



# M N L

## Madurai Jesuits' News Letter

DECEMBER 2015



(For Private Circulation)

### Message from the Provincial



#### Call of GC36: To be Joyful Witnesses

Dear Brothers,

Fr. General's letter to the whole Society, dated September 8, 2015, presents the summary of the Call of the Eternal King to the Jesuits, under six major categories. Let us reflect on the first call this time, namely: **"In this world we are called to be joyful witnesses to the Gospel and to care for His Church"**. In order to be a joyful witness to the Gospel, one has to experience genuine inner joy, emanating from the cherished Gospel values, which are, in fact, the foundation of one's life. Once this inner joy is present, it will automatically be reflected externally in our faces, in our general conduct and in our relationships with the members of the Jesuit community, with the larger community of colleagues and collaborators with whom we carry on our ministries and with those people whom we serve through our ministries. When this inner joy radiates in all these different levels and areas, we can rightfully claim to be joyful witnesses to the Gospel.

We are also called upon "to care for His Church", which is the immediate outcome and the integral part of being joyful witnesses. We are fully aware that St Ignatius offered himself and his companions unconditionally to the service of the Church -- a special commitment to serve and support the Church. In 2008, Pope Benedict XVI declared: "the Church needs you [the Jesuits]", reminding each one of us about the unique commitment made by our

Founder. Therefore, it is indeed a great joy to each of us to care for His Church.

Joyful witnessing has to be carried out by acquiring affective depth, so that the joy is felt deeply within ourselves and within others who relate with us. Further, our response to the call to be joyful witnesses of the Gospel requires a genuine conversion -- conversion from self-love and self-interest. It also calls for courage to leave the routine and safe refuge and strike into the deep -- by taking reasonable risks, by taking up pioneering missions and ministries and by thinking out of the box in our apostolic endeavours and initiatives.

In other words, we are called upon to take new paths, to tread where others dare not enter, to take risks in our mission and life so that we can promote effectively the greater glory of God. Through struggle and sacrifices, we carry the cross of Christ with true inner joy, with unwavering faith that crosses are clear signs of the ultimate victory which will make us partakers in the joy of the Gospel.

Let us rejoice over the many things we have done for Christ so far. With hope filled with true joy, let us look forward to many more things which we desire to do for Christ. Let us dare to ask ourselves what more we should do for Christ, which will increase our own inner joy as well as that of the entire humanity.

Fraternally,  
*Sebastien L. Raj, SJ*  
Provincial

## Provincial's Programme:



### DECEMBER

- 05-06 Visitation: Satya Nilayam, Chennai  
07-09 Visitation: Arul Kadal, Chennai  
13 Consult  
14-15 Visitation: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai  
17 Velankanni: Meeting with our Brothers  
17-19 Visitation: VMI, Vilangudi, Poondy, Kumbakonam  
20-21 Visitation: De Britto, Devakottai  
30 LS/TL Meeting -- Maduralaya

### JANUARY

- 03-06 Visitation: St. Mary's, Madurai  
11-19 Rome: GC 36 *De Statu* Commission Meeting  
24 Consult  
25-29 Visitation: St. Joseph's, Trichy

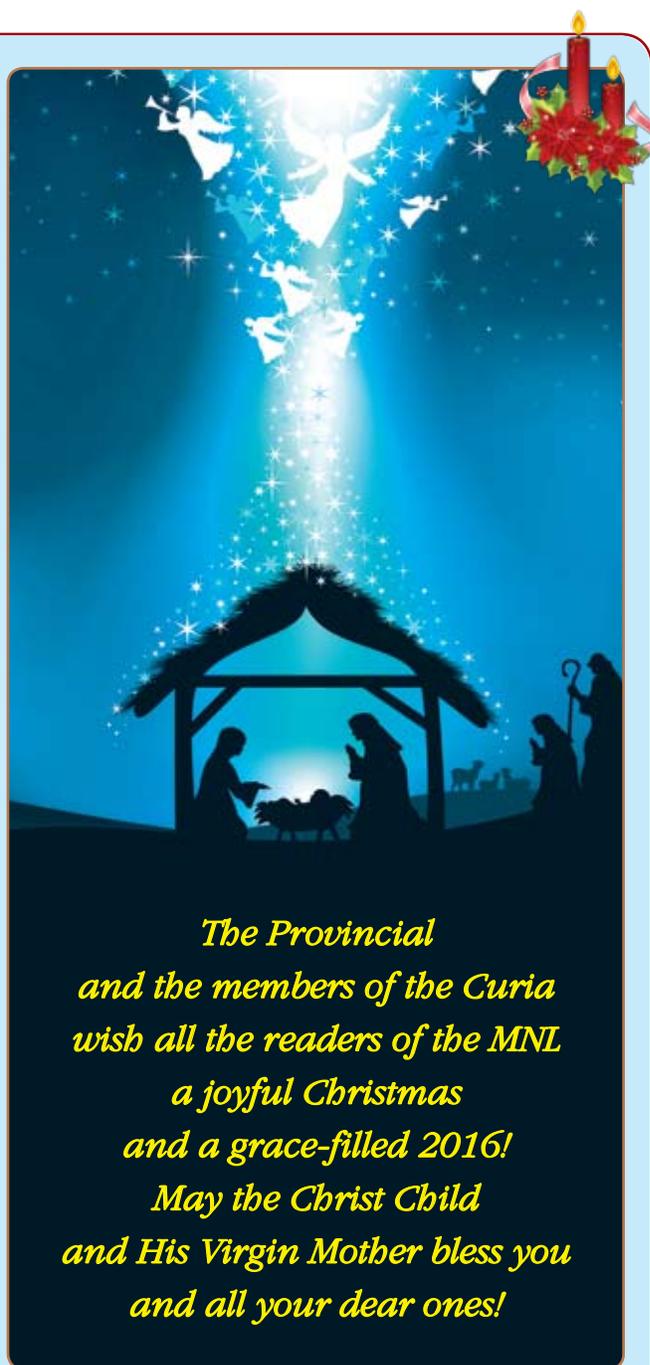
## Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

### DECEMBER

- 03-06 Assistency level Meeting on 'Restructuring', Kolkota  
13 Province Consult  
14-15 Dhyana Ashram, Chennai  
19 CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Scholastics (Province) at Loyola, Chennai  
CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Young Priests (Province) at Loyola, Chennai  
20 Mission Consult  
24-25 Ranipet  
30 LS/TL Meeting -- Maduralaya

### JANUARY

- 09 CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Lay Collaborators (Mission) at PAATHAI  
16 Province Consult  
26 CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Clergy & Religious (Mission) at LAV, Vadampakkam  
30-31 CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Senior Jesuits (Province) at Maduralaya



*The Provincial  
and the members of the Curia  
wish all the readers of the MNL  
a joyful Christmas  
and a grace-filled 2016!  
May the Christ Child  
and His Virgin Mother bless you  
and all your dear ones!*



## Announcements

The POSA has transferred **Fr. A. Joe Xavier** to ISI, Bangalore for one year of break from his service to ISI, Delhi.

**Fr. Maria Augustine** has moved to Palamalai Estate, Kodaikanal for a break from his earlier assignment at XIBA, St Xavier's, Palayamkottai.

**New: Fr Rajarathinam Rathinam** has a new mobile number: 7598421841.



EVENTS



### Grace and water

Because of the unexpectedly heavy rains some parts of Tuticorin were flooded. All the schools had to be closed for more than a week. As our School campus was filled with water we were not able to enter



the school to conduct classes. It took four full days to pump the water away. Sadly water entered many houses of our students and a few of the staff. We urged the local Collector to provide study materials for the students whose houses have been affected by floods. We still managed to conduct the second midterm test in the last week of November.

Fr Provincial made his annual visitation to **XAVERIANA** community in spite of the inclement weather. So it was not merely a grace-filled but also water-filled moment.

We have planned to go on a pilgrimage on 30 Nov with our students and staff to St Xavier's Church, Rathinapuram, as part of the Novena to St Francis Xavier. - Valan

### Folk arts for pre-novices

Mr Stephen, a renowned artist, offered a five-day course here at **VMI**, Vilaangudi on folk art which climaxed with a programme that showcased the skills acquired by the pre-novices in folk arts. The parish priests and sisters from the area and 30 youth from Thirumanur parish witnessed this gala extravaganza and felicitated the pre-novices. Fr Robin conducted a spiritual animation programme for the Junior Sisters of St Anne's, Madras.

- T. Kamilas

### Eco-Friendly Diwali

We, Juniors at **VIDYANIKETAN**, Thiruvananthapuram, celebrated the World Day of Environment with special prayers and 'Swacch Vidyaniketan' campaign. A three-day course on media education at Loyola, Sreekariam, was quite enlightening. Frs Eugene Rozario and Sebastian Crossain spoke to the community about migrants ministry. Keen on making Diwali celebration eco-friendly, Schs David and Praveen came up with a device containing charcoal fire which gave out colourful sparks when rotated. Fr Deva briefed the community about GC 36 delegates meeting in Pune. Fr Vincent Britto, PCF visited us and encouraged

us. The province get together to welcome him was musical with a lot of singing.

- Jacob P.

### Building homes and hope

Fr Britto Vincent, PCF, was with us at **VIDYA JYOTI** on 9 - 11 Nov. By his presence and sharing he motivated us to walk forward towards our Diaconate.

For a month from 12 Nov to 12 Dec, the third year Jesuit Scholastics of VJ are busy, building hope and homes for the people of Nepal affected by the massive earthquake.

Fr Michael Alosanaya was invited by Caritas India to be present at their annual Staff Training Programme held at Udaiyapur, Rajasthan on 17 - 20 Nov. His availability for the staff's spiritual animation and counseling was very much appreciated. - Vargheesh

### Creative ways to form character

*Community:* Our scholastics, here at **ST XAVIER'S**, Palayamkottai were busy promoting vocations during their semester holidays. Casting their nets in Thoothukudi, Nagercoil and Palayamkottai they

returned with a good number of prospective vocations to the Society. Fr John Kennedy conducted a one-day orientation programme on 14 Nov for 140 teachers of the Palayamkottai diocese on how to impart holistic formation to

formed in the hostel. Mr. Mydeen Khan, Palay MLA, an alumnus of the hostel, was the chief guest.

Spoken English, Hindi, Karate, Silambam, Western dance, folk dance, parai, Abacus, keyboard, weekly yoga classes are some of the extracurricular activities



the students.

*School:* The Alumni association celebrated Deepavali on 08 Nov at Sivasailam Orphanage. Fr L. Francis Xavier and some alumni participated and gave gifts to the inmates of the orphanage.

*Sacred Heart Hostel:* The Hostel Day was organized on 22 Nov. In his annual report Fr John Kennedy, Director, shared about the various programmes and events organized in the hostel to promote spiritual, intellectual, social and personal transformation (the four pillars of Jesuit education) among the hostel students. There was a great variety in the cultural programme which followed. All the parents of the students participated and appreciated the way their sons are being

conducted in the hostel during weekends to help students develop their talents. Fr Kennedy has found creative ways of conducting the common prayer at night. Any good action done by the hostel students anywhere is rewarded in public during the common prayer. One of the students speaks on some relevant social topic. Study Completed Register, introduced this year, helps the students to plan and make use the study time properly.

- Jesu Raja

### Helping them see

The Cathedral parish at **ST MARY'S**, Madurai celebrated the All Souls Day with a special Mass by our Archbishop at the parish cemetery. The Parish Priest, Fr R. Arockiaraj, blessed the cemetery. The parishioners have come forward to visit and pray in groups at the cemetery once a month.

The Parish Priest and his two Assistants organized a get-together for all the religious men and women of the parish with a motivation talk by Fr Michael Jeyaraj, sharing and a fellowship meal. With the help of the School Alumni Association, Fr Albert Joseph arranged an eye-camp for our students, conducted by the Aravind Eye Hospital. Of the 3100 students 630 have been identified for treatment and 309 of them were asked to start wearing spectacles. The doctors felt that today's youth develop eye problems at a young age because of constantly watching television, laptops and cell phones. The School organized a meeting of all the Catholic parents of our parish in order to make them aware of the need for spiritual formation and the availability of scholarships for the poor students. Fr James, the Assistant Parish Priest, helped the school arrange this well-appreciated programme.

- G. Packiaraj

### Vision Ignatius

The campus of **ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL** became vibrant as it saw its grown up children come together with grateful hearts on St Mary's Alumni Association Day, which was joyfully celebrated on 11 Oct under the guidance of Fr Stephen Pragasam, Director of St. Mary's Alumni Association. A new initiative, titled 'Vision Ignatius' was launched during

the celebration. Through this initiative, 25 of our Alumni have chosen to adopt poor students and support them financially till they complete their studies in the school. Many have come forward to do so from the next academic year. The Alumni also organized a football tournament and distributed prizes to celebrate their coming together. Mani Shankar, the Regional Passport Officer, an alumnus of our school, came forward to organize the 100th national Passport Camp in the campus. Fr Bastin, the Headmaster, facilitated the Camp. It was a rare opportunity, when many received their passports without the usual hassles.

On the eve of the feast of St Alphonsus Rodriguez, the community had a concelebrated Mass and remembered all the Jesuit Brothers with profound gratitude for their humble and selfless service to the Society. Our school organized an awareness rally on 13 Nov against the use and sale of drugs in the shops of the city. We felt proud and happy to see our super senior hockey team win the state level hockey tournament. **- Doni**

### **To add spice**

A science exhibition was organized for our students here at **ST JOSEPH'S** at the School premises. This was only a prelude to the 'Cultural Festival' that had a number

of creative competitions. To add spice to the Cultural Festival there was a food-mela.

The concluding function of the Cultural Festival coincided with Deepavali and Children's Day celebrations. Fr Xavier Antony was the Chief Guest. In an inter school quiz contest, organized by the department of History, St Joseph's College, two of our students bagged cash prizes. The senior students of our school have qualified for the state level football tournament and eight athletes have qualified to contest at the State level Athletic Competition. In gymnastics and Taekwondo, organized by Sports Authority of India (SAI), three of our students have been chosen to contest at the National level Competition.

Mission Sunday celebrations at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish brought together the parishioners, the school children and the college students, all of whom joyfully participated in games and competitions.

Fr Xavier Alphonse addressed a gathering of 39 international delegates of the Gospel League Church of India on Empowerment through Education. He is also helping some minority educational institutions as well as the All India Association of Christian Higher Education formulate their responses to the New Educational Policy announced by the Central government. He is also helping 'Snegam' - an institution that serves HIV-affected children - to design Skill Development programmes. **- V. Viji Bose**

### **Prayer and dinner**

On 15 Nov the tertians of **SACRED HEART COLLEGE**, Shembaganur, organized a balamela for the children supported by PEAK. The well-planned cultural programme and games made the children enjoy the day. As the tertians' programme came to a culmination on 22 Nov we had a meaningful prayer service followed by a farewell-dinner in which the hill Jesuits took part. From 12 to 22 Nov 8 students and two professors of the department of social work of St Xavier's college, Palayamkottai stayed in one of the tribal villages called Kaduguthadi for their village experiment. Along with the PEAK team, they organized a medical camp, rally, and children's day.

**- A. Vino Selukas**

### **Still teaching, still praying**

What happened here in **ORIYUR** made us feel at times as if we were living in the period that followed the Suppression. Now there are some signs of new life. Everyday Fr Justin Prabhu, the new member of the community, prays for the pilgrims who continue to come from various parts of the State. He was the chief guest at the ELT function in the School and gave an inspirational talk on Will Power. On 11 Nov Bro Arockia

Doss, Headmaster, presided over the Children's Day function when the teachers came up with an impressive cultural programme.

Students of our St Arulanandar H.S. School continue to win prizes in folk song singing, quiz and *karakattam*. They won both the first and second prizes at district level competitions. The folk dance they presented has been chosen for the state level competition. A dance form, called *Kondathuattam*, which our students performed at Velumanikkam Matric H.S. School, was highly appreciated. We are preparing to celebrate Arulagam Boys' Hostel Day on 28 Nov.

- Amalraj M.

### Never to bribe

Anti Corruption Day was held at LTI, Madurai and all the students and staff took an oath never to receive or give a bribe. Canara Bank conducted a 'Vigilance Awareness Programme' for the students about the on line banking system. Deepavali was celebrated on 07 Nov. Ms Nancy from Holy Family Hr Sec School Madurai was the chief guest and she invited the students to celebrate everyday as Deepavali by being and

doing good to all. The Campus Ministry team organized a special Eucharist for the departed souls of the relatives of staff and students.

Fr. Emma, Director, JESSCO, conducted on 03 Nov a one-day session on team-building for the new FMM provincial team that has assumed office in Chennai Province. On 06-08, he conducted a Leadership Training for the JRS youth from camps from Chennai and Coimbatore areas. On 11 Nov he addressed the concerns of the scholastics at Clive's through an intense counseling workshop. He also conducted at Okkiampet, Chennai a one-day workshop on "Joyful Formator" for the Servite priests and nuns involved in formation.

Though a number of his programs scheduled in Chennai and around were cancelled due to heavy rains, Fr Emma offered a two-day Counseling program for the 65 faculty members of Ananda College, Devakottai. He also helped 25 CIC nuns belonging to the Sivagangai Province through a three-day counseling workshop from 26 Nov.

Naa Raa Institute conducted a one-day seminar on Study Skills and Methods for the second year wireman students on 28 Nov. Our community members participated in the Vocation Camp held at St Lourdes Parish, Madurai

on 29 Nov.

Fr Irudayaraj, Director, LENS conducted a one-day media education programme at St Mary's, Madurai. He also gave a message on the World Communication Day in Bastin Nagar parish and conducted a discussion forum at LTI on two documentaries namely 'Amaravathi' and 'Mercury in the Mist' and it was well received by the participants.

- Sch Mag Bay

### Non profit and income tax

On 20 Nov 180 'Non Profit Leaders' assembled at LIBA, LOYOLA, CHENNAI for an interface with the Income Tax officials of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. The session began with the input by Mr Kandasami on the basics of Income Tax assessment for Non Profit Sector. In the afternoon, the participants were divided into five groups for discussion in order to articulate the challenges faced by the NPO sector. Subsequently, the listed challenges were presented to the Income Tax officers for their comments and feedback. The Commissioner of Income Tax for Exemption personally responded to most of the queries raised by the Non Profit Leaders. The interaction was

### Abide with the Lord

Fr Walter de Souza (PUN), 90/64, on 07 Nov in Pune.  
Fr Leonard Paul (AND), 81/62, on 11 Nov in Hyderabad.  
Fr Robert Cutinha (KAR), 86/14, died on 16 Nov in Bengaluru.  
Fr Alexis Minj (DAR), 59/38, on 16 Nov in Darjeeling.



cordial and highly enlightening. The LIBA team provided excellent arrangements for the interface and Fr Thomas Amirtham meticulously planned everything for the successful workshop. 90% of LIBA students have already secured placements!

A one-day Symposium on New Education Policy was organized by *Loyola College of Education*, Jesuit Council for Education, Research and Training (JCERT) and Secondary Education Commission of Jesuit Madurai Province on 29 Nov. The Heads of schools and B.Ed Colleges run by religious minorities across the State took part in it. Dr Venkatesh Athreya, Dr Vasanthi Devi, Prof Ramanujam, Fr Joe Arun were among the resource persons who enlightened the gathering on the implications of the New



Education Policy. It was clear that Frs S.M. John Kennedy, Stephen Pragasam and Royce and Schs Doni, Manickam and John Paul had worked hard to make the symposium a grand success.

Around 70 student volunteers, with warm support from *Loyola Hostel*, went for relief work in the flood-hit

areas of Chennai like Saidapet, Chintadripet and Choolaimedu. Distributing food packets, clothes, blankets, bed sheets and mosquito coils, they were able to reach out



to nearly 2000 families.

'Loyola Ovations 2K15' was organized on 30 Sep and 01 Oct. Fr Joseph Antonysamy, Principal, motivated the students to participate with full gusto. The event started with a colorful theme song which brought on stage 22 countries and focused on a green, and globally inclusive Loyola. Apart from various colourful events by our own students, there were others by many media celebrities. The valedictory was presided over by Mr Sarath Kumar, actor and politician, an alumnus himself. He distributed prizes and narrated his experiences to boost the morale of the students.

In the 90th year of its founding, Loyola invited its alumni to re-live their college days. On 02 Oct it organized an 'Alumni Carnival' for families and friends of its alumni. The Loyola Alumni Award instituted in 2015 was bestowed upon some of its

illustrious alumni:

Mr. Rangarajan, former Reserve Bank Governor, Justice K. Sudhakar, Mr. Kotteswaran, Chairman & CEO, IOB, Mr Sujith

Kumar, HR & Head, Infosys.

"Honoring the Students for Diligence and Regularity", has been recently initiated in Loyola College. 321 students from both Shift I and Shift II who put in 95% attendance were honored and 12 students for 100% attendance. On World Mental Health Day, Loyola organized programmes to create awareness among the students and the public on its theme: "Dignity in Mental Health." Students from different colleges formed a human chain on 16 Oct. More than 200 volunteers displayed signs and boards highlighting ways of accepting, respecting and caring for people with mental disorders. A few who had recovered from mental disorders shared their experiences.

Fr Ignacimuthu was the chief guest at an international



conference organized by Madras Christian College, Chennai on 'Society and Food'. He was also the chief guest at the workshop on Biotechnology conducted by Women Christian College, Chennai.



*Loyola College of Education* began its academic year formally on 05 Oct with the Mass of the Holy Spirit by Fr Jayapathy, Rector who invoked the gifts of the Spirit upon the staff and the student-teachers. At present there are 141 women students (including 5 engineering students!) and 17 men students. The parents of our students were invited to interact with the staff and the management. On 29 Oct Central Bank of India, Regional Office, Chennai arranged a vigilance awareness programme on the occasion of Vigilance Awareness Week. Smt Thenmozhi, IPS, Superintendent of Police, CBI, EOW, Chennai presided over the function and urged the students, who will be soon teachers, to make a personal choice to prevent corruption at all levels and to become persons of high integrity. The students had a very meaningful interaction with the film director, Mr Brama on his

award-winning film, *Kuttram Kadithal*, on 04 Nov. A two-day cultural competition, 'Fiesta 15' helped the students to display their talents. About 23 events were conducted. Mr Gnani, writer and journalist, inaugurated it and Mr S.P. Jnananathan, film director, presided over the valedictory function and gave away the prizes to the winners.

*LICET's* students have won 11 Anna University Ranks for the academic year 2014-15. Maths Dept at LICET organized a workshop on: Teaching Maths to Engineering Students. Lecturers from many colleges attended the sessions and found them useful. LICET has won Anna University championship in swimming and in Women's Tennis and is the runners up in an all India Tennis tournament conducted by Hindustan University. Future directions were chalked out at the Joint Steering Committee meeting of LCS and ICAM on 26-28 Oct. Fr Francis P Xavier delivered the inaugural address at a national conference organized by MBA Dept of Fatima College on World-class Manufacturing on 01 Oct. He also conducted a workshop for the faculty of the college on 'Mindset and Human Engineering.' He also directed a retreat for the leaders of Sacred Heart Brothers.

- Francis Jayapathy

### **New Class Rooms**

On 13, 14 Oct Fr Victor, Superior, **LOYOLA ACADEMY**, Vadamelpakkam, gave a two-day program on counselling to the staff of St Joseph's College, Trichy.

On 21,22 Oct Fr Gnanaraj gave a two-day orientation programme to 100 students of St Anne's Girls Higher Secondary School, Cuddalore. Our Trinical Community and Loyola Academy were graced by the visitation of our Provincial on 26 Oct. He met all the teaching and non-teaching staff in the School. He blessed and opened our newly-constructed first floor class rooms in the second block. It was indeed a time of grace to all of us. Because of the constant support and encouragement of Fr Augustine, principal, and hard work of Sch Rajasekaran, the newly-formed Football and Basketball teams have become popular in the area, winning medals and hearts. Students of 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> stds went to Mamallapuram on 30 Oct for their field-visit and felt rejuvenated.

- Rajasekaran

### **Triple Celebration**

Fr Emma, Director, JESCCO, assisted **JRS** by conducting Leadership Training programs for the JRS youth on 02 -04 Oct and 06-08 Nov at JESCCO, Madurai. All the 83 college students who attended were from various refugee camps. The program inspired them to become leaders of the future. Fr Stephen Martin conducted a five-day writers' workshop for 21 youth from various camps on 07-11 Oct. The JRS staff benefitted greatly from a two-day workshop on



'Stress Management' on 27-28 Oct, conducted by Mr John and Mr Mario from the JRS international office, Rome. Grihini alumnae association organized meetings in all the four zones. Totally 88 alumnae attended and shared their views. As a follow up of the de-addiction camp for the Sri Lankan Refugees, an Alcoholic Anonymous group was started at Thappathi camp with the help of AA members of Kovilpatty. On 14 Nov JRS had a triple celebration: 30<sup>th</sup> year of service, the 108<sup>th</sup> birthday of Fr Arrupe and Children's Day in all 108 camps where we work. Fr Rufus and his team began a 15-day training program in English for 23 JRS youth from various camps on 15 Nov at AAC, Karumathur. JRS remains grateful to LTI and AAC Jesuit communities for their wholehearted support.

- **Anto A.R.**

### Going to villages

The first Rural Camp of BLINK, a partner of IDCR, was successfully held on 20, 21 Nov for the students of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> stds at Mt Senario School, Muppaiyur, Sivaganga district. The camp was handled by 11 change agents and 5 members from the Blink team. Its success has given impetus to BLINK to think of similar camps in the coming months. Despite torrential rain and holidays declared, some school students turned up at IDCR for the competitions on devotional

singing, value-based storytelling, and painting. On the same day, the school kids prayed for the victims of the terror attack in Paris during an Interreligious Meditation and Prayer organized by IDCR.

Fr Festo Mkenda, Director, Jesuit Historical Institute of Africa organized a seminar to explore the theme of 'Jesus as the Way, the Truth and the Life'. We thought it would be appropriate for an Asian to talk about the way, an a European the truth and an African the life. Fr Michael Amaladoss spoke about Jesus the Way. The talks will be compiled into a book to be presented to Fr Nicolas, our General, next year when he turns 80.

Vincent Sekhar travelled to Belgaum, Dharwar, Anekal, and Mangalore to speak to the Scholastics on the significance and need for the ministry of Interreligious Dialogue. Their interactions revealed their keen interest in dialogue.

- **Vincent Sekhar**

### Training ambassadors

ICRDCE, Chennai conducted its 35<sup>th</sup> Teachers Training Programme for the Community Colleges in India on 02-07 Nov at MCC Community College, Tambaram. There were 45 participants from 32 organizations from 10 States of India. Fr M.S. Jacob, the Chief Guest, spoke on the need for compassion, commitment and creativity in dealing with the patients and how the health workers trained in a Community College need to

become ambassadors for the Indian Community College movement. Aligning all our curricula with NSDC is in its final phase. We hope to get all our curricula approved soon.

- **M.S. Jacob**

### A Pilgrim Centre

Children's Day celebration at Senthilir Evening Study Centres, **LOYOLA INSTITUTES**, Kuppayanallur was attended by more than 300 students, despite rain. Students exhibited their versatile talents through creative games and cultural extravaganza. Sch Annaraj and



his team worked hard for its success. Fr P.S. Arul and the Jesuit Community rushed to areas affected by heavy rains and provided the people with rice, blankets and mats. More than 75 youth from Ongur and neighbouring parishes attended a one-day seminar on 'Social and Legal Awareness' at Dalit Human Right Centre, Chengelpet. To mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Bishop Neethinathan of Chengelpet has declared Ongur church as one of the four pilgrimage centres of the diocese.

- **G. Victor Roch**



## Year of Mercy

**DHYANA ASHRAM** is hosting many retreats directed by priests and lay people from elsewhere. Fr Thambu preached a retreat to about 85 priests of the Nellore diocese in Andhra. He spoke to a group of laity on 'Charisms of the Holy Spirit'. Fr Lawrence was invited by Loyola Academy, Secunderabad,

to help them prepare for the 3<sup>rd</sup> visit of NAAC. Fr Xavier Irudayaraj got ready a booklet on the Jubilee year of Mercy, which will be published by the Besant Nagar Shrine and released on 8 Dec when the Year of Mercy begins. Fr Jerry conducted 'Alert-Care' sessions to teachers from various schools, to help people who meet with accidents.

- Xavier Irudayaraj

## Evening Study Centre

Fr Joseph Kennedy, Superior, **DE BRITTO**, inaugurated the Britto Evening Study Centre to help students who need extra hours of study. Fr Augustin, Head Master, encouraged the students to adopt effective study methods. On 12-13 Nov the school alumni offered career guidance programme for tenth and twelfth std students. Fr Patric, SDB, the resource person, advised them to have always a third alternative. Fr Kennedy, the Alumni Director and his team meticulously organized

the Fellowship Day on 14 Nov. The day was marked by fun games, spectacular entertainment and tasty food. It also created a platform for the staff and students to strengthen their fellowship.

- Salomon

## Deepening the commitment

The superiors and work directors of **CHENNAI MISSION** gathered for a two-day recollection and reflection in Yercaud on 21-23 Oct. Fr

respective branches.

After a day of recollection, the Chennai Mission Silver Jubilee committee presented their proposals for celebration and the superiors came up with their valuable suggestions. Chennai Mission superior concluded the two-day meeting, inviting all the Jesuit communities to get connected with the people.

06 Nov '15 was a joyous day for Mother Teresa Tailoring Centre, Pondy when 20 women



Jebamalai raja, Mission Superior, underlined that the primary purpose of the meeting was to deepen our commitment. Highlighting the leadership qualities articulated by Pope Francis, he invited us to reflect on our style of leadership. Fr A. Victor, in his inspiring talk, referred to the image of the vine and the branches, and said that we must be suppliers of nutrients to strengthen the people and in turn they must bear fruit in their

had their graduation after completing their six-month tailoring program. They are the 8<sup>th</sup> batch of students to complete the training here. Fr Casmir Raj, LIBA, Chennai, the chief guest, gave away the certificates and tailoring machines for the outgoing women students. While appreciating their growing self-confidence, he insisted that they should always look for opportunities to augment



their family income.

The women joyfully acknowledged that this short course has instilled self-confidence to start small businesses. The presence of Frs Andrew, Maria Joe and Kennedy added joy and flavour to the event.

In the evening we had the inauguration of Fr Ceyrac House in Pondicherry. Fr Casmir Raj blessed and opened the renovated house, which could be used by Jesuits for recollection, retreat and community deliberations.

- **M. Dominic Jayakumar**

## **Intense spiritual journey**

The second year novices, who had gone for their pastoral experiment for a month, returned to **BESCHI** on 12 Nov with rich experiences. On the same day the first years concluded their long retreat, imbued with the Ignatian ideals. Fr Ilanko Xavier, the Novice Master, directed them with care and commitment through this intense spiritual journey. On the same evening our 2<sup>nd</sup> year novices began their annual retreat directed by Fr Manuel Savariar. They concluded their retreat and rejoined the community on 20 Nov.

In order to commemorate the historic Inter-religious Prayer Meeting for peace convened by Pope St John Paul II on 27 Oct 1986 at Assisi

we had a community exhortation, preached by Fr Maria Jeyaraj, whose forte has been inter-faith dialogue. Fr Jeyaraj underlined the essential dimensions of such a dialogue and the attitudes required for it.

On 02 Nov, All Souls Day, we had the Mass in commemoration of all the departed at our cemetery at 6 15 a.m. Fr Tagore, Superior, was the main celebrant. Fr Bastian preached a meaningful homily. The Mass was followed by the blessing of the graves of the cemetery. Later a few Jesuits of the community visited the Jesuit graves in the common cemetery and in the churchyards of the Cathedral and Mettupatti parish, and prayed over them.

Fr Selva attended an Asia-Pacific meeting of the Directors of Apostleship of Prayer in Indonesia on 21-27 Oct. Fr Marivalan attended the National Eucharistic Congress held in Mumbai on 11-15 Nov as a delegate of the Eucharistic Youth Movement. Fr Dominic went to Sri Lanka to attend a meeting of a special committee, formed by the Provincials of Madurai and Sri Lanka, to facilitate the education of Tamil students affected by the war. Fr Stanislaus preached a retreat to the Sisters of the Congregation of St Joseph of Apparition.

- **Samroy T.**

## **After the floods**

The affable presence of Fr Britto Vincent, PCF at **ARUL KADAL** on 03, 04 Nov energized us. Schs Baskar, Leo Pereira and Fr Baskar Antony made thought-provoking

presentations on 'Social Media' at Chennai Inter Theologate Seminar in the department of Christian Studies, University of Madras on 5 Nov. Fr Maria Arul Raja preached a 6-day retreat to 92 priests of Vellore Diocese on 15- 20 Nov. The Eucharistic celebration on 23 Nov became an intense moment of theologizing on natural disasters after our day-long visit to the flooded areas in and around Chennai. Arulkadalites, headed by Fr Sebastian Crossian, have started to help the victims in Kaayar, Pallavaram, Elavoor and Thirupachoor.

- **Velankanni**

## **Accompanied**

Fr Basil, Principal, **AAC**, Karumathur, and his team have conducted semester examinations smoothly. He and Fr Anbu attended the mandatory refresher courses in their subjects. Fr Rufus and our six scholastics accompanied about 40 Sri Lankan students who attended a JRS camp. The Jesuit community invited them for tea. The camp came to an end with a cultural evening on 27 Nov. Fr Antony Pappuraj, Secretary, is busy with work related to court cases filed against the college in the past. As Executive Chairman of the Association of the Economists of Tamil Nadu, Fr A G Leonard went to Paramathi Velur for their 36th Annual Conference.

- **A.G. Leonard**

## Congratulations



To **Sch Jeyaseelan Swaminathan**, a LICET student, who has secured the University First Rank in Mechanical Engineering in the Anna University.

To all ours at **LICET** whose students have won 11 Anna University ranks.

To **Fr Anto**, Principal, Loyola, Chennai for a new initiative, 'Honoring the Students for Diligence and Regularity.' (See p. 7).

To **Fr John Kennedy** for coming up with creative ways to form and mould hostel students. (See p.4).

To **Fr Stephen Pragasam**, Director, Alumni Association, St Mary's, Dindigul for his innovative 'Vision Ignatius' that links the alumni and poor students. (See p. 4).



## Memories

### The Martyr's chapel

R.F. Provincial is busy visiting the Mission. Soon after his return from Shembaganur he paid a short visit to the Marava. On Monday, 17 Dec, after having celebrated the parochial Mass the previous day at Andavurani and preached to the large congregation, (Fr Leveil being his enthusiastic Tamil interpreter), and addressed a few words at the parish-house to sodalities of men and women, and at the boys school to the teachers and pupils, R.F. Provincial went to Oriur to venerate Blessed John de Britto. He said Mass in the Martyr's chapel, and almost all the Catholics of the place received Holy Communion. He then spoke a few words to them at the Parish house. Before leaving that hallowed spot, he visited the Oriur "mound," the lodgings for pilgrims, and those of the exercitants (whose number in the last five years has gone beyond 2,000), and also went through the village blessing the sick in their homes.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1935)

## Just for...



Samy is busy removing two wheels from his car in the parking lot. His friend Samu asks him why. Said Samy: "Can't you see the sign? It says clearly, 'Parking only for two-wheelers.'"

## Secrets

### for Well-being and Peace



### Christmas means...

What does Christmas mean? Christmas is like a perfectly-cut diamond twirling in the sun, giving off an array of sparkles. Here are just some of its meanings:

- Every year of life waxes and wanes. Every stage of life comes and goes. Every facet of life is born and then dies. Every good moment is doomed to become only a memory. Every perfect period of living slips through our fingers and disappears. Every hope dims and every possibility turns eventually to dry clay. Until Christmas comes again. Then we are called at the deepest, most subconscious, least cognizant level to begin to live again. Christmas brings us all back to the crib of life to start over again: aware of what has gone before, conscious that nothing can last, but full of hope that this time, finally, we can learn what it takes to live well, grow to full stature of soul and spirit, and get it right.

- Joan Chittister

- After a mother has smiled for a long time at her child, the child will begin to smile back; she has awakened love in its heart, and in awakening love in its heart, she awakes also recognition. In the same way, God awakes Himself before us as love. Love radiates from God and instills the light of love in our hearts.

- Hans Urs Von Balthasar

- At Christmas, through his grace-filled birth, God says to the world: "I am here. I am with you. I am your life. ... Do not be afraid to be happy. For ever since I wept, joy is the standard of living that is really more suitable than the anxiety and grief of those who think they have no hope. I am there. I no longer go away from this world. Even if you do not see me, I am there. It is Christmas. Light the candles! They have more right to exist than all the darkness. It is Christmas. Christmas lasts forever."

- Karl Rahner

- Ronald Rolheiser