



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

APRIL 2015

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

JOY OF GIVING

Dear Brothers,

A happy Easter! This Feast highlights the inner joy of all believers because of the redemptive action of God. We rejoice because the Father gave His only Son for the salvation of all of us. We rejoice because Christ humbled himself - even to the extent of laying down his life on the cross, after undergoing suffering and humiliations - in order to give himself as the sacrificial lamb for the sake of all of us. We rejoice because our Blessed Mother offered her beloved son wholeheartedly, though with great pain and inner suffering, for the sake of humanity. In this process of giving the Father and the Mother sacrificed willingly their only Son and the Son emptied Himself fully by suffering the most excruciating pain and humiliations. The giving was total indeed.

Thus, Easter is an event to commemorate the Divine giving, in which our Blessed Mother also

had a share. Through this process of giving, sacrificing and suffering, both spiritually and physically, the salvation of humankind was attained. The Father, the Son and the Mother rejoice at the fact that each one has given in order to gain humankind. By that very giving and sacrifice, each one becomes great and triumphant - a loving Father, a Redeemer and a Co-Redemptrix.

The call of Easter to each one of us, therefore, is a call to give ourselves generously for the service of the people, for the service of the Society and for the service of the Church. We are called upon to give without counting the cost, to be totally available for any mission that may be assigned to us, being prepared to face any situation or event that may come on our way. We are aware that our true joy comes only through giving and not by striving to acquire or gain anything. When we give we automatically gain. But, when we consciously try to acquire or gain something, we fail to give as we ought to do. We are privileged to realize that in our own province,

we have had stalwarts who had only one aim in their life - to give, to give and to give -- all for the service of the people and the greater glory of God. We thank God for such wonderful models who have worked and walked in our own soil and have toiled day and night.

Let every one of us, young and old, regardless of what mission has been or will be entrusted to us, be generous and magnanimous in giving ourselves totally, without keeping anything for ourselves or looking for any reward. Let us constantly remind ourselves that the true and lasting joy is in giving and not in any personal gains. As true sons of St. Ignatius and as true followers of St. Francis Xavier and many other great Jesuits of the past, let us give ourselves without counting the cost and without looking for personal gains.

Faternally,
Sebasti L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



APRIL

- 10-> Province Congregation
- 18-19 Consult
- 19 Thanksgiving Mass for the Safe Return of Fr Premkumar - Beschi Illam
- 26 Final Vows of Fr. C. Marianathan – AHAL, Kilpennathur
- 28 One-day Workshop for OFM Provincial Team - Kodaikanal
- 30 National CRI Executive Meeting – Dharmaram College, Bangalore

MAY

- 01-02 National CRI Assembly – Dharmaram College, Bangalore
- 03 Blessing of the New Cathedral in Trichy
- 08 JMJ Evaluation Review Meeting -- Chennai
- 10 Last Vows of Fr. P. Joe Xavier -- Thoothukudi
- 13 Ooty Diocese – Jubilee Celebrations
- 18-19 Formation Meeting -- Shembaganur
- 26 Supamites Meet – Arul Kadal
- 29 Jubilarians' Day – Beschi Illam & Consult in the afternoon

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

APRIL & MAY

- 01 Visit to Thiruvallur area
- 02-05 Easter Ministry
- 10-14 Province Congregation, Maduralaya
- 17 Loyola College Governing Body Meeting
- 18-19 Province Consult
- 25 To Europe - Back by end of May

Announcements



Last Vows:

Fr Joe Xavier, P., Xaveriana, will make his final Profession at a Eucharist that begins at 10.30 am on Sun, 10 May '15 at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thoothukudi.

JCSA Website updated:

The Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) has updated its website www.jcsaweb.org recently. All the Jesuits are kindly requested to register themselves in order to get access to the Reserved Area called 'Jesuits only', which is placed under main menu called 'News & Publications'. Follow this simple procedure for Registration: Open the site www.jcsaweb.org; you will find the Login/Registration button on the top-right hand side. Click the Registration Button and create a new account. You may use any existing account (User name, email ID) if you have. Once you have furnished the registration Form, click at 'Create new account' button at the bottom of the Form to submit it. You will receive an email message from the webmaster approving your registration and the further instruction for Login; follow the instruction and you are there. Since we are still in the initial stage, you may find some pages blank or under construction. Send stories, news, informations and suggestions to enhance the website at jcsa.socius@gmail.com.

- **Gabriel Tirkey, SJ, Webmaster**

Status List III (2015-16)

APPOINTMENTS:

Fr POSA has made the following appointments

NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
Fr Michael Alosanaya	Tertian Instructor	Vidya Jyoti, Delhi	Spiritual Father
Fr Murala Jagadish M. (AP)	Satyanilayam, Chennai	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Doctoral Studies
Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan	ISI, Banagalore	ISI, Bangalore	Director

Fr Provincial has made the following appointments

NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
Fr Arulanandam Arockiam	St. Arulanandar HSS, Oriyur	SHC, Shembaganur	Dir: Archives
Fr Berchmans Maria Joseph	SUPAM	Loyola College, Oilpatty	Minister, Treasurer & Staff
Fr Dominic Royce F.X.	Loyola College, Vettavalam	Loyola College, Chennai	Secretary & Lecturer, LCE
Fr Elias Maria	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Rayapuram (St Mary's, MDU)	Parish Priest
Fr Emmanuel Arockiam	Counselling Project, Chennai	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Dir: Counselling Project
Fr Fernando Roosevelt	St. Mary's, Madurai	Loyola College, Vettavalam	Treasurer
Fr Francis Xavier Raj M	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	De Britto, Devakottai	Treasurer & Counseling
Fr Irudaya Raj A	Loyola College, Oilpatty	LTI, Madurai	Dir: Communication Project

NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
Fr Jesu Nesa Raju	St. Joseph's, Trichy	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Parish Priest
Fr Jeyaseelan Saminathan	Loyola College, Oilpatty	AAC, Karumathur	Minister and Staff
Fr Joseph Xavier P.	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi	VMI, Vilangudi	Director
Fr Leolin Arockia Dass A.	Tertianship	SHC, Shembaganur	Treasurer
Fr Loyola Antony Savari A.	Tertianship	St. Mary's, Madurai	Minister and Staff
Fr Manuel Savariar	Tertianship	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Socius to Novice Master
Fr Maria Wenisch S.	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	Acting Superior
Fr Packiaraj Soosai	AHAL, Kilpennathur	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	Studies, Min. & Treasurer
Fr Richard Lourdu Dass A.	SJIS, Ooty	SJIS, Ooty	Director: SJIS
Fr Paul Pragash S	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Clive House, Trichy	Acting Superior
Fr Sahaya Wilfred J.	Carmel HS School, Nagercoil	St Mary's, Dindigul	Minister and Staff
Fr Santiago Sebastian	Tertianship	Clive House, Trichy	Minister & Treasurer
Fr Sebastian Thangadurai	SUPAM	AHAL, Kilpennathur	Minister, Treasurer, Ministry
Fr Stephen L. Pragasam V.	St. Mary's, Dindigul	Maduralaya, Dindigul	CC: Sec. Edu. Prov. & S. Zone
Fr Stephen Selvanathan A	Tertianship	LIS, Ranipet	Team Leader/Director
Fr Victor Roch G	Tertianship	Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur	Minister, Treasurer & Staff
Fr Yagoo Y. Sandanam	De Britto, Devakottai	St. Arulanandar HSS, Oriyur	Acting Sup. & Correspondent

TRANSFERS:

NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
Fr Charles Michael	Thozhamai Illam, K' Kumari	Carmel School, Nagercoil	Sabbatical
Fr De Souza Stephen	St. Xavier's P'Kottai	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Staff: Novitiate
Fr Eugene S. Rosario A	Loyola College, Vettavalam	Loyola College, Chennai	Migrants Project
Fr Henry Jerome V	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	Loyola College, Chennai	Staff
Fr James Antonyswamy	SUPAM	St. Mary's, Madurai	Asst. Parish Priest
Fr James Suresh	PEAK, SHC, Shembaganur	Manalur Estate	Asst. Manager
Fr Jeyaraj Michael	IDEAS-LAAS, Madurai	St. Mary's, Madurai	Counselor
Fr John Paul K.	SUPAM	Harur (Dharmapuri Diocese)	Parish Ministry
Fr Leo Anand M.A.	St. Mary's, Madurai	JDV, Pune	M.A. Spirituality Course
Fr Louis Adaikalaraj	Seminary, Allahabad	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Martin George	Carmel HS School, Nagercoil	St Xavier's, P'Kottai	Teaching
Fr Savarimuthu S. Packiam	St. Mary's, Madurai	AAC, Karumathur	Counseling, Spiritual Ministry
Fr Sebastian Crossian	SUPAM	Loyola College, Oilpatty	Migrants Ministry
Fr Selvaraj Edward SM	Arrupe House, Mettupalayam	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Soosairaj A.	Arrupe House, Mettupalayam	Thozhamai Illam	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Susaimanickam Sebastian	Poondy (VMI, Vilangudi)	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Rest
Fr Vazhapilly Francis	St. Mary's Estate, Manalur	LTI, Madurai	Rest
Br Victor Paul Sengole	AHAL, Kilpennathur	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Farm
Fr Viji Bose V.	SUPAM	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Assistant Parish Priest
Fr Xavier Antony	SXC, Palayamkottai	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Apostleship of Prayer



Events



700 ELDERS FROM 17 VILLAGES

Jesuits in Madurai assembled at Arrupe Illam, **AAC, KARUMATHUR** on 22 Feb to spell out some people-centred programmes in and around Madurai, as part of the Jesuit Twin Jubilee Action Plan. The meeting was organized by Fr K Amal and Fr Paul Michael. All the participants said in one voice, 'Thank you, Lord' as the news about the release of Fr Alexis Premkumar was flashed in the TV.

Fr Anbu chaired a session at an international seminar on Christianity and Tamil at Sacred Heart College, Thiruppathur on 27 Jan. He also presented a paper on 'Tamil Society as portrayed in the Letters of the Jesuit Missionaries of the New Madurai Mission'. Fr Mani Valan organized the anniversary celebration of the Centre for Christian Research at which books were released.

Congratulating Fr Xavier Vedam on receiving AIACHE's 'Best Principal Award', a short film on his contributions was telecast at AAC's Annual Day celebration. Archbishop Antony Pappusami of Madurai was the Chief Guest. Thiru V Palanikumar, IAS, Addl Secretary of the State government's Public Department, was the chief guest at 36th Graduation Day on 14 Feb. Our college students joined the protest led by the

Archbishop of Madurai against the order to demolish the 81-year-old Catholic shrine, erected by late Fr Montaud, SJ, at Kanavai, near Usilampatti. Fr A G Leonard, inaugurated a two-day national seminar on 'Urbanisation' at a College at Paramathi Velur.

Fr Rufus was a resource person at a JRS orientation programme at IDEAS, Madurai, guiding 40 young refugees. Having recovered from the effects of a mild stroke, Fr Y Raju is back home. Participating at the Elders Day Celebrations at AAC, over 700 elders from 17 villages blessed our students for their interest and concern for them and thanked them for the cultural programmes. On 20 Feb we organized a Rural Science Exhibition at which students from our neighbouring schools participated. Fr MJ Mahalingam spoke on the evils of alcoholism at a seminar at Gandhi Museum, Madurai. He also presented a paper on the Role of NGOs in Disaster Management at a seminar organised by Rajah Serfogi Government College, Tanjore. - **A. G. Leonard**

KUMMI DANCE

Jesuit Irular Mission (JIM), **AHAL, KILPENNATHUR** organized a women's day celebration at Singanoor, Tindivanam on 08 March. There were 70 participants from 18 villages. Mrs. Sornalatha, Coordinator of Adivasi Social Service Educational Trust (ASSET), was the chief guest. Sr. Sheela, the Guardian, Girls Hostels, Singanoor,

addressed the women. The highlight was a 'kummi' dance by an elderly woman from Perungkappur. Our Novices, Jacob and Sugun, the ESC animators and the Coordinator, Mr Kanniyappan through their hard work, ensured the success of the planned meticulously planning for the grand success of the celebration.

For a similar celebration on 08 March, there were 100 participants from 25 villages. Sr Monica from Chennai and Ms. Pia, an Austrian volunteer who is at Loyola, Vettavalam, were the chief guests. On 15 March Fr Gerlin, Sendharaipatti, preached a one-day retreat to about 200 people at Sagayamatha Parish, Kilpennathur. On 22 March, Fr Marianathan, the parish priest, took some of his parishioners on a one-day pilgrimage to Chethupattu. - **Selvendhiran**

TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Fr Jerry Rosario's course on Ecclesiology at **ARUL KADAL** ended with many of us donating blood to Government Children Hospital, Chennai and a Bible-based way of the Cross with parishioners. On 11 March Arulkadalites visited the patients at Cancer Hospital and offered them gifts. On 18 March the parish priests of parishes where we go for ministry came here and participated at a session on "The Insights and Challenges

from Pentecostalism”, well- animated by Sch Stephen.

Fr Maria Arul Raja preached a retreat for 150 priests of Tanjore diocese. He also presented a paper on popular devotions and subaltern emancipation at the National Marian Symposium, Arockia Niketan, Velankanni. Fr Britto Peter gave a course on affective maturity to the Tertians of FSJ Sisters at Poonamallee. He also preached a retreat to the silver jubilarians of SHJ Brothers at Mamallapuram. - **Baskar**

COMMUNITY WITHIN A COMMUNITY

The first year Novices of **BESCHI** went to the Kodai hills for a month-long work experience in our coffee estate. The second years have gone to three different places in Tamil Nadu for their hospital/social action experiment. Two second year novices stayed back to serve the sick senior Jesuits. The old pre-novitiate (CIS) building has been given a face-lift and the rooms have been altered thoroughly thanks to Fr Provincial’s generosity, so that our senior Jesuits have comfortable bath-attached rooms. Fr Lawrence Benedict, our energetic Minister, swiftly effected the shifting of six senior Jesuits in the southern St Aloysius block of the Infirmary Quarters to the CIS building. They now have a chapel and refectory of their own with a T.V. and newspapers. They make a community within the Beschi community. While

they enjoy the new gifts, they participate in the Thursday get-togethers, community meetings and Masses. On Mondays and Tuesdays the community and the Novices join them for evening prayer in their chapel. Frs Maria Louis and Chelladurai have been accommodated in the two vacant rooms of the northern block. The few active members, including Fr R. George, have moved to the rooms in St John Berchman’s (Minister’s) Block.

The renovation work on St Aloysius Block has commenced. Toilets and bath rooms are being constructed on the first and second floors. Once this is completed, the work on the first floor construction on the (northern) St Joseph’s Block, and the connecting wing will start. All in all, the Infirmary Quarters will have a new look and will become a cosy nook for the elderly and sick Jesuits to relax, meet companions, recreate, pray and have easy access to physiotherapy and other emergency medical facilities. Our scullery is also getting a face-lift making it more spacious with racks for plates etc.

Fr Sebastian Alphonse of Patna Province, who has registered for Ph. D. in Computer Science in the Gandhigram Rural University, has joined the community. Fr Ilanko preached a retreat to Sisters at Vadipatti. Fr Wilson has been with the first year novices on Kodai hills. Fr Maria Jeyaraj, intellectually active and productive even at this age, has come out with a new book in Tamil, *Lourdu Annai Thirucchuradi- Amalorpava Naamaavali*, being a commentary on Fr Ignatius Hirudayam’s work

of the same title.

- **Leo Tagore**

RIGHT TO EXPRESSION

On 17, 18 March **IDEAS-LAAS** community went to Manalur for a two-day Recollection on Pope Francis’ Letter for the Year of Consecrated Life, entitled, ‘Wake up the World’. It was a soul-searching experience. On 05 March, a Lawyers Fraternity meeting was organised at LAAS on ‘The Right to Expression’ in the light of the controversy stirred by *khnjhUghfd*, a Tamil novel. While Fr Stephen Martin spoke on the content Mr Arulanandasamy, an advocate from Madurai High Court, expounded the legal aspects. A passionate debate ensued, culminating in a consensus that the right to expression with some legal limits should be safeguarded. The third batch of Paralegals had their second training organised by LAAS at IDEAS on 13-15 March. This time they were tutored on the fundamentals of civil and criminal laws and the basics of procedural aspects. On 19 March a one-day consultation was organized by IDEAS on violence against women for women representatives of 15 organisations that are working for the empowerment of women. IDEAS agreed to continue to offer them training and legal assistance.

- **Jeyaseelan**

ORGANIZED BY U.S. CONSULATE

Ms. Meghali Prabhakar

from National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC) gave training to the **ICRDCE** and Community College Directors for aligning the curriculum of Community Colleges according to NSDC, National Occupancy Standards and Quality Packs on 02 March. This will help all the Community Colleges in India get national certification. ICRDCE team gave a presentation on Indian Community College system to the U.S. higher education delegation organized by U.S. Consulate, Chennai on 13 March. Fr Xavier Alphonse was the Chief Guest for the College Day celebration of Jayaraj Annapackiam College for Women, Periyakulam on 24 March. - **Xavier Alphonse**

TO FIGHT FOR THEIR RIGHTS

The leaders of Widows Livelihood Movement organized the celebration of Women's Day at **KALANGARAI** on 09 March. More than 200 representatives from SHGs participated. The theme was 'Santhipom- Sathanai Padaipom.' Mrs. Anusuya, ADSP, Nagapattinam, Mrs Kalaiselvi, Secretary of ALMS, Thirkadaiyur and Fr Paul Mike, Director of IDEAS were our guests. They motivated the widows to fight for their rights. Ten members from the Movement who were trained in 'Public Speaking Skills' spoke about Widows' Rights, Domestic Violence, Child Marriage etc. On 23, 24 March a training programme

on legal issues was organized for the new group members from Veilankanni. - **S. Jayaraj**

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND

Women's Day was celebrated at **KADAMALAIKUNDU** parish on 08 March with a solemn Mass. Many men spoke about the importance of women to the family and the society. On 25 March another celebration was held, organised by Varusanadu Social Service Society, PBVM Sisters, CIC Sisters and the parish priest. More than 350 women participated. It began with a rally at which women raised slogans against child marriage, sexual abuse and alcoholism. Local Panchayat President, Fr Amalraj, P.P., and Mr Chandrasekar, Manager, Canara Bank and Fr Sandanam, LASS, the Chief Guest spoke on women's rights. The celebration was the first of its kind at the parish. - **Amalraj**

SOCIAL NETWORKING

LOYOLA COLLEGE OF EDUCATION organized a two-day International Conference on "Accompanying Social Networking in Teacher Education" on 26,27 March. Fr Francis Jeyapathy, Rector, inaugurated it and Mr. Sujith Kumar, HR Business Leader, INFOSYS, Chennai gave the key note Address. Representatives of the U.S. Consulate and Australian Consulate participated in the inaugural function. About 100 papers were submitted to the conference from all over India. Fr. Jebamalai Raja presided over the Valedictory Function. - **Xavier Alphonse**

FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED STUDENTS

The First Convocation of LICET, **LOYOLA, CHENNAI** went off well on 03 March. The Consul General of France at Pondicherry delivered the convocation address. Four of the first year ECE students won the first prize in the robotics contest conducted by Shastra University, Tanjore. The 5th Sports Day of LICET was held on 07 March. Mr Md Shakeel Akhtar, IPS, ADGP, presided; and Ms K. Saramma, Asian Games Gold Medalist and Arjuna Awardee, gave away the prizes.

Indian Council of Medical Research has granted a major research project to Fr Ignacimuthu to work on anti-diabetic plants. He also was the chief guest at a national conference held at Government College, Coimbatore.

Loyola College held its 87th Graduation Day on 28 Feb. Shri Vikram Sahay, IRS, Additional Commissioner of Income Tax, New Delhi was the chief guest. Out of 2017 who graduated, 1553 students (1103 UG, 394 PG, and 56 M. Phil) received their degrees. 26 differently-abled students and 56 gold medalists received the award too. In his Graduation Address, Mr. Sahay said, "While your profession gives you a 'status' in the society, your conduct gives you the 'stature'"

Resource Centre for Differently Abled (RCDA) & Model Resource Centre of Disability Services (MRCDS), Loyola, organized

an Intercollegiate Cultural and Sports Meet for Visually Challenged students on 04 March. Over one hundred visually challenged students from various colleges actively participated in various cultural competitions. On 05 March the College, along with the alumni, paid homage to the departed soul of Shyam Kothari, a former President of Loyola College Alumni Association. Following the memorial service, Jerome D'Souza Endowment Lecture was delivered by Justice Shri. Cyriac Joseph on "Secularism in India".

Among 24 teams from South India, Loyola emerged victorious, defeating Jeppiaar Engineering College in the final match of Fr L. D. Murphy Memorial Football Tournament on 17 March.

90th College Day Celebration at Loyola was held on 18 March. Mr F.K. Morule, High Commissioner of South Africa, New Delhi was the Chief Guest. Senior journalist, Palagummi Sainath, author of *Everybody Loves a Good Drought*, was named 'the Distinguished Alumnus of the College' this year. The citation of Loyola Award 2015 was read out by Fr Jayapathy, Rector. Fr Joseph Antony Samy, Principal, said that the education imparted at Loyola College should enable us to fight against the evils - corruption, caste, creed, parochialism, etc. that prevent the growth of our nation. He also felicitated the Jubilarians and the members of the retiring staff who rendered



yeoman service to the College.

- Francis Jayapathy

HOSTELS ARE COMING UP

The valedictory function for all the Department Association and Service Units at **LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM** was held on 02 March. We celebrated the Women's Day on 06 March. Ms. Shrine, a Social Activist, was the chief guest.

The 6th College Day Celebration was held on 11 March. Fr Jebamalai Raja, CMS, was the president and Dr. M. A. Jayaraj, RJD, Vellore, was the Guest of Honour. The University Practical Exams and Project Viva were held on 12-23 March. Semester Exams begin on 06 April.

A one day retreat, preached by Fr Maria Arul Raja, for all the teaching and non-teaching staff of our college was conducted on 22 March at Acharapakkam. The expansion of the refectory and the construction of two new guest rooms at the residence are over. The construction of the hostels for men and women students is in full swing. LCV will host a summer camp for the 12th standard students on 27 April - 09May.

- Alwin

NEW PRINCIPAL

Sch George Raja has joined the ITI at **LTI** as Fitter Trade Instructor in the government-aided post from 01 Jan in the retirement vacancy. Since the Principal Mr R. V. Pandiaraj has retired, Mr V. Antonysamy is appointed the new Principal in-charge of ITI. LTI's 62nd Annual Day was presided over by Archbishop Antony Pappusamy of Madurai in the presence of Fr Maria Singarayar, Superior and Correspondent. Our alumnus, Mr Raja, was the chief guest. The large number of parents and well-wishers enjoyed the cultural events performed by our students.

- Singam

WITH THE LAITY

MODELS, a lay socio-spiritual organization, which I have been directing, had its 'Family Day' - its annual celebration at Beschi. It was presided over by Fr K.S. Arockiasamy, the Administrator of Dindigul diocese, who encouraged the services of the laity for nearly 18 years. One full session was allotted to Mr Arun, who shared his reflections on health. In addition to a monthly retreat and family visits we worked in 4 parishes during Lent, visiting families, counseling, breaking the word of God and preparing the parishioners spiritually for Easter.

- Marivalan

CYRIL'S PROFESSION

On 8 March Archbishop Antony Pappusamy of Madurai gave a talk to all the religious

of Kodaikanal vicariate at **SHC**, Shembaganur. Fr Leolin has been working hard for the renovation of the kitchen and Fr Patrick is overseeing the work in the garden. Two bore wells have been dug in the house in order to meet the water shortage.

Jesuit Madurai Province Archives, Sacred Heart College and PG & Research Department of History, St Joseph's College, Trichy jointly organised a three-day conference on Jesuit Archival Sources for South Indian History on 12-14 March. Many scholars presented their research papers at this conference, meticulously organized by Fr Edward Jeganathan.

On 01 March, PEAK organised a one-day programme for the children of Evening Coaching Centres from 20 villages. The animators, headed by Sch. Alex, entertained the children with competitions, cultural programmes and fun games. With a lot of strenuous efforts of the team initiated by Fr. Michaelraj, Director, the Labour Union has been revamped and strengthened. Two Labour Union offices at Kodaikanal and Pannaikadu have been opened and they function effectively among the upper hill and lower hill people respectively. PEAK has been promoting awareness

among the Tribals at Kodaikanal regarding the Forest Sanctuary Act. Fr. Michaelraj conducted a week-long course on media for a group of youth. Fr. James is doing a study on all the multi-



purpose halls under the control of PEAK. Sch Selukas guided the X std students of St Xavier Higher Secondary School on preparing for and writing the SSLC exam successfully. Our students of Inigo Boys Home bagged the runner-up cup in the volleyball tournament conducted at the zonal level.

On 07 April at a simple and inspiring Eucharist presided by



Fr Provincial, Fr Mathew Cyril Antony of Bodhi Zendo made his profession. Fr Ama Samy, Cyril's guru, could not make it, as he was not well. But Cyril's family,

friends and companions were there and his mother spoke about his spiritual search that was noticeable from his childhood. Frs Christie, Patrick and Edward had made all the arrangements.

- A. Vino Selukas

VOCATION THROUGH CATECHISM

The community of **ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL** went on a picnic to Ottanchatram and Parapalaru dam on 07 Feb. Our LASAC team organized a district level one-day camp on 08 Feb for the LASAC students. On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes a candle-light rosary car procession in the campus ended with a benediction. In view of the catechism annual day on 21 Feb, various competitions were organized on Biblical themes and on the life of saints. Fr. Stanley Robinson, the VF of the Dindigul vicariate, presided over the Annual Day function and thanked St. Mary's for the catechism classes which paved the way for his vocation to priesthood. We conducted a well-appreciated sound and light way of the cross at St. Joseph's cathedral on 27 Feb. Fr Jerry inspired the staff of both St. Mary's Primary and Higher Secondary Schools through a one-day retreat held at Anugraha, Nochiodaipatty on

Abide with the Lord

Fr. Agnelo Pinto, SJ (GOA), 75 / 60, on 03 March '15 at Loutolim, Goa.

Ms Saveriammal (92), sister of Fr Arulanandam SJ, on 25 Jan at Mandhikkanmai.

25 Feb. Masters. T. Felix and A. Samuel David of our school won the National Championship for Carom Doubles bringing laurels to our school.

St Mary's Primary School had its Sports Day and the Annual Day on 06 March. In spite of the rain, a good number of parents attended.

AMUTHU, under the direction of Fr Devasahayam, conducted a 'winter camp' for 80 students of 10th and 12th stds. It also organized a de-addiction programme in 4 villages, a common Children's Parliament with children from 15 villages. - Paul

LAY PREACHERS

As part of our lenten programme at **ST MARY'S, MADURAI** Parish, reconciliation services were arranged in all our substations. Our parish priests, led by Fr. Arockiaraj, were happy about the number of penitents. The AICUF and the Youth Commission from Trichy, under the leadership of Fr Paulraj, enlightened our parish youth on career guidance. Lay preachers from St Michael Retreat Centre, Kumurli, animated our parishioners with a meaningful lenten retreat. A one-day medical camp was also organized in our parish. The catechism children were taken for a pilgrimage to Kavirayapuram, Vadipatti, Rayapuram and the CIC's Marian World. Fr Loyola has come back after his tertianship in Sri Lanka and has taken over as the Hostel Warden.

- G. Packiaraj

PH.D. AT THE AGE OF 14

Ms. K. Visalini, a 14-year old school girl from Palayamkottai and a child-prodigy, stunned the audience here at **ST XAVIER'S** by her eloquent and coherent address to our students and the staff as the Chief Guest at a function held on 05 March 2015 to mark the International Women's Day. Our students found it hard to believe that she has a doctorate in networking and that she is a five-time World Record Holder for the highest IQ of 225. The college has established a Centre for Women's Studies which aims to promote empowerment of women through certificate courses and research and publications. The 92nd College Day was celebrated on 20 March. Dr. K. Manikumar, Vice Chancellor, Swami Vivekanand University, Madhya Pradesh was the Chief Guest. The College recognized the services of the retiring teaching and non-teaching staff, including Fr Selvanayagam, - now the Province Treasurer - who worked selflessly in the Department of Commerce for the past 23 years.

XIBA: 35 first year students of XIBA presented a programme on Youth and Ecology in AIR, Tirunelveli on 27 Feb. International Women's Day was celebrated in XIBA on 07 March. Fr Maria Augustine gave an endowment lecture on "Building Your Personal Brand", arranged by the Department of Commerce.

College of Education: "The Social Project Day" - an innovative programme of the college - was held on 03 March when the prospective teachers were sent to different parts of the city to collect data on various social

issues. Their report will be published on the college day. Mrs. Pushpalatha Poornam, who spoke at the Women's Day on 09 March, emphasized the need for understanding the inter-connectedness and inter-dependence of human persons which would promote respect especially for women in the society. The B.Ed students have completed the Practical Examination on their teaching competency on 23-24 March. Sch Arul Henry William (II M.Com) has secured the first rank and Schs Jeron Francis (II B.Sc Botany) and Sch Vijay Raju (AND, II M.Sc. Comp.Sci) have secured the second rank for the academic year 2013-14. - William

A SEASON OF THE HERAT

Fr G. Arockiaraj of **THOZHAMAI ILLAM** guided the Irish Presentation Sisters in a 6-day retreat and also the Sisters at Colachel in a recollection on 'Lent, a Season of the Heart.' Fr Charles took care of our Juniors from Vidya Niketan when they came on a tour to visit the Shrine of Bl Devasagayam. 11 CIC sisters are making their one month retreat prior to their final profession. Fr Arul Sivan is guiding them along with Sr Josephine of the same congregation. He preached an 8-day retreat to the Holy Cross Novice Sisters at Trichy, followed by a 6-day retreat to Sisters at Tindivanam and a 2-day course on Discernment to Holy Cross Sisters at Nagercoil. He attended the

Jesuit Tertian Instructors' Meet at Mumbai.

Fr Josephraj is helping the Franciscan brothers in a 6-day retreat to prepare them for their final profession.

Fr Francis Sales went for his annual retreat and on his way back he attended the Spirituality Commission Meet at Chennai and the Consultation on Counselling Centre convened by Fr. Provincial at Maduralaya.

- **G. Arockiaraj**

WHY SHOULD WE RESEARCH?

19 members of the **WRITERS & RESEARCHERS FORUM** met in Shembaganur on 21 March. We chose Shembaganur, as we thought we needed to know more about the Province Archives. Fr Edward Jeganathan explained to us the history and the rich content of our Archives. The meeting consisted of 4 components: 1. Sharing of 3 resource persons (Frs. V. Joseph Xavier, Maria Arul Raja, and Mark Stephen) on what they saw as a good research based on their own research experience. 2. Research presentations by Fr Basil Xavier, who had recently defended his doctoral dissertation on 'Ethnophilosophy of Arunthathiars' at Madurai Kamaraj University' and by Fr John Kumar on 'Budgeting and Planning for the Marginalised in Tamil Nadu'. Both evinced good discussion. 3. The group then engaged in understanding

and vocalizing the social trends which should inspire us Jesuits to research and write. The reflections were deep and many issues came up such as tampering with and rewriting of history and thereby offering biased textbooks, increasing differences between the rich and the poor on studying the Budget 2015, lack of freedom of expression and freedom of religion, minorities being under constant attack, lack of corporate and environmental ethics, corruption and exploitation of natural resources, dangerous use of marginalized and dalit groups by fundamentalist forces... etc.

Our researches need to be focussed, victim-centred and socially oriented. Perhaps, our writing could get into the social media to highlight what is correct and to disapprove what is wrong based on our Constitutions and the call of its Preamble. 4. What next? There were practical suggestions like starting a Writers & Researchers' website. The group thanked Vincent Sekhar for organizing WR Forum for the past 5 years and elected Robin Seelan turn to lead the Forum.

- **Robin & Sekhar**

MOMENT OF GRACE

Some of our students here at **ST JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL**, Ooty have appeared for the 10th Govt. Examinations this year too, as private candidates. Fr. Provincial's visitation accompanied by the CMS, Fr. Jebamalairaja, was a moment of grace for us. They encouraged our zeal and commitment by their words and presence. Fr. Provincial

blessed the new and well-furnished guest rooms built inside our residence. While we will be happy to welcome Jesuit guests on a first come first served basis, we have to charge them a nominal amount. Kindly inform well in advance our guest master, Fr M.S. Irudayaraj.

- **Amirtharaj**

SPELL-BOUND

We the juniors at **VIDYANIKETAN**, Trivandrum had the academy day on 07 March. Dr Iris Koileo, the vice principal of St. Xavier's College, Thumba was our chief guest. The presence of Fr Britto Vincent, our PCF, for the function was very encouraging. The cultural evening included the play 'Passion and Glory' that kept the audience spell bound.

On 09 March we had a day-long tour to Kanyakumari and the shrine of Bl. Devasagayam. The Thozhamai Illam community was very hospitable, helpful and took care of us generously.

Fr. Sunny, the socius of Kerala province, offered us a four day course on Psycho Spiritual integration, which led us to go deeper into ourselves and integrate our past. The Vidyaniketan community was delighted to attend the annual day celebration of Loyola College, Sreekaryiam. We are now busy preparing for the upcoming exams that mark the end of our juniorate programme. - **M.A. Sundar**

Fr. Jeyaraj Donatus, SJ

(1939-2015)

Fr Donatus Jeyaraj, as a former Provincial of the Madurai Province, Tertian Director and Novice Master, was well-known in the Assistency. So the news of his sudden death, in the middle of a long retreat that he was directing, came as a cruel thunderbolt to everyone who knew him. His death, coming after the death of another great, holy man of the MDU province – Fr G. Ignaci – plunged all in the Province into a deep sadness. He died on Wed, 01 April '15, apparently because of a massive heart attack, at St Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul.

Fr Jeyaraj was born on 29 Oct 1939 and he joined the Society on 19 June 1957. He was ordained a priest on 25 March 1971 and made his Final Profession in the Society on 08 Sept 1976.

Soon after his ordination in 1971 he was the Minister for Scholastics at SHC, Shembaganur and later the Registrar and Spiritual Director there. In 1976 he was the Tertian Director for Brothers at Mount Joseph, Bangalore. Then for two years he was the Parish Priest of St Joseph's College Parish, Trichy. For seven years from 1977 to 1984 he was the Novice Master at Beschi, Dindigul. For two years from 1985 to 87 he served the Province as the Socius to the Provincial.

In 1987 he was sent to Arul Kadal, Chennai as its Superior. From 1990 to 93 he served as Director, Ignis, staying at Sathya Nilayam, Chennai. Along with that, he helped as Tertian Director, when he was made the Provincial. From 1993 till 1999



he was the Provincial.

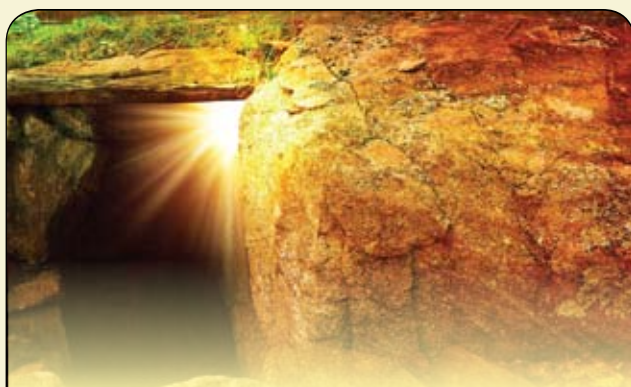
After he completed a full term as the Provincial, he served as the Tertian Director, Shembag from 2001 to 2004, and went to Kandy, Sri Lanka for the same service (2005 to 2007) and then returned to Shembag in 2007 to continue the same work. He was called once again to be the Novice Master in 2009 and after two years he went back to Shembag in 2011 to help as a Tertian Instructor. In 2012, when the Tamil Nadu Bishops asked for a mature, capable Jesuit who could be the spiritual guide for their seminarians, doing a one year spirituality programme, Fr Provincial asked him to help in the formation of diocesan clergy and so Fr Jeyaraj went to St Peter's Seminary, Viraganur, Madurai to be the Spiritual Guide. In 2013 he joined the community at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai and took to spiritual guidance, counselling and directing retreats.

Those who had seen him recently say he looked exhausted and became breathless when he had to climb stairs. He was highly diabetic for many years. In March he came down to direct a 30 days retreat at the LIFE Centre, run by

the Claretians, at Nochiodaipatti near Dindigul. On 31 March he felt unwell and visited St Joseph's Hospital, and insisted on going back to continue the retreat. On 01 April he had felt unwell again and was rushed to the hospital. While he was there around 8.30 p.m. he passed away, apparently due to a massive heart attack.

A deeply spiritual person, he was calm, serene and reflective. He had rare insights into life, people and issues, which he shared in his own inimitable way that made people think. Gifted with a refreshing sense of humour, he could be hilarious and keep people laughing. As a Novice Master twice, a Tertian Director and a sought-after Spiritual Guide for many years, he must have guided hundreds of Jesuits and other Religious and helped them find light, peace and God.

His funeral Mass at Beschi was on 01 April, Holy Thursday. Therefore a lot of people paid their last respects to Fr Jeyaraj early in the day to go back to their places for the evening service. The Mass at Beschi began at 3.00 pm. Fr Sebastia L.Raj, Provincial, in his introduction, shared the sadness and sense of loss everyone in the province felt. Fr Jebamalai Raja, Chennai Mission Superior and a novice of Fr Jeyaraj, preached the homily. After the Communion, Fr Michael Alosanai, who was the Tertian Director along with him, Fr A.J. Thamburaj, Superior, Dhyana Ashram and Mr Justin, his nephew, paid fervent tributes. Fr X.Irudayaraj said the final prayer, before Fr Donatus Jeyaraj was laid to rest at the Beschi cemetery. **- M.A.J.A**



SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

There is a well-circulated story about a child wanting to be held by his mother at bedtime. When the mother reminded her little boy that the arms of God would be around him all night, the child replied, "I know, but tonight I need a God with skin on." There is something profound, I think, in the child's reply. There are times when all of us need a God with skin on. Everything that we know in our minds must somehow come through the channels of our senses. Our senses are the organs of our contact with the external world. So, if God is going to come to us through the normal channels of our knowing, he too must somehow enter through our senses. Somehow, God must allow himself to be seen, heard, and touched.

The Christians of the early Church knew that all subsequent generations would need "a God with skin." Human beings can encounter Jesus, the source of all life and salvation, only if he is somehow available to their senses. The people of all generations, if they are to meet Jesus, must be able to see and hear and touch him, as Saint John did. It is a fundamental law of human psychology and of human experience.

And this is why God has willed to fashion as his instrument a community of love which we call the Church. Saint Paul said that this plan of God, hidden in God from all eternity, has been revealed by Jesus and must be realized in and through us. Paul exclaims that this is God's plan: Christ is in us! (See Colossians 1:27.) God's plan is that Jesus would live on in you and in me and in all the members of his Body, the Church. God would indeed be for all humans in all ages "a god with skin.

- John Powell, SJ
(in *The Christian Vision*)

Memories

YEARS OF FAMINE

Fr Pagès kept a diary but we are kept in the dark about real events. Petty quarrels among the town Catholics, ordinances for the holding of processions up to the number of flags and 'tivettis' (torches) to be used, the total of palms required for Palms Sunday - 1,500 in 1899 and 2,000 three years later - the use of crackers on All Souls' Day to be forbidden in the cemetery - all such parochial items fill page after page. Events, when there are any, take the shape of public desolation, such as years of dearth and famine when the annual procession has to be cancelled because the Catholics in town are starving. On 15 March 1899, a fire burnt to ashes some 41 houses of 'Toppu Theru' in the Catholic quarters. In the small hours of 8 February 1900, a 'general earthquake' is recorded and Ideikattur is said to have suffered from it. Some two years later another earthquake was announced but mercifully it passed without more ado. At St. Mary's, writes Fr Minister, 'all slept outside at night'. There are, here and there accounts of lands bought and sold, such as the selling away of the school building at Sivaganga, of a 'pettai' at Usilampatti and of a property on the Sirumalai. The real event must have been when 'Pages Esq.' as the Father was known for years at Madura, became a municipal councillor.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1943)



Congratulations

To the new Doctor, **Fr Basil Xavier** who successfully defended his doctoral thesis on ethnophilosophy of Arunthathiyars on 16 March at Madurai Kamaraj University.

To **Fr Xavier Vedam**, who was honoured by AIACHE that gave him the 'Best Principal Award' for this academic year on 31 Jan in Bengaluru.

Just for....



Two prominent members of the Parish Council were having a drink at a bar when they saw the Parish Priest, who smiled and went his way. But one of them became very upset. "I surely hope he didn't recognize us," he said. "What difference does it make?" his friend replied. "God knows we're here having a drink." "I know," said the first one, "but God won't tell my wife."