



# Madurai Jesuits' News Letter



AUGUST 2015



(For Private Circulation)

## Message from the Provincial



### Dr. Abdul Kalam – the Jesuit in him

Dear Brothers,

The pride of the Jesuits – Dr. Abdul Kalam - is no more with us physically. But I am sure he has left an indelible mark and impact on each one of us. Many of us quote Dr. Abdul Kalam in our talks and sermons and we did that with great joy and pride. When the news of his death reached us, we were sad and shocked, but were filled with a deep and inspiring message. When I was sitting in the chapel of Beschi Illam for the memorial service for Dr Abdul Kalam, I was feeling as if a Jesuit close to me has passed away. In my condolence message at the service I asked the question: Could he have been a Jesuit? Has he not lived his life and has achieved things which are very dear and close to the Jesuits?

Yes, he had within him everything of what an ideal Jesuit should have or possess - dedication, determination, learning, dynamism, concern, commitment, and compassion for the poor. He was a highly respected scholar, a man of deep spirituality, a top level scientist with a lot of practical knowledge, a prolific writer and a creative and bold thinker. He was concerned about peace, love and harmony. He was a great dreamer and had visions for the future. He gave hope to the youth and invited them to dream big and nurture visions. He transcended all divisions and disunity and went beyond caste, creed and personal prejudices. He was an epitome of genuine secularism. He loved the children and youth and felt at home with them. With all these

qualities and achievements, he has upheld our charism and has lived a life, perhaps much better than many of us. Indeed, for the past several years he has been our best brand ambassador to the whole country and beyond. I salute him for this great achievement.

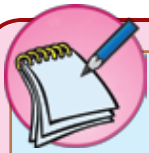
He has definitely left a strong and inspiring message to the whole country. But he has left something very special for us, Jesuits, as he is undoubtedly an embodiment of all that is precious for a Jesuit. All the qualities and achievements I've described above are the qualities expected of a Jesuit and we



too are expected to achieve great things for His glory. Specifically, he has touched the hearts of millions of young people through his life, talks and books. How many hearts have we touched through our life and through our ministries? If he can achieve this much single-handedly, can we not imitate him and be inspired by him in our life and in our relationships with the people, particularly with the youth, thousands of whom are passing through our institutions, or those whom we are serving in the pastoral and social fields – the Dalits, the marginalized, the abandoned? This is a very good opportunity for each one of us to get inspired by our great alumnus -Dr. Abdul Kalam - and carry on doing what he did - serving our people with dedication and love.

May the *Jesuit in him* inspire everyone of us!

Fraternally,  
*Sebasti L. Raj, SJ*  
Provincial



## Provincial's Programme:

### AUGUST

- 04-05 Visitation: Kalangarai, Nagapattinam
- 07-09 LUMEN: Assembly of TNPCRI Major Superiors
- 09-11 Visitation: Tindivanam and AHAL, Kilpennathur
- 11 Loyola College, Vettavalam: Inauguration of the Hostels
- 14-17 Mumbai: JCSA Restructuring Committee Meeting
- 22-23 Meeting: LS/TL and Coordinators – Maduralaya
- 23 Consult (Afternoon)
- 24-27 Visitation: SHC, Shembaganur and Kodai Hills
- 29 Ordination: SJC, Trichy
- 31 Meeting of Assistancy Jesuit Novice Masters – Thozhamai Illam

### SEPTEMBER

- 02-04 Visitation: St. Mary's, Dindigul
- 05 Meeting with HMs and Correspondents, Maduralaya
- 06 Consult
- 07-10 Visitation: AAC, Karumathur
- 12-19 China Contact Programme for Major Superiors
- 20-22 Visitation: Fr. James Bharatputra, Indonesia
- 25-27 POSA Consult, New Delhi
- 28-30 Visitation: Madurai Men in Delhi (VJ, ISI)

## Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

### AUGUST

- 01 Mettupalayam
- 02 Makkampalayam
- 06 Social Analysis, LAAS
- 08 Inauguration of Silver Jubilee of Chennai Mission at Karuveppampooni
- 09 Mission Consult
- 10 Tindivanam
- 10-11 AHAL, Kilpennathur
- 11 Inauguration of New Hostels, LCV, Vettavalam
- 17-19 Social Analysis, Maadhavaram
- 22-23 Superiors' Meet, Maduralaya
- 23 Province Consult
- 29 Ordinations, Trichy

### SEPTEMBER

- 04 Mission Consult
- 06 Province Consult
- 09-10 Ranipettai
- 17-18 PAATHAI, Vallam
- 18-19 LAV, Vadampakkam
- 20-27 Retreat



## Announcements

### Status:

Fr. Provincial has made the following appointments/transfers:

- Fr. Maria Bastin Durai is appointed the new Headmaster of St. Mary's, Dindigul, with effect from 01 September '15.
- Sch. John Peter is transferred from SXC, Palayamkottai to Beschi Illam, Dindigul.
- Sch. Lawrence Arockiasamy - studying in Anugraha - is attached to the community of St. Mary's, Dindigul.
- Bro. Kulandairaj Antony, who retires as HM on 31 August '15, will be on sabbatical till May 2016, but attached to St. Mary's, Dindigul.

### Left:

Two Scholastics have left the Society - Sch Emmanuel Arockia Dass on 23 July '15 and Sch Nirmal Savariyar A. on 25 July '15.

### Returned:

After having been in 'Leave of Absence' from the Society from 24 Sept '14, Fr Joe Arun has returned to the Province on 21 July '15. Welcome back, Fr Joe Arun.

### Young Priests Meet:

The usual Annual Meeting for the Young Priests of the Province will take place on 31 Oct, 01 Nov at Maduralaya. All those who have not made their Final Profession in the Society are expected to participate in this meeting.

### Spirituality Course:

Course on 'Psychological Processes in Retreats'. Dates: 26-30 Sept '15.

Venue: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai.

Resource person: Fr Dudley Mendonca, SJ (BOM). Contact: Fr Devadhas Muthiah at [devadhasm@gmail.com](mailto:devadhasm@gmail.com).

## JAAI South Zone Congress:

JAAI (Jesuit Alumni Association of India) South Zone Congress is scheduled for 29, 30 Aug '15 at St. Joseph's Hr Sec. School, Calicut, Kerala. The Congress will focus on the theme 'The role of Jesuit Alumni in the present educational scenario'. Jesuit delegates will be accommodated at Christ Hall, Malaparamba. We have sent registration forms to all the Jesuit institutions in Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala. Registration forms can also be downloaded from the JAAK website [jaakerala.org](http://jaakerala.org) under the icon waves 15 - **Jose Mathew, SJ**, Province Coordinator, Kerala Province.

## JDV's Diamond Jubilee:

To celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, we are organizing a conference to which we are inviting all the alumni of JDV. *Dates:* 24-28 Nov '15. *Venue:* JDV, Pune. *Theme:* Befriending the Other. To register, please mail to: [jubilee@jdv.edu.in](mailto:jubilee@jdv.edu.in) - **Frs. Selva Rathinam, SJ & Kuruvilla Pandikattu, SJ**.

## New number:

**Fr Michael Alosanaya** (Vidya Jyoti, Delhi) has a new cell number: 99685 19896.

## New address:

The Jesuit Residence where Cyril Suresh lived is being shifted to another place. His new address: Pe. Cyril Suresh, SJ/Colégio dos Jesuítas/ Av. Presidente Itamar Franco, 1600- Centro/36016-320 - Juiz de Fora, Minas Gerais, Brasil./ Tel: +55 [32] 2101-5768.



## WELCOME TO OUR FIRST MASS!

**ALEX YAGOO**  
30.08.2015  
09.45 am  
Sts. Joachim and  
Anne Church,  
**Keela Uchani**  
Sivagangai Diocese



**ANTONY INICO I.**  
30.08.2015  
11.30 am  
St John the Baptist  
Church,  
**Karayanchavadi**  
**(Poonamallee)**  
Madras-Mylapore  
Archdiocese



**FRANCIS XAVIER A.**  
30.08.2015  
6.00 pm  
St. Antony's Shrine,  
**Marambadi**  
Dindigul Diocese



**POONDY RAJAN Y.**  
30.08.2015  
5.30 pm  
Our Lady of  
Liberation Church,  
**Nallur**  
Chengalpattu  
Diocese

**RICHARD HIRUTHYARAJ**  
30.08.2015  
11.30 am  
St. Mary's Church,  
Mary's Hill  
**Udhagamandalam**  
Ooty Diocese



**VICTOR DESOZA A.**  
30.08.2015  
09.30 am  
St. John De Britto  
church,  
**Subramaniapuram**  
Trichy Diocese



**VINCENT IRUDHAYARAJ M.**  
31.08.2015  
5.30 pm  
St. Joseph Church  
**Pothanoor**  
Coimbatore Diocese







## Statue of the Sacred Heart

Fr Arul, Rector, Diocesan Spirituality Centre, was the Chief Celebrant at the Holy Spirit Mass here at **AAC, KARUMATHUR** on 15 July. Brahma Kumaris conducted a similar celebration at the same time for non-Catholics. We have introduced this year yoga for all. Thanks to the efforts of Fr Rufus and Fr Anbu a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was installed on 03 July before which the staff and the students now gather to pray.

Fr Anbu and Fr Mahalingam explained to the second year UG students what is expected of them when they participate in **ARISE** (Arul Anandar Rural Initiatives for Social Action). About 65 students learnt mask-making, painting and colouring at a three-day workshop jointly organized by Mr Murugaboopathy, Director, Manal Magudi Drama Troupe and the Department of Tamil. Candidates for college elections made promises like: "If you elect me, I will make all our class rooms air-conditioned." On 17 July the college administration made provisions for an improved version of electronic voting, which helped us count the votes much faster. But before announcing the names of those who won, the election officials saw to it that the contestants removed the posters they put up while campaigning.

Fr Arulanandam, Campus Treasurer, helps the archdiocese and the province in various ways. Fr Pappuraj, Secretary, has readied a new, well-furnished room for students to meet Fr S P Savarimuthu, the student

counsellor. He has installed CCTVs at vantage points at the campus. Six of our Scholastics help in teaching spoken English to the students. Fr Rufus coordinated the North Zone Regents' Recollection on 25-26 July at PATHAI, Vallam.

- A.G. Leonard

## Networking

All of us at **AHAL**, Kilpennathur joined the people of Elanthampuravadai, a substation of our parish, to celebrate the parish feast on 05 July and Fr Rajarathinam was the main celebrant. A one-day work shop on team work and networking for the animators of JIM on 5 July by Fr Seba. The members of the three Jesuit communities – AHAL, LCV, LIS, Ranipet met the Bishop of Vellore on 7 July. We held a motivation camp for 10th and 12th std students on 12 July. Prof. Richard from Cuddalore inspired them to come out with flying colours in their public examination. 11 French students arrived here on 26 July for a housing project in the parish.

- Manoj

## Reflections on St Ignatius

The staff and the students of **ARUL KADAL** guided a one-day retreat and a counselling programme for the students of Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur on 4 and 25 July 2015. Fr Maria Arul Raja and Schs. Wenish & James attended 'jkpo; iwapay; kd;wk;' meet at IDEAS, Madurai on 8 July 2015. On 15 July, Fr Vincent Sekhar had a sharing with the Arulkadalites on 'Inter-Religious Dialogue' and invited us to actively take part in this universal mission. Fr Maria Arul Raja guided a one-

day recollection for the teaching and the non-teaching staff of St Joseph's College, Trichy on 25 July, and shared his reflections on St. Ignatius with the students of LICET and Loyola College on 30 July.

- Deva A. Stephen

## Dr Kalam came to Beschi

With hearts and minds renewed, the novices of **BESCHI** Illam started their new weekend ministry on 27 June. On 29 June our 8 first year novices began their II Probation with a Holy Spirit Mass. A purposeful orientation given by Fr Igni, Minister, Maduralaya, on 3 July helped the novices understand



the purpose of the noviceship. On 5 July we attended the Corpus Christi procession in the Cathedral. On 7, 8 July Dr Devaraja from FESWA hospital spoke on Naturopathy and Yoga.

On 7 July Fr Michael Alosanaya left for Delhi to take up his new assignment as a spiritual guide at Vidya Jyoti. On the first death anniversary of Br Maria Soosai, we joined his relatives for a memorial Mass on 13. We did the same on 15 July, the 10<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Br Ambrose Chinnappan along with his relatives and friends. on 16

July some of us went to St Mary's farm, Iyampalayam where we enjoyed Br Antony's hospitality.

18 July was a red letter day in the annals of Beschi. Dr Abdul Kalam, our former President, came to visit Fr Ladislaus Chinnadurai, his guru. Besides the 60 odd police personnel, the press corps, the Jesuits, our co-workers in the campus and the boys from our Home waited with bated breath at the portico. Finally when he arrived around 1.45 pm, Fr Tagore, the Superior garlanded him, Fr Chinnadurai honoured him with a ponnadai and Fr Joe Antony, the Socius, presented him with a couple of books published by our Vaigarai Pathipagam. Dr Kalam honoured a highly emotional Fr Chinnadurai, his former professor, with a ponnadai and gave him a copy of his latest book, *Reignited*, along with a basket of fruits and flowers. We led him to Fr Chinnadurai's room and they chatted for about 20 minutes. Dr Kalam spoke about Father's classes on Nuclear Physics and his method of teaching and motivating students to use the library. Before he left the room after his obeisance to his master, he was keen on taking snaps. Fr Chinnadurai accompanied him up to the car and waved him good-bye. The crowd was difficult to control, as everyone tried to get near him or hand him something or get an autograph. Once Dr Kalam left, the press asked Fr Chinnadurai about what transpired between them. He repeated what Dr Abdul Kalam shared with him about his student days at SJC and his sweet memories of his revered guru. The media gave a good coverage to the event highlighting the unique bonding between the guru and disciple even after a lapse of 60 years.

We shared the joy of Fr Chinnadurai and felt proud of him.

- Sam, N.S.J.

## To think anew and plan ahead

On 12 June we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Fr Gualbert here at **DE BRITTO** with our students and staff in a grand manner. The presence of priests and religious of our vicariate doubled our joy. Fr Yagoo retired from service on 30 June and our new headmaster, Fr. Augustine, assumed office on 01 July. The community orientation on 06 July helped us think anew and plan ahead for this academic year. The Holy Spirit Mass brought down abundant blessings on the campus. A new statue of St John De Britto blessed by Fr Francis and Fr Augustine will help in filling us with the Ignatian spirit. - Salomon

## At the crossroads

On 18 July **DHYANA ASHRAM** hosted the IGFA meet. More than 115 persons – Religious and the laity – attended. Fr Pavul Raj from Gregorian University, Rome, speaking on 'Ignatian Spirituality at the Crossroads' charmed everyone with his knowledge. He pointed out that Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit spirituality are not the same. All the Jesuits who had come for the



Spirituality GBM scheduled for 19 July attended the funeral of Fr M.J. Victor at Loyola and later gathered at IDCR and focused on campus ministry. Many suggestions were offered to improve the formation of staff and students in the Jesuit spirit. Finally Fr Provincial highlighted the need to link up and collaborate at every

level. Fr Thamburaj preached a 30-days retreat to Dominican sisters and a Salesian priest who works as a missionary in Hungary. Fr Lawrence Amalraj addressed the nurses batch by batch on effectiveness of their service. He also addressed the staff and students in Michael Academy. Fr Xavier Irudayaraj is busy editing a book in honor of Fr G. Igancy to be released on the first anniversary of his death.

Jerry animated the Sisters of St Ann of Secunderabad working in health and social sectors on 09 July at Secunderabad. The Jesuit Provincial of Calcutta, Fr Jeyaraj, who is also the CRI President of West Bengal and Sikkim, invited Jerry for three programmes. So on 10-12 July Jerry addressed more than 500 religious men and women on the challenges of the consecrated life. He was the resource person along with Bishop Lawrence Pius of Dharmapuri, at a meeting for Sister Doctors and Nurses at Hosur. On 20-24 July he directed a pastoral retreat for the bishop and clergy of Chikmagalur at Hassan. - Xavier Irudayaraj

## More and more

Keeping with the spirit of St Ignatius a lot of activities took place at **IDEAS-LAAS** during the month of July. *Give More:* Frs. Aloysius and Jeyaseelan went to Trichy to deliberate on the Housing Loan Scheme for our domestic employees. *Know More:* On 11, 12 July all our Staff had a two-day intensive course at IDEAS on Social Media given by Prof. Selvam, HOD, Computer Science, Loyola College, Vettavalam. The training has provided a lot of insights and techniques to effectively use the electronic media in social action ministry. *Reflect More:* On 19 and 20, the Community had a

two day orientation programme at Kalangarai, Nagapattinam when we reflected on the themes proposed by Fr Provincial. *Serve More*: The community organized a two day participative workshop for Religious Social Activists on 25,26 July on Pope Francis' message to the Religious. *Share More*: The Jesuit Staff celebrated the Feast of St. Ignatius with other lay staff on 30 July to share our joy and solidarity by celebrating the Eucharist and followed by a fitting dinner. *Do More*: There were also other programmes organized by the Staff to enhance the life of the manual scavengers, to empower the women in their struggle for gender justice, to mitigate the domestic violence meted out to the battered women and many more.

- **Jeyaseelan, SJ**

## Bring in fresh thinking

The GBM of MDU Jesuits in **HIGHER EDUCATION**, held at St. Joseph's, Trichy on 18 July, began with the Mass celebrated by Fr K. Amal. There was a rich and inspirational sharing by the Madurai Men who attended the Melbourne International Jesuit Congress on Higher Education - Frs. Dennis, Pushparaj, Thomas Alexander, Lazar, Samuel Jeyaseelan, Basil Xavier and Joe Arun. Its theme was 'Expanding the Jesuit Higher Education Network-Collaboration for Social Justice.' They spoke on the main

points highlighted by the Congress, which were then discussed college wise and reports were presented. Fr Provincial raised a few soul-searching questions: 'What is missing in our Higher Education to-day? Are we scholarly? What is our output in terms of research and intellectual leadership since we have 115 doctors in the Province? Are we stagnating? Are we prophetic?' A core group was formed with the co-ordinator as the convenor to prepare a position paper on the way forward and strategies. Fr Provincial thanked Fr G. Pushparaj, the outgoing co-ordinator, for his dedicated service to Higher Education ministry and for seeking legal remedies especially in the appointment of Lecturers. He also welcomed the new co-ordinator Fr Xavier Alphonse, and asked him to bring fresh thinking into the ministry. - **S. Xavier Alphonse**

## Need of the hour

The Jesuit Center for Counseling (**JESCCO**) is happy to note that the province seems to say with one voice that the ministry of counseling is the need of the hour. The participants of various GBMs have taken a big stride into concrete action plans to equip people with counseling skills. Based on the explicit request from various commissions, JESCCO is offering a few workshops. The faculty from our Technical and Vocational Education Centers at Gnanaolivupuram, Ooty and Ranipet will have a training program at Sirumalai in the beginning of September. The Jesuit pastors of our province will have a three-day workshop in October on how to help

themselves and their parishioners effectively. Other commissions such as the Spirituality and Dialogue, Formation, Secondary as well as Higher Education are in the process of deciding on the details of the training required for their stakeholders.

Fr Emma, Director, addressed the staff and students of Fatima College, Madurai, on the importance of going beyond class room learning to pursuing a purpose which will give meaning to our whole life. He conducted a one-day workshop to the faculty of the Loyola College of Education on "Understanding Self." He also addressed 800 parents of the students of Our Lady's Nursery School in Chennai on how to deal with the problems in bringing up children. On 12 July he participated in a meeting of religious psychologists organized by the ADF, Fr Raj Irudaya in Bangalore to understand the nuances of choosing the right candidates for the Society, and to develop tools for screening them. On 22 July he conducted a one-day training at JRS office at Beschi for the barefoot counselors who are working in various refugee camps. Besides teaching a few classes at LIBA on Counseling Skills for managers, he conducted a half-day psycho-spiritual program on 26 July for the Catholic parents of Holy Angels School, Chennai.

- **Emma**

## Rootless & stateless

The barefoot counsellors

## Abide with the Lord

Br Abraham Mannamkary, SJ, (KER), (80/54), on 03 July '15 in Calicut.

Swami Prabhudhar Constant, SJ (GOA), 79/55, on 27 July 2015 in Belgaum.

Fr John Arulanandam (ex-Jesuit) who passed away in Chennai on 23 July, 2015.

Fr. Stephen Toppo, SJ, (MAP) 55/35) passed away on 26 July after a two-month long coma resulting from a motorcycle accident on 21 May 2015.

Fr M.J. Victor, SJ (MDU), 70/51, on 12 July '15 in Chennai.

Fr Sebastian Anand (MDU), 61/44, on 02 Aug at St Xavier's, Jaipur.





of **JRS** had a review meeting in T.V.Malai and Salem on 5, 6 July. Fr Britto Peter guided the meetings in an effective way. This meeting helped our counselors to share their experiences, to clarify their doubts and to learn new methods of counseling. Family gatherings were also held to make the family members aware of the importance of counseling at camp level, as many Sri Lankan Tamil youth have problems related to mental health. Foundational courses were conducted to nurture a sense of hope in the youth who feel rootless and stateless. About 40 students of the Kovai Zone attended the fifth foundational course on 15 -17 July at IDEAS.

Fr. Dominic, JRS TN director, shared about the objectives of the course and motivated the youth to make the best use of it. Fr. Rufus and Mr. Ganesh conducted effective motivational sessions and classes on the history of Sri Lanka. So far 210 students (123 boys & 87 girls) have benefited from this course. JRS family is ever grateful to IDEAS community for hosting the programme. Meetings were arranged with the Government officials in many districts in order to build a good rapport and make them aware of the struggles and needs of the people living in the camps.

- **Anto**

### Happy and grateful

Fazil and I came to **SRI LANKA** on 24 June, 2015 for our **JUNIORATE**. We are happy and grateful for this unique opportunity to do our Juniorate outside our country. When we arrived at the Colombo airport, we saw Bro Francis, Minister of our house, waiting to receive us. Fr Kamal, Superior, welcomed us along with five Bangladeshis and three East Timorese who had arrived earlier. We had a 3-day orientation program, organized

by Bro. Jude Deluxion, the acting dean. The Juniorate programme officially started on 29 June. We are totally 10 from three different countries. We have frequent rains and the climate is cooler than Tamil Nadu. As far as I could see, there are trees, plants and water bodies. I find the local Sri Lankan people very simple and gentle. We are aware that we have been sent here to study and become knowledgeable. We assure you that we will do our best.

- **John Albert**

### New block, new ground

**LOYOLA ACADEMY**, Vadampakkam bid a fitting farewell to the veterans who were leaving us - Frs. Mark Stephan and Ignatius Britto and Sch. Stephen. Their service is continued by the new team - Frs. A. Victor, K.A. Augustine and Sch. Rajasekaran. Loyola Academy now boasts of another floor in the second block and a new Basketball ground, blessed on 24 June. Fr.



Gnanaraj, Minister, is busy with campus maintenance. Fr Victor guided the retreat of the senior novices in Beschi to prepare them for their First Vows. He also gave the orientation programme for the staff of LICET. Our community has a new lay member - Mr. Guilhem de Reynies from Toulouse, France, who has volunteered to work in our school for three months.

- **Rajasekaran**

### Green Loyola

'Green Loyola' is the theme **LOYOLA** Campus, **CHENNAI** has adopted for this academic year. The theme chimes in with *Laudato*

*Si* and various programmes in Loyola institutions have been initiated to heighten awareness of our connectedness to all creation. On 21 July Loyola Campus invoked the Holy Spirit in the Eucharist presided over by Bishop Singaroyan of Salem. *Looking Away*, an insightful book by Harsh Mander was launched in a function organized by LISSTAR. The book draws attention to the prejudice and bigotry of the middle class and the indifference to the poor it engenders. 'Building youth leadership for sustainable planet' was the theme around which nearly 150 students of Loyola interacted with a group of international youth in person and on Skype on 28 July. The stories of young heroes in their teens challenging mighty governments and industries that destroy the earth's resources were the points of reference for their interaction. The main learning was that young people can be leaders championing big causes and bring about changes in society. Since that evening we heard about the sad demise of our beloved former President, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, we had an opportunity to pay our tribute to him.

Dr Kandeh Yemkalla, former Deputy Director General of UN, addressed the staff and students of **LICET** on energy conservation. Francis Samruth participated in aero design competition in the USA. ISO 9001:2008 status, after re-audit, has been extended for another three years for LICET. Anna University has granted affiliation to LICET for 2015-2016. The report has indicated 'zero' deficiency. Three of the LICET alumni, Deepak John, Abishek, and Antony Joseph Ephrem were radio-interviewed about their entrepreneurial enterprises in software business. LICET's NSS Unit, approved by Anna University, in collaboration with

Youth Helping Hearts (Y2H), has sent in help for the earthquake-affected in Nepal. LICET has had a weeklong orientation for the staff; Eminent speakers such as Dr Jebamalai Vinanchiarachi, former Principal adviser to UN General Secretary, conducted the sessions.

The 18th Convocation of **LIBA** was held on 18 July. The batch of 2013 to 2015 has successfully completed the full-time PGDM programme with 100 % placements. A total of 120 full-time PGDM students, 60 part-time PGDM students and 82 Executive Post-Graduate students from the Royal Bank of Scotland, Maveric Systems and Ford India Ltd, graduated. The Convocation ceremony commenced with the Convocation procession followed by the blessing of the event by Fr Jayapathy, Rector, Dr T.A.Sivasubramaniam, Director, LIBA, presented the Annual Report, which was followed by the Convocation Address given by the Chief Guest, Mr. Richard Rekhy, CEO, KPMG, India. LIBA has won four awards, including the 'Outstanding B-School in South India' given by two different institutions.

Fr Ignacimuthu was the chief guest for the Convocation at Christopher College of Education, Chennai. He also served in the panel to select the Principal for Krishnammal College, Coimbatore. He spent three weeks in the department of Genetics, Kaiserslauten University, Germany, exchanging notes on the ongoing collaborative projects and to verify the results of the experiments at ERI, Loyola, Chennai. Indian Council of Medical Research has granted a major research project to Fr Ignacimuthu to work on antidiabetic plants. He also was the chief guest at a national conference held at Government

College, Coimbatore.

- Jayapathy

## The first Master's degree programme

**LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM** began its new academic year with a Holy Spirit Mass on 03 July, with Fr. A. Victor from LAV as the main celebrant. On 07 July, the communities of LCV and AHAL



visited the Bishop of Vellore. In the CRI, Vellore meeting on 11 July Fr. Alphonse Manickam spoke on our Pope's recent encyclical letter - *Laudato Si*. The Inauguration and Orientation for the Loyola Out-reach Programme was held on 21 July. The Panchayat Presidents and Parish Priests from the villages where the students go for field work, shared their expectations of the programme. The second year students commenced their first Outreach field work on 25 July after the orientation talk by Fr. Rajarathinam, the Programme Director of Out-reach Programme.

The college started its first ever Master's Degree in English literature on 22 July. The course started with 19 students and the admission is likely to increase. We felt enriched by the presence and participation of Frs. Casmir Raj and Joe Arun in different programmes on 24 July. Fr Casimir Raj inaugurated the Associations of BBA & B.Com and addressed the students on to getting empowered to face their future. Fr Joe Arun conducted a technical session for all the Staff on capacity building and gave a motivational talk to the third year students on "My Future." All

the six departments had their grand inaugurations this month, in which many resource persons were invited as chief guests.

On 24 Fr Rajarathanam recorded the new college anthem at the LICET studio. He wrote and composed the anthem, which was released on Ignatius's feast. Our Founder's feast was celebrated on 30 July with a prayer service conducted by Fr Rajarathanam, the campus minister. The parish priests and Sisters from the area joined the community for the feast day celebration on 31 July.

- Alwin

## Building bridges

On 08 July the new academic year at **LTI**, Madurai was inaugurated for the first year students - a month before the usual time. For the first time in our history the Bridge Course was conducted by 10 M. Phil. students from Dept of English of Fatima College, Madurai, who volunteered to teach our students. Fr Maria Singarayar, Correspondent and Sch Maria Then Amirdaraj coordinated this new collaborative venture.



Campus interviews were held on 11 July by seven companies which selected all the students who had completed the age of 18. On 15 July World Youth Skills Day was celebrated with the aim of motivating the youth to develop their skills and work hard to get good jobs. Our alumnus, Mr. Stephen, Fitter Instructor of Don Bosco ITI presided over



the function and Mr. Ignatius Selvaraj, Trainer of Susee Hyundai, was the chief guest. On 16, 17 July, Fr Emma facilitated the community orientation, and made us anchor our relationships with one another and cherish our companionship at LTI. The conclusion of the orientation was the joyful visit of the Archbishop Antony Pappusamy On 22 July the semester exams began.

Fr Lourdusamy has taken charge as chaplain for De La Salle Brothers, Fr V S Raju as House Minister and Bro Tony the Campus Treasurer. - **Mag Bay**

## **90 from 17 p, 2 r and 4 c**

**SATYA NILAYAM** is now an international community of 90 young Jesuits from 17 provinces, two regions and four countries - East Africa, East Timor, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. With 36 first years, 44 second years and 10 staff members, the community is truly vibrant scholastics The academic year 2015-16 began with the Holy Spirit Mass celebrated by Bishop Francis Serrao, SJ, of Shimoga. Fr Albert Muthumalai, Rector welcomed the freshers to 'the abode of wisdom' and spoke on our way of life at SN. A two-day orientation programme on the theme *Tabula Rasa* (blank slate) brought us together as one community.

'Synergy' - the new initiative of Fr. Robin as part of the monthly programme of the Kolvenbach Library - organized 'Yoga Divas' on 23 June with Fr Raj Irudhaya as the head of the panel discussion. 'Synergy' for July was organized on 23 with Fr. Vinod (RAN) discussing 'Unhappy Indians', followed by the meeting of Chennai Christian Library Forum with Sch. Albinus as the secretary. SN has started English Coaching Classes for

working youth and college students co-ordinated by by Scholastics Vimal, Joseph and Nelson. - **Arul G**

## **Sees everything better**

**ST JOHN DE BRITTO SHRINE-cum-village exposure programme** was arranged for the students of the lower sections, who joyfully attended 'the heritage walk'. On 09 July, School Inspection Day, we welcomed a team of C.E.O, D.E.O, and few HMs from Ramnad district. They visited our school and were present for the assembly and mass drill. Cultural competitions among students are going on now for a week. Our students have been selected for district level chess competitions. Fr Y.S.Yagoo, our new superior, sees everything better after a cataract surgery. On 25 July, we went on a pilgrimage to St. Ignatius church at Karkathakudi as a spiritual preparation for our Founder's feast. All the Catholic students and the staff took part in the novena Masses. In the past two months, more than 400 pilgrims have benefitted from our counselling and prayer centre. We had the community orientation on 13 June guided by Fr Lionel, parish priest of Pathirigudi.

- **Amal**

## **Historic occasion**

**ST MARY'S SCHOOL, MADURAI**, celebrated the annual Sports Day on 17 July with a lot of enthusiasm. The Chief Guest, Mr. Suresh, an alumnus of our school, recalled his years as a student and said he was proud of distributing the prizes. On 15 July the School celebrated the Veeramamunivar Cultural Festival. It was a historic occasion with a transgender, Ms Bharathi Kannamma, being the Chief Guest. She received a thunderous applause when she shared her unforgettable experiences in an inspiring way. Fr Albert Joseph and Mr Max Britto, Headmaster, organized the programme. The hostel celebrated its own cultural competition for two weeks, along with sports and games,

under the guidance of the new Warden, Fr. V. George. Our active Cathedral Parish celebrated the festival of Amala Annai Kurusadi in Chinthamani Road Substation with processions, festive meals and daily Eucharistic celebrations. The Eucharistic Procession in the Cathedral was held on 19 July, with Fr Anandanathan leading the choir. Fr. Stephen Muthu and his team gave an orientation to basic Christian communities and pious associations. Fr. Michael Jeyaraj animated the community orientation, emphasizing the teachings of Pope Francis.

- **G. Packiaraj**

## **Special Heritage Status**

Fr Xavier Antony, the new director of campus ministry here at **St JOSEPH'S**, organised retreats for the staff and students on four Saturdays. More than 1,000 Catholic students attended. The staff appreciated their retreat, guided by Fr Maria Arul Raja. The time-honoured practice of all the inmates of the campus going on a pilgrimage to the Holy Redeemer's Church continued this year too with all its spiritual grandeur. While Fr Britto, Rector, was the main celebrant, Fr Paulraj, Regional Director, AICUF, preached an inspiring homily.

St. Joseph's is the only college in Tamil Nadu and one of the three colleges in India - the other two being St. Xavier's, Mumbai and St Xavier's, Calcutta - to receive a special grant from UGC under the Special Heritage Status. A grant of Rs. 1.67 crore will be provided to the college to maintain the Herbarium, to have an additional floor in the Museum, to conduct two certificate courses and to take up a research project.

The sudden death of Dr Abdul Kalam, an alumnus of our

## M.J. Victor, SJ

1944 - 2015

In the morning of 12 July '15, Fr M.J. Victor, who was the spiritual guide for scholastics in Berchmans Illam, Loyola, Chennai, went to celebrate Mass for a relative's family in Villivakkam, Chennai. While waiting at the bus stop in front of the Central



Railway Station he suffered a massive heart attack. Before he could be taken by the patrolling police and others to the Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital, which is just a few hundred meters away, he breathed his last. Since he had left his cell phones in his room and carried no id, nobody knew what happened. After five days, with the help of the police, his body was finally found at the mortuary of the Government Hospital.

Born in Royappanpatti on 28 July 1944, M.J. Victor entered the Society of Jesus on 20 May 1963, and was ordained a priest in 1976. His mission as a Jesuit priest started with being a pastor at St. Joseph's College, Trichy in 1979. Later he served as a minister, treasurer, superior or parish priest at Satya Nilayam, Dhyana Ashram, St Mary's Co-Cathedral, Madurai, St Arulanandar Shrine, Oriyur, Our Lady of Guidance Church (Lazarus Church) Chennai, St Brigid's Church, Westbury, N.Y. USA, Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur and Kazhakhstan. The major part of his Jesuit life was dedicated to pastoral care of people.

The funeral on 19 July was truly a witness to what he had been all along his life. There were around 30 priests and religious at the concelebrated high Mass presided over by Fr. Sebastia L Raj SJ, the Provincial of Madurai Jesuit Province. Fr Victor Arulappan preached an inspiring homily. The commendation and the committal were done by Fr. Jebamalai Raja SJ, the Mission Superior and Fr. Maria Wenisch SJ, the Superior of Berchmans Illam. He was laid to rest in the cemetery of Loyola College, Chennai.

Fr M.J. Victor was truly a pastor, always reaching out to people. Jesuits of Berchmans Illam fondly remember him as a simple, friendly, humorous and smiling person. He was a man of God and of people.

May his soul rest in peace!

- S. Wenisch, SJ

college and a former President of our country, plunged us all into sadness. A procession with his photograph and a befitting condolence meeting helped us express our grief and our undying love and esteem for the great man. A team of Jesuits, professors and alumni travelled to Rameswaram to attend his funeral on 30 July. Even on the feast day of our Founder, we recalled the legacy of Dr Kalam, who had imbibed the values of St. Ignatius. Bishop Antony Devotta of Trichy, who attended the feast day celebrations, reminded us, citing Pope Francis, that we are respected not because we are learned professors but because we are witnesses to God's mercy.

- V. Viji Bose, SJ

### “Best college in the vicinity”

*Arts and Science College:* We celebrated the Holy Spirit Mass here at **ST XAVIER'S** on 03 July. Fr J.M Das, who presided over the concelebrated Mass, preached an inspiring homily. Dr. John de Britto, Registrar, M.S. University, was the Chief Guest at the inauguration of the Student Council. He affirmed that Xavier's is the best college in the vicinity. “Teaching for Transformation” was the theme of the orientation programme organised by the IQAC Coordinator on 10 July. Fr Gilbert Camillus, Principal, inaugurated the activities of the Centre for Women's Studies. On the same day a special orientation for all the girl students was organized. At the Parents Meeting on 17 July the mark

statements were handed over to the students in the presence of their parents. The Department of English started on 14 July the remedial English course that will go on till November.

*School:* The Alumni Association of the school, guided by its Director, Fr L. Francis Xavier, effectively organized a one-day seminar on Life Motivation on 04 July in which nearly 1,000 XI std students from neighboring schools participated. Our alumnus, Mr V.Palanichamy, I.A.S, an expert in motivating students, was the resource person. Fr S.M. John Kennedy gave a recollection talk to the diocesan priests of Palayamkottai in the Bishop's House on 'Education and Evangelization'. On 16 July a brainstorming session for JCERT was organized at which 25 persons came up with suggestions on what JCERT can take up in the future. On 19 July he went to Hyderabad at the request of the Provincial of Andhra province and gave an orientation programme for the school evaluation team and helped them evolve a questionnaire for evaluation of Jesuit schools. - Jesu Raja

### Merciful as the Father

After a month long Hindi course under the able guidance of Fr. Stephen Raj (PAT) at Sasaram, Bihar, we, the 7 Madurai scholastics from Arul Kadal landed in **VIDYA JYOTI**, Delhi on 9 July for

our third year of theology. Vidyajoti Community, with its new Rector, Fr Michael T. Raj and new Minister, Fr. Mohan Joseph welcomed us with affection. The Orientation talk on 11 July by Fr Rector motivated us to build a happy and effective community in the true spirit of the Society. The new academic year of Vidyajoti College was inaugurated on 13 July with the Holy Spirit Mass on the theme, 'Called to be Merciful as the Father.' Archbishop Anil J.T. Couto of Delhi, the Patron of the college, was the main celebrant.

Now we have one more MDU Jesuit among the staff of Vidyajyoti in the person of Fr. Michael Alosanaya, the Spiritual Guide of the Community and Students' Counsellor at VJ College. Fr Leonard Fernando presented a well-appreciated paper "Indian Catholic Historiography" in the Seminar on 'The Catholic Contribution to the Indian History, Society and Culture' organized by the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences and Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore. At the meeting Fr Leo was elected a member of the Core Committee to establish the Forum for Historical Commission. On 25 July, we had a one-day 'City Darshan' to all the important places and the historical monuments of Delhi.

- Vargheesh

### Tested in Nelmeni

To prepare for the feast of St Ignatius, all the Jesuits of XAVERIANA went on a pilgrimage on 23 July to Nelmeni, a sub-station of

Sattur Parish where we saw the 250-year old church of St. Ignatius of Loyola. But when we reached the place, in spite of prior information to the parish priest, he was not there, nor had he made any arrangement. So the sacristan refused to allow us to say Mass there. We decided to say the novena prayer and leave the place. When we started the novena prayer Fr Parish Priest contacted us and allowed us to celebrate Mass, which made us all very happy.

A well-wisher, an alumnus and 12th standard students of 1982 batch of our school sponsored 70 electric ceiling fans to be fixed in the class rooms in our school. Students now feel 'cool.' The birthday of Kamarajar was celebrated on 15 July, as 'Kalvi Valarchi Naal' and free uniforms were distributed to 20 poor students. SUPAM, a student's movement that collects donations from the students on all the first Fridays in order to help poor students when they fall sick, has paid for the medical expenses of three of our students.

A special School Assembly was held on 20 July in order to honor the two students who secured first marks in 10th and 12th standards in public examination held in March and April '15. The two students' sharing of their success story motivated all the students. Our football and ball badminton teams have won the first prize at the Zonal level competitions. Many of our students participated in the athletic events and secured prizes.

- Valan

## Sebastian Anand, SJ

1954 - 2015

Soon after the news of the sudden death of Fr M.J. Victor came the shocking news of Fr Sebastian Anand's death on 02 Aug '15 at St Xavier's, Jaipur. While Fr Seba was in Sydney, Australia along with his superior, Fr Glen,



after the Melbourne meet for Jesuits in Higher Education, he took seriously ill and had to be admitted at the ICU of a local hospital. Initially his condition was said to be critical but after a few days of treatment he was able to fly on 30 July to Delhi and from there travel to Jaipur. The next day he celebrated the feast of St Ignatius with everyone at St Xavier's and on 01 Aug met his doctor for a check-up. But on Sunday, 02 Aug not seeing him for the morning Mass the anxious community members rushed to his room to find him dead.

Since all in his family and relatives lived near Dindigul, Fr Provincial, in consultation with his Delhi counterpart, Fr Varkey, decided to bring the body by flight to Chennai on 03 Aug and from there by an ambulance to St Joseph's, Trichy, where Fr Seba had spent most of his life. After viewing and a prayer service at night, it was brought to Beschi, Dindigul on 04 Aug.

Fr Sebastian was born in Vellodu near Dindigul on 12 March 1954 and after his schooling joined the Society in 1971. He was ordained in 1985 and took his Last Vows in 1994. As he had a Ph.D. in English Literature, he spent most of his life teaching English at St Joseph's and serving as Hostel Warden, Vice Principal and then Principal and Secretary of the College. He offered to be the Principal of a Catholic college in Thoothoor, Tamil Nadu and for the past 3 years at St Xavier's, Jaipur.

At the funeral Mass, Fr Sebastia L.Raj, Provincial, thanked his family for giving such a talented and capable person to the Society. Frs Joe Antony and T.B. Jeyaseelan shared the homily, and after Communion, Frs Glen, Antony Samy, and Elias highlighted Fr Seba's many good qualities. His niece thanked Fr Provincial and the Jaipur Jesuit community for the trouble taken to bring his mortal remains to Dindigul. Fr K.S. Arockiasamy, the Administrator of the diocese of Dindigul, prayed the commendation and at the cemetery Frs R. Joseph and Leo Anand did the final committal. A huge crowd of relatives, friends and Jesuits offered floral tributes to a Jesuit whom they had loved.

- M.A.J.A



## Congratulations



Thanks to the untiring efforts of **Fr Xavier Vedam** and **Fr Anto**, Principal, Loyola, Chennai, we have got the affiliation order for Loyola Arts and Science College, Mettala. Thanks also to the Rector and community of Loyola, Chennai.



## Memories

### IC Sisters come to Madura

From July 1911, a still more congenial work was requested from the Sisters by Dr. Barthe, the Bishop of Trichinopoly. It was the adornment of souls which His Lordship requested of them to undertake by leading into the high path of religious life the novices of the Panjampatti 'Beates.' To this work the Patrice Thaayar has devoted the best of her soul for over 30 years. Her charges have increased in number as well as in proficiency to follow in her foot-steps in the spiritual way. Simple, zealous and joyful sisters, reared by her, year after year leave the noviciate for the mission fields.

The rapid progress of the 'Beates' under the sure guidance of the Patrice Thaayar induced the Superiors to have the mother house shifted from Panjampatti to a more central place. The Viagula Madha Nuns agreed to hand over to them their school and convent at Madura. The Immaculate Conception Sisters, as the 'Beates' had become known from September 8, 1913, arrived at their new quarters in Madura on December 23, 1923. Later, on September 22, 1927, the Mother House was installed in the Old Kosavapalayam Road convent left to them by the St. Joseph's Sisters. The old Haslam bungalow shelters now, beside some 25 Sisters teaching either in the East Gate school or in the St. Joseph's convent's various institutions, 24 novices and 20 postulants. The congregation numbers 258 Sisters and has charge of 33 convents in both the Trichinopoly and Madura dioceses.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1943)

## Just for...



A newly-wed young woman went to her parish priest to seek his blessings. Laying his hand on her head, the priest said a prayer and ended by saying, "May God grant you a son at his earliest convenience!" (from *Church Humour*)

## Secrets

### for Well-being and Peace



### Jesus formula for true happiness

Beginning his career as a rabbi or teacher at the customary age of thirty, Jesus began to recruit disciples. All rabbis of the time did this. However, twelve of those chosen by Jesus were called to special roles and invited into a special intimacy.

Jesus would spend the greater part of his life during the next three years preparing these twelve men. The master vision would be gradually laid out before them in the person and teaching of Jesus. In his teaching the Lord often used a literary form that began "Blessed (happy) are they who..." we call them beatitudes because the Latin word *beatus* means "happy." These beatitudes were and are the Jesus formula for true happiness and a full life. They call for a profound surrender of faith. "Blessed (happy) is the person who puts his faith in me!" (see *Luke 7:23*.)

Many of the old attitudes of these twelve were challenged by these new beatitudes. In fact, it seems that Jesus was telling them that their life-wagers had been misplaced. The things that they thought would make them happy, Jesus seems to be saying, were empty illusions that could only disappoint them. Often, his teaching seemed to make almost impossible demands.

Once I thought that the 12 Apostles were a bit slow, that they were missing the intelligence to learn the lessons of their Master. I had counted 17 places in the Gospels where Jesus asks them, "Are you yet without understanding?" In our present-day jargon, we would probably translate this, "You don't get it yet, do you?" I once thought these things, but not now. I now think that the real challenge of Jesus was not a matter of intelligence, but ultimately a challenge to give up an old vision and to accept a new one. It was a matter of radical faith and profound trust.

- **John Powell**

(in *Through Seasons of the Heart*)