph**

WRITER FELICITATED

On 6 March Dr. Joe D'Cruz, the Tamil writer who won this year's Sahitya Academy award, an alumnus

of **St Joseph's, Trichy** was felicitated here. Fr Andrew addressed college Principals from Kerala on "Governance in Autonomous Colleges" organized by Christ University, Bangalore on 12 March and on 28 March he guided the staff of Rosary College of Commerce and Arts, Goa to prepare them for autonomy. Six of the retiring Teaching and Non Teaching staff were felicitated on the Association Day. College day was celebrated with Archbishop George Antonisamy of Madras-Mylapore as the Chief Guest.

Irudayaraj presented a research paper on traditional barbers in Tamil Nadu in the National Seminar organized as part of the Silver Jubilee celebration of FRRC and Folklore Department, St Xavier's, Palayamkottai on 15, 16 March 2014. - **Jesu Nesam**

GRAMMARGRAM

ELT Mela was celebrated in a grand manner at **St Mary's, Dindigul** on 26 Feb. The highlight of the mela was Grammargram (grammar village), an exhibition



on English grammar. St Mary's Primary school held its 163rd sports day on 1 March. It has set up a solar power system for the school. The staff of St. Mary's Primary and Higher Sec. School had a one day retreat preached by Fr Darwin at Kurusadi on 8 March. As part of the Lent, we went on a pilgrimage with the staff to Infant Jesus Shrine

at Kavirayapuram on 15 March. AMUTHU celebrated the Women's Day with a one-day seminar for the unorganized women labourers. - **Paul**

FOLKLORE SILVER JUBILEE

St Xavier's, Palayamkottai launched an IAS motivational centre named Civil Services Study Circle (CSSC) on 5 March 2014 with an inaugural function at which Mr Sumit Sharan, Tirunelveli Commissioner in charge, was the chief guest and Fr Sahayaraj, the organizer of the programme welcomed the gathering and explained the purpose and dynamics of the programme. Instead of coaching students for civil services examination CSSC aims at constantly motivating the interested students and following them up, said Fr. Sahayaraj. The Silver Jubilee celebration of the department of Folklore and Folklore Resources and Research Centre (FRRC) was concluded with a two day national seminar on 'Folklore and Socio-Cultural Values'. Many scholars presented papers. On the second day the alumni of Folklore Department expressed their gratitude for imparting to them values for life. On 16 March St. Xavier's hostel celebrated its Family Day; its alumnus, Dr. R. Emmanuel, MD, Bharat Scans Ltd., Chennai graced the occasion with his inspiring speech.

At the B.Ed College a Parents-Teachers interaction was held on 26 Feb and it was marked by a very good attendance and fruitful interaction. There were some extension lectures on consumer

awareness, intramural cultural competition and the celebration of the Library Week focusing on the promotion of reading habit. On Women's Day on 8 March Dr Vellammal, Professor, Rani Anna Government College for Women, Tirunelveli spoke eloquently on the role of women in the society.

Vignesh Sankar, a student of our school, represented Tamil Nadu in the National Volleyball Tournament held in Chennai. Our school alumnus, Dr Sivasankar, conducted a useful Dentist camp for all the boys. Our school bade farewell to the retiring staff, Mr Siluvai Arul Maria Joseph and Mr Chandra Sekar and thanked them for their 34 years of dedicated service. On 26 March Fr Maria Augustine successfully defended his thesis at LIBA, Chennai. - Baskar

FAREWELL, FRIENDS

On 22 Feb 41 of us at Vidyajyoti, Delhi were ordained deacons by Archbishop Anil Couto of Delhi at St Xavier's School. The Diaconate ceremony was witnessed by a large gathering along with our Jesuits from Arul Kadal, LICET, and ISI. They also

participated in a seminar organized by PAC (Plenary Academic Council) at Vidyajyoti College.



All the community members from Vidyajyoti went on a pilgrimage to Agra as this year 2014 marks the 200th year of Restoration. Fr. Leo, who shared on Akbar's mission in north India, called on the community members to make this a time of renewal. All the third year students and one year certificate students at Vidyajyoti were given a farewell on 20 March.

- Antony Markus

TRAINING IN FOLK ARTS

On 3 March, Fr Arockia Dass of Paathai Centre, Vallam gave a motivational talk to the 10th std students of Ansaldo High School, Navalur. On 8 March, we had a preparatory session with the IACM-Paathai Evening Study Centre (ESC) animators, volunteers and movement cadres for the Summer Coaching Camp. We planned the

strategies and delegated the works to volunteers.

The trainers of IACM-Paathai cultural team trained Loyola ITI students at Ranipet in folk arts like Maatukombattam, Paraiattam and Street Play for three days on 8-11 March. Our cultural team members participated in the Youth Festival organised in Ludhiana on 8 March. On 9 March, we conducted a special coaching camp for about forty 10th std students at Palayamsernthakudi, Cuddalore in collaboration with the IACM. Sch Regis visited the evening study centres in five districts and motivated the students to take active part in the summer coaching camp. On 27 we had the Animators meeting in which we assessed the on-going activities of our ESCs. - Regis

RECENT TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Jesuit Higher Education Commission (JHEC) was asked to organize a National Conference at Loyola College, Chennai on "Recent Trends in Higher Education" for the benefit of Christian Minority Colleges. It was conducted in collaboration with Loyola

Abide with the Lord

Fr Rui De Menezes, SJ, GOA, 75/57, on 22 March at Belgaum.

Fr Vivian Lobo, SJ, GOA, 76/59, on 04 April at Porvorim, Goa.

Fr Besses Francois, SJ, (GAL) 90/67, on 05 March in Mauritius.

Mr Thomas, 98, father of Fr T.B. Jeyaseelan, on 18 March at Kottaiyur.

Mrs Viagulamari alias Chellammal, 97, the mother of Fr Dhanaraj Raphael, on 24 March at Kayatharu.

Mrs P. Maria Jothi, 87, grandmother of Fr M.A. Leo Anand, on 25 March at N. Panjampatti.

Mr Maria Selvam, 40, the nephew of Br Jesudas Raphael on 4 April.



College, Chennai and Consortium of Christian Minority Higher Educational Institutions on 15-16 Jan '14. Well-known educationists like Prof N.V. Varghese, Director, National Centre for Policy Research and Educational Management, Dr Lawrence Surendra, Senior Professor, ICSSR, Mysore University, Mr V.A. George, President, Knowledge Xchange, Mr Isaac Mohanlal, Advocate and other experts interacted with 174 participants from 12 States – all of whom held important positions in Minority Colleges. They said the Conference inspired them to promote quality higher education for national development.

On 1-2 March JHEC organized a two-day programme on Ignatian Spirituality and Charism to office management staff and non-teaching staff. Fr James Thamburaj and Mrs A. Parvathi, Asst. Director (Retd), Joint Directorate of Collegiate Education, Madurai respectively were the trainers. 138 non-teaching staff of Loyola College, Loyola College of Education and LICET participated and all of them appreciated the programme and the hospitality of the Dhyana Ashram community.

- G.Pushparaj

CRY OF NATURE IS THE CRY OF THE POOR

We, the Juniors of **Vidyaniketan** brought

together children from different parishes where we go for weekend ministry and made them aware of their skills and talents during the Balmela on 27 Feb. The main programme on our Academy Day on 8 March was woven round the theme: 'Cry of nature the cry of the poor'. It was much appreciated by the select audience of clergy and religious of the neighbourhood.

A cultural tour on 10 March gave us an opportunity to see the Vivekananda Rock and the Thiruvalluvar statue in Kanyakumari. Then we visited the shrine of Martyr Devasagayam Pillai.

- Lazar John

INTER-RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE

The tenth standard students of **Xaveriana, Thoothukudi** made an inter-religious pilgrimage to Tirunelveli to pray at the Nellaiappar Temple, St Xavier's College Church and a Mosque. They went in five buses accompanied by the Headmaster, Fr Stanislaus and the class teachers. The students of VI, VII and VIII standards had their half-day retreat.

Fr Ignatius was admitted to the Sacred Heart Hospital, Tuticorin, on 9 March for herpes that gives him unbearable pain. He is slowly improving and we hope and pray that he will be back with the community very soon.

- Rajan

Ignatius Jesudasan, SJ

18. 01. 1939 – 09.03.2014

Fr Jesudasan had to be hospitalized in the first week of March. His condition became quite serious around 06 March and three days later on 09 he died peacefully at about 7.30 p.m. The next day, 10 March, at 3.45 p.m. Fr Arockiasamy, Rector, blessed the body before it was taken to the church in a procession. Fr Joe Antony, the Acting Provincial, was the main celebrant at the funeral Mass and he said in his introduction that Fr Jesudasan was a thinker and writer who was drawn to the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi. Fr Britto Bonaventure, a relative, preached the homily, describing his achievements.

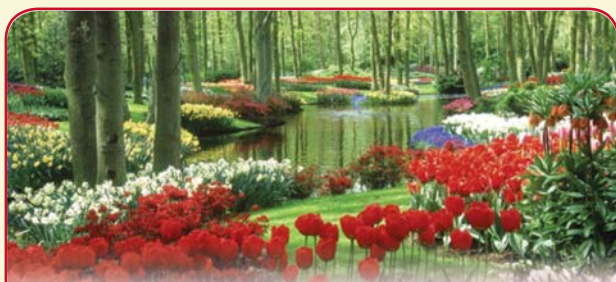


Jesudasan was born in Savariarpattinam, a Catholic village in Ramnad district. Fr Wenisch, the well-known French Jesuit, came to know that Jesudasan wanted to become a priest and got him admitted at St Mary's, Madurai. On finishing school Jesudasan wanted to become a Capuchin, but Fr Wenisch thought he must become a Jesuit. So he joined the Society in 1957 and was ordained in 1971. He taught for one year at the Beschi Juniorate. After a heart surgery, he was sent to Marquette University, Milwaukee, in the U.S. He got his Ph.D in 1979 for his thesis on 'Gandhian Theology of Liberation.' His research inspired him and his friends abroad helped him to buy 20 acres of land for a farm between Devakottai and Karaikudi and start what he called Gansoville (Gandhian Society Villages Association).

Later invited by St Joseph's College, Trichy, he started a unique rural exposure programme for college students called 'Shepherd.' After initial success, unexpected setbacks, a second heart surgery and a crippling sense of guilt which at times affected his physical and mental health. After serving for a few years in Chengai Mission and later at Arul Kadal as its librarian, he was sent to St Mary's, Madurai. When he celebrated his Golden Jubilee in 2007 he wrote, "Looking back, fifty years seem to have rolled surprisingly fast, though I did not expect to live this long. While I feel no great sense of achievement, I thank God, the Society, and friends for whatever good I have been allowed to do..."

After Communion at the funeral Mass, Fr Anbarasan, Director, Gansoville and a nephew of Fr Jesudasan spoke. Fr Jebamalai Raja, Chennai Mission Superior, said the final prayers. At the cemetery Fr Stephen, his nephew, said the blessing, before Fr Jesudasan was laid to rest.

- M.A.J.A.



LESSONS FROM MY GARDEN

The Bible tells us that God placed His first children in a garden. Before I even went to kindergarten (I find it interesting that the word means 'children's garden', in German) I remember going for Sunday walks with my dad to the Gnome Garden filled with beautiful trees and flowers...

As the years passed, and I watched my attempts at growing many varieties of bulbs, perennials, annuals, vegetables, shrubs and trees, I learned so much about life – lessons that helped me on a daily basis with the challenges of marriage and raising children. One of the most important things I learned was *patience*. Not only did I have to be patient for nature to produce wonderful flowers and fruits but I needed to be patient with people too, for they also require much nurturing and understanding. I also learned to have *hope* in an uncertain future. Sometimes my garden seemed to have given up. Yet those tiny buds held on, and so I too learned to 'hold on' when times were tough and the silver lining in the clouds was invisible.

And I learned to be *grateful*. When dry summers parched the landscape and my small crop of yellow and green beans stood withering under a merciless sun, I discovered the miracle that a sudden rain shower could create. As I watched the thirsty soil soak up the droplets of life-giving water, I felt a surge of gratitude swell in my heart for the many other everyday miracles around me – my family, my friends, my home in a country blessed by peace.

I learned to be *joyful*. What a celebration it was to bring armfuls of sweet scented roses into the house and arrange them in pretty vases! Or to carry baskets of peaches into the kitchen, ready to use in a pie or simply to slice and eat with sugar and cream.

Most of all, I learned to have *faith*. As autumn approached and annuals died and the leaves fell from the trees and the sturdy perennials retreated to their winter hibernation deep underground, I realized that to everything there is a season, and what appears to be death is really only another face of life. There were seeds on the ground, waiting to be born the next spring.

- Maryleah Otto

(in *Canadian Messenger of the Sacred Heart*)

Memories

CHURCHES BUILT WITH ALMS

By his Apostolic Constitution, *Humanae Salutis*, Pope Leo XIII raised all the Vicars Apostolic in India and Ceylon to the rank of Bishops or Archbishops. The Constitution was proclaimed in a synod of South Indian Bishops at Bangalore in 1887. Thus Trichinopoly became an Episcopal see and part of the ecclesiastical province of Bombay. In December 1888, the great and good Bishop Alexis Canoz, aged 83, passed away. He was succeeded in 1890 by Bishop John M. Barthe who held office for the next twenty-four years.

In 1891 an interesting survey of the building activities of the new Mission revealed there were 200 churches in brick or stone and 622 mud-walled chapels. In 1840 there were only 456 churches or chapels, of which only 70 were solid buildings. Churches were built mostly with alms from France or Europe, with some help also from Indian Catholics. The church of Kuthalur was built by a family of Marseilles, that of Idaikattur by an English Lady, La Salette of Kodaikanal by the countess d' Oultremont and the church of Pudukkottai by a French benefactress.

- Joseph C. Houpert, SJ
-A South Indian Mission-
The Madura Catholic Mission



Congratulations

to the Principals, Secretaries and Rectors of both Loyola College, Chennai and St Xavier's, Palayamkottai as the University Grants Commission has honoured both Colleges with the status of 'College with Potential for Excellence' for the next five years till 31 March, 2019.

to the new 'Doctors' - Maria Wenisch who defended his Ph.D. thesis successfully on 04 April and Maria Augustine on 26 March.



Just for...

Bill: Jane darling, wake up! The baby is crying!

Jane: It's your turn, Bill. Remember, the baby is half yours.

Bill: Yes, I know. But my half is not crying.