



AUGUST 2016



(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial



The Triple Question

Dear Brothers,

We have just celebrated the feast of our Founder, Ignatius of Loyola. We are very familiar with his triple question, which he began to ask himself from the time of his conversion and later in the Spiritual Exercises: What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I to do for Christ? The forthcoming GC 36 will also be asking this triple question on behalf of the entire Society.

As we are praying for the success of GC 36, it is an opportune time for each one of us to ask this triple question to ourselves personally. We have to also ask similar questions about our specific ministries, about our relationship with our companions, about our availability, about our attitude towards our very vocation, our religious life, our province, our Assistency, our governance system etc.

When we ask these questions in all sincerity, humility and openness, the Eternal King will definitely reveal to us where we have been, where we are and where we should be moving towards. This discovery will surely enable each one of us to move closer to Christ and inspire us to carry out His ministry with greater involvement and commitment within the Province, within the Assistency and at the universal level.

The Eternal King is calling the Society and its every member to be as faithful to our Founder as possible in all aspects of our life and ministry. We are called upon to find God in all things, to evolve a personal relationship with Christ, to love the Church whole-heartedly, to nurture a deep gratitude to God, which leads to greater service and more ardent commitment to His call.

Along with St. Ignatius, we need to make our contemplation to obtain love by looking at and admiring God's creation - by respecting it and protecting it. The Encyclical *Laudato Si* of our Brother, Pope Francis, will surely help us to contemplate God laboring for us in his creation and therefore to love him more and more in our daily life.

As faithful followers of St. Ignatius, we should increasingly grow in inner freedom, so that we become masters of our own self and are liberated from any sway of inordinate attachment, self-centred agenda, tendency to seek our own glory and satisfaction. The Spiritual Animation Programmes (SAP), in which a good number of us have already participated, will no doubt help us in this task of obtaining true inner freedom.

We are fully aware, that our only goal as Jesuits is: *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* and this is the opportune moment for each one of us to refocus our attention, preferences, engagements, interests, etc with this only goal - single-mindedly and unconditionally. With this deep sense of dedication, we will develop a highly positive and energetic spirit which will automatically engage us in constant service to God and in a meaningful interaction with His creation.

Finally, with the realization that God is within us and around us and with that true inner freedom which constantly seeks to promote His greater glory, we will definitely find ourselves expressing solidarity and love for one another in a genuine spirit of union of minds and hearts, which is one of the greatest needs in our province.

Fraternally,
Sebasti L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme



AUGUST

- 01-04 Sri Lanka: Meeting of the South Zone Provincials
- 05-06 Tindivanam: Assembly of TNPCRI
Major Superiors
- 06 Last Vows of Fr. Arul Oli - SJC, Trichy
- 07 Meetings in Maduralaya: JES, HLP
and Gansoville GBM
- 15-17 Leadership Talks to the Sisters of St. Anne,
Madhavaram
- 19 Consult
- 21-22 Visitation: IDEAS-LAAS
- 23 Visitation: LTI, Madurai
- 25-28 Restructuring Meeting – ISI, Bangalore

SEPTEMBER

- 03 Ordination – SJC, Trichy
- 07-09 Visitation: AAC, Karumathur
- 08 Last Vows of Frs Godwin Rufus
and Anbarasu Maria Raj
- 10 Consult
- 12-14 Visitation: Arul Kadal, Chennai
- 15-17 Visitation: Delhi (Vidya Jyoti, ISI, Jaipur)
- 24 Last Vows of Gerlin Amaladoss,
Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 25-27 Visitation: MDU men in London
- 27-29 Visitation: MDU men in Paris
- 30 Visitation: MDU men in Madrid

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

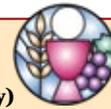
AUGUST

- 04-05 Kuppayanallur
- 06 Paramankeni, Pondicherry
- 10 Mission Consult
- 19 Province Consult
- 29 Ooty
- 30-31 Makkampalayam – Planning Meeting

SEPTEMBER

- 03 Ordination, Trichy
- 17 Mission Consult
- 22 Province Consult
- 30 GC 36, Rome

AROCKIA ALTON S.
04.09.2016 (Sunday)
05.00 pm
Infant Jesus Church
Olaikuda, Rameswaram
Sivagangai Diocese



BENEDICT SANTHOSH V.
10.09.2016 (Saturday)
07.00 am
Dhyana Ashram
Chennai
Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese

CHRISTU RAJA M.
04.09.2016 (Sunday)
05.30 pm
St Mary Magdalene Church
Odiyathur
Pondicherry-Cuddalore Archdiocese



JOHN MICHAEL V.
04.09.2016 (Sunday)
10.30 am
St Antony's Church
Alavanthankulam
Palayamkottai Diocese

MICHAEL PUGAZHENDHI A.
04.09.2016 (Sunday)
10.30 am
St Antony's Shrine
Palavakkam, Chennai
Chingleput Diocese



PRABU FRANCIS
04.09.2016 (Sunday)
10.30 am
St Joachim and Anne Parish
Kurumilankudi
Sivagangai Diocese

RAYAPPAN INNASI
04.09.2016 (Sunday)
06.00 pm
St Peter and Paul Church
Ariyanallore
Dindigul Diocese



SAHAYARAJ VJAYAN
05.09.2016 (Monday)
10.30 am
Christ the King Church
Vilangudi
Madurai Archdiocese

STEPHEN ROBERT
05.09.2016 (Monday)
06.00 pm
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Lourdammal Puram
Tuticorin Diocese



VARGHEESH ANTONY M.
04.09.2016 (Sunday)
10.30 am
St Antony's Church
Alavanthankulam
Palayamkottai Diocese

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST MASS!



They met, they celebrated...

Celebrations, Functions, Courses...

Bishop Thomas Paulsamy of Dindigul was the main celebrant at the Holy Spirit Mass at **AAC, Karumathur** on 13 July. Orientation programmes and the Students Council election marked the new academic year.

The houses built as part of Fr Anandaraj Housing project and supervised by **AHAL** were blessed by Fr Anandaraj on 17 July. About 60 youth participated at a youth-animation programme organized by JESIM on 22-24 July.

Fr Maria Arul Raja, Arul Kadal, gave talks to several groups on the recent papal documents.

Sch Rex and Michael reached the **Belgaum Juniorate** on 24 June. This Juniorate is at Xavier Training College, located in a forest, far away from the city. There are 24 Juniors from 11 Provinces. The classes began on 02 July.

Bishop Thomas Paulsamy of Dindigul celebrated the Holy Spirit Mass at the **Beschi Novitiate** on 29 June to inaugurate the new academic year. As preparation for the feast of St Ignatius, **Fr A.J. Thamburaj**, St Joseph's, gave an inspiring exhortation with a power point programme on some eminent and heroic Jesuits.

1991 batch students gathered with their families at **Carmel, Nagercoil** on 09 July to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of their passing out of the School. They honored their teachers with gold coins. Fr Michael, Vicar Forane, Kottar, was the chief celebrant at the Mass on 16 July, feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Patron of the school.

Fr Jerry, Dhyana Ashram, led 'strategic planning' programmes for the new Councils of OMI and CIC Provincials and conducted faculty orientations in six schools.

Fr Emma, Director, JESCCO, conducted training sessions on 'Mentoring' to selected faculty of AAC, Karumathur on 22 July. He guided a two-day program on 'Stress Management' for 60 non-teaching staff at Fatima College, Madurai. He addressed 800 parents of a school in Chennai on 'how to help children grow emotionally mature.'

One-day consultation on 'Skill Development: Global Trends and Best Practices' was organized by **ICRDCE** in collaboration with the U.S. Consulate, Chennai at Loyola College, Chennai.

For the third year **IDCR** organized an Iftar prayer and





meal on 04 July. It also participated in the EID celebration at Ameer Mahal. IDCR, in collaboration with the Spirituality and Dialogue Commission of the province, organized a 2-day seminar on 08, 09 July on 'An Indian Understanding of the Ignatian Spirituality: The Spiritual Exercises and the Bhagavad Gita', led by Fr Sebastian Painadath SJ, (KER), Director, Sameeksha, Kaladi, Kerala.

Bishop Jude Paulraj of Palayamkottai celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit at **Loyola, Chennai** on 26 July. To mark the World Refugee Day LISSTAR and JRS organized "Education for Transformation" - a photo exhibition of Refugees from Asia, Africa and Middle East. There was also a panel discussion on "Urban Refugees", at which the speakers responded to questions from students on refugees. The highlight of the 400th Death Anniversary of Shakespeare on 13 July was the release of a book, *The World as a Stage: Shakespearean Transformations*, written by Dr K. Chellappan. There was a function on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June, aimed at motivating the college youth to avoid drugs.

On 05 July Fr Jebamalai Raja, Chennai Mission Superior, blessed the newly constructed first floor of the Men's Hostel at **Loyola College, Vettavalam**. Mr. Nathan Koblintz and Ms. Sukumani from PORTICUS opened it. As a result of this additional facility, the total number of inmates has increased to 170 this year.

More than 30 youth of the upper hills attended a one day training programme, organized by **PEAK, SHC**, Shembaganur.

We were three from the MDU province - Frs S.M Selvaraj, Paul Pragash and Viji Bose - attending the **SAP Retreat** in Sri Lanka, guided by our own **Fr Michael Alosanaya** at Fatima Retreat House, Lewella, Kandy in mid-July. The retreat made every retreatant open his heart and mind to the universal

Jesuit mission. After the retreat, we visited the war-hit northern regions and listened to the heartrending stories of the war-victims. We offered their miseries and our anguish at the feet of Our Lady while we celebrated the Eucharist at the famous Madu Madha shrine.

On 27 July **St Joseph's, Trichy**, celebrated 'Penta-Fest' clubbing 5 events, including Dr Abdul Kalam's first Death Anniversary. Fr Susai Sebastian, former Secretary, blessed and opened the renovated Lawley Hall. The audience appreciated a video on Lawley Hall down the years. On 30 July the College, in collaboration with CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) and the Asia Foundation, organized a function called 'Books for India' at which they distributed 10,000 books to poor students.

Fr. James Thamburaj, SJC, guided the Orientation programmes at Beschi, CIS, SJC, LTI and spoke on Ignatian Spirituality to our Candidates at VMI and students of SJC and JIM.

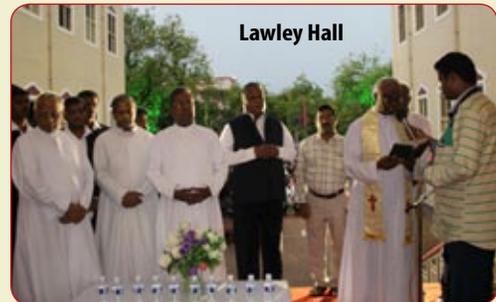
Fr Joe Arun, JIM, conducted a one-day seminar on New National Education Policy 2016 for heads of institutions from 15 dioceses of the Western Region in Mumbai on 07 July. He also addressed a large gathering of 1500 heads of Catholic educational institutions in Chennai on the same topic. On 05 July Dr R.C. Natarajan, Director, TAPMI, Manipal inaugurated the new academic year of JIM during which academic collaboration between TAPMI and JIM was initiated. Earlier that day in a concelebrated Eucharist Fr Rector inaugurated Decennial Celebrations of JIM.

Hundreds of parishioners attended the Corpus Christi Procession at **St Mary's Co-Cathedral**, Madurai. Fr Joe Arun preached during the Mass at which several students received their First Holy Communion.

The Tertiars at **SHC, Shembaganur** have started their month-long Spiritual Exercises. They are accompanied by Fr Arul Sivan and Fr William Sequiera, their Directors.



St Joseph's



Lawley Hall



Fr Joe Arun speaking on NEP



JIM



St Mary's, Madurai

Correspondents:

G. Arockia Raj, Donic Raja, M.S. Jacob, James Raja, Lawrence Amalraj, Leo Anand, Leo Tagore, Manoj, Manuel, G. Packiaraj, Paul Pragash, Rex, Robin, Roch, Rufus, Seelan, Viji Bose, Viju, Vincent Sekhar.



Award for Fr Jerry



Award for Fr Jerry



ICRDCE



Loyola, Chennai



They have done it!

Something new, something good...



Sch Deva Arockia Stephen, Arul Kadal, has won the prize for the best logo designed for GCSA (Green and Clean South Asia) at a competition held at the Assistency level.

Thanks to the efforts of the new Superior, **Fr A. Joseph**, Dhyana Ashram, Chennai has a website: www.dhyanaashramchennai.in

Fr Robin S. Seelan, Satya Nilayam, presented a paper on 'Humanizing and Dignifying Cultures' at the World Congress of the International Society for Universal Dialogue in Warsaw, Poland, on 11-15 July. He presented a paper also at an international workshop on Classical Theism, organized by the Department of Philosophy, University of St Thomas, St Paul, Minnesota, U.S. on 21-24 July.

Fr Jerry, Dhyana Ashram, was honoured for his many achievements by the Rotary Club, Coimbatore and SPEDA Movement at a function presided over by Bishop Thomas Aquinas of Coimbatore.

ICRDCE helped the Camellian Fathers start Snehagram Community College in Krishnagiri, which will focus on AIDS-affected and infected youth. Archbishop Bernard Moras of Bangalore and Fr M.S. Jacob attended the inauguration on 20 July. ICRDCE has been awarded a generous grant by the U.S. Consulate General, Chennai to conduct English Access Micro-scholarship Program (ACCESS) for poor students in Chennai for two years.

Loyola College, Chennai continues to be recognized as one of the top ten colleges in India. It has been ranked 2nd in Science and 4th in Arts and Commerce in the country in a survey conducted by *India Today*, a national magazine. Another thing that proved the reputation it enjoys was the number of applications received this year: over 28,000 applications for 2,800 seats!

The sports team of Loyola won the annual overall championship trophy for the maximum number of University Players from a college. Fr Arokiyasamy Xavier, Principal and Fr Samuel Jeyaseelan, Director, Sports and Games and Mr Vijyakumar, Physical Director, received the trophy from the Registrar of the Madras University.

M.Balaji, a 12th std student of **St Joseph's College H.S. School**, Trichy, won the Bala Shri Award with a cash gift of Rs. 5,000 at a national competition in Dialogue and Script Writing.

JESUDAS RAPHAEL, SJ

1934 - 2016

Br Jesudas, SJ had completed 82 years and six months when the Lord called him to his eternal rest on 16 July '16 at St Joseph Hospital, Dindigul. He had spent the last eight years of his life at Beschi Illam, six of which saw him work as farm and dairy in-charge.

Br Jesudas celebrated his golden jubilee in the Society in the year 2003 and in his letter to Br Jesudas, Fr General Kolvenbach said: "With gratitude I recall how, all through your life, you have worked with a sense of apostolic mission in farms and estates of the Province, literally "making straight the winding paths, leveling the hills and filling the valleys and making the ground smooth" so that your Jesuit brethren may reap a good harvest in the apostolic work. And whatever work was entrusted to you, you did them with dedication and perfection."

Born in Sindalachery in 1934, he joined the Society in 1953. As a Jesuit Brother he started his long career in Beschi Illam in 1955 and returned to it in 2014. In between, he was called by his Superiors to traverse to nine different places in the Province for managing huge agricultural farms and estates, be it in Shembaganur, Perumal Malai, Irudayakulam, Mullaikudi, St Mary's, Madurai or Oriyur. He could also turn to other jobs and responsibilities with equal dexterity and skill, like managing the workshop or running the dairy farms. In all his labours and struggles he never lost sight of his Jesuit identity and the Jesuit 'magis'. He was an obedient Jesuit. He had enormous respect and admiration for the foreign Jesuits who formed him and guided him in his early days as a Jesuit.

In the midst of his busy schedule and

multifarious occupations and preoccupations he never forgot his spiritual exercises and the daily Mass. The annual retreat was for him a must even when his health was not too good. One could see him every day at 6 30 p.m. praying in the chapel.

His health was a matter of concern for a good part of his life because of the swollen left leg caused by varicose vein and other complications. He was not a stranger to controversies either. He was involved deeply in helping the families of his co-workers in terms of educating their children or marrying off their daughters or in their efforts to be delivered from addictions or debts. This occasionally landed him in trouble and he had to face some very delicate situations.



The last days of his were very painful. On 24 June we decided to shift him to St Joseph Hospital. Because of several complications, he was administered the sacrament of the sick the next day. After about 20 days in the hospital, he passed away on 16 July. The funeral Mass was presided over by Fr Jeyaraj, the Vicar General of Madurai Arch-diocese, a close relative of Br Jesudas. Fr Joe Antony, the Socius, who represented the Provincial in his absence, gave the introduction. Fr Marivalan, in his homily, touched upon Brother's fidelity to God and his hard work and courage. After communion there were some brief eulogies by Br Simon, Fr Arockiaraj, Fr M. Arockiasamy from Jamaica and Fr Maria Antony, OFM Cap. Fr Jeyaraj said the prayer of commendation after the Mass and Fr Maria Singarayar, SJ, did the rite of committal before the burial. May his soul rest in peace!

- Leo Tagore, SJ

Memories

To embrace me a second time

(From the memoirs of Mr Francois Martin, a French lay man, who became the first Governor of Pondicherry).

May 1681. The Reverend Father John de Britto, a Portuguese Jesuit of the Madura Mission, with whom I always kept up correspondence while I was on the coast, was informed that I was about to go to Surat. He did me the honour of coming to Pondicherry to take leave. I should be endless if I were to expatiate on the great qualities of this virtuous Missionary and of the other Fathers of the same Order, who are scattered about and working in that famous Mission which may be called the first in the world. That great Mission which counted, when I left the coast, more than eighty thousand Christians. Rev. Fr. John de Britto stayed three days in Pondicherry. He then left for San Thome whence he returned, two days before my departure, to embrace me a second time, and proceed from here to his dear Mission.

January 1691. I received private letters from Rev. Fr. John de Britto, that famous Missionary of the Madura Mission who returned to India to devote his life to that holy Mission. The king of Portugal, with whom he had been brought up, tried to keep him, and make him, in due time, a tutor to the young prince, but his zeal for the conversion of the Gentiles made him decline the dignity and position offered him.

- *Caritas, March 1935*

Just for..



"I heard your father was involved in the Freedom Struggle. Is that true?"

"Yeah, he fought for freedom for a long time. But..."

"But what?"

"My mother refused."

Secrets

for Well-being and Peace



Our gentleness can be...

Once in a while we meet a gentle person. Gentleness is a virtue hard to find in a society that admires toughness and roughness. We are encouraged to get things done and to get them done fast, even when people get hurt in the process. Success, accomplishment, and productivity count. But the cost is high. There is no place for gentleness in such a milieu.

Gentle is the one who does "not break the crushed reed, or snuff the faltering wick" (Mt 12:20). Gentle is the one who is attentive to the strengths and weaknesses of the other and enjoys being together more than accomplishing something. A gentle person treads lightly, listens carefully, looks tenderly, and touches with reverence. A gentle person knows that true growth requires nurture, not force. Let's dress ourselves with gentleness. In our tough and often unbending world our gentleness can be a vivid reminder of the presence of God among us.

- **Henri J.M.Nouwen**

- from *Bread for the Journey*