



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

FEBRUARY 2014

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

GLORIOUS PAST, CHALLENGING FUTURE

Dear Brothers,

The commemoration of our twin Jubilees has drawn each one of us to deep spiritual experiences. We feel joyful and elated when we witness a flash back of the past – our men, their contributions, their sacrifices, their achievements and their impact on the people in general and on some specific individuals. Definitely, we can sing the *magnificat* with great joy and gratitude. God has indeed done marvelous things in the province, from the beginning of the Society till today. It is heartening to hear Church leaders, religious superiors, businessmen, educationists, etc., gladly acknowledging our services. We are aware that we have indeed served thousands of men and women, through our varied ministries both during the Old Madurai Mission, and during the past 175 years of the New Madurai Mission. Moreover, during the past 30 years or so, we have been consciously serving

the dalits and other downtrodden and marginalized people, through our varied ministries – parish, pastoral and spiritual ministries, social action and media-related ministries, educational ministries – technical, vocational, school, college and professional. In all these ministries, we have been consciously promoting the welfare and development of our option people, dalits, tribals and migrants. We are grateful to God for all these achievements and the impact we have been able to make in the Church in Tamil Nadu and on the people of this State.

While we are delighted to hear about the glorious past, from our friends, well-wishers, alumni and other beneficiaries of our ministries, we also feel small and humble. Further, we ask the challenging question to ourselves, namely, how we are going to ensure that we make similar and even better impact in the years ahead of us. We examine ourselves in order to discover the inner strength within us to carry on the glorious mission of our forefathers and also to discover the areas for our growth and improvement, so that we do not become blocks or obstacles to our own mission through

personal and self-centred agenda and approaches. In other words, we become aware of the absolute need for everyone of us to make a serious examination of conscience in order to renew ourselves by building on our strengths and eliminating our shortcomings at the personal, community and institutional level. We are also fully conscious that we should base our ministry and life on a solid spiritual foundation - as we are a spiritual organization and not a mere NGO or a political outfit – in order to make a meaningful impact and contribute to the growth of the Church and the society at large.

Let these thoughts be uppermost in each one of us, when we are in the process of renewal and restructuring of our life and ministries, at this sacred time of the twin Jubilees. Such an inner disposition will surely give a new impetus, new strength and new hope to every individual and every community and finally to the entire Province.

Fraternally,
Sebasti L. Raj. SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



FEBRUARY

- 01 Jubilee Celebration – SJC, Trichy
- 02 Jubilee Celebrations – Loyola College, Vettavalam
- 06-07 Visitation: Satya Nilayam
- 09 Consult
- 10-16 Visitation: St. Joseph's, Trichy
- 19-22 Visit to Sri Lanka
- 22-23 Visitation: LTI, Madurai
- 24-27 Visitation: St. Mary's, Madurai

MARCH

- 03-05 Visitation: Berchmans Illam
- 06-15 Visitation: Myanmar
- 21 LUMEN – Valedictory Function
- 22-23 Meeting: LS/TL and Coordinators – Maduralaya
- 24-25 Consult
- 27-30 Visitation: Ooty, Mettupalayam, Makkanpalayam

If you want a change...

Those who want a change of responsibility or transfer, please write to the Provincial through email **before the end of February '14**. Even those who have already spoken to him about this or have written to him, are requested to send in their request once more, just to make sure that your representation is not missed out.

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

February

- 01 Trichy: Jubilee Celebration
- 02 Vettavalam: Jubilee Celebration
- 03 Oriyur: Feast Day Mass
- 09 Province Consult
- 11 Trichy: Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
- 14 AICUF Programme
- 15 Loyola, Chennai: Twin Jubilee Celebration
- 16 M: CM Office, Chennai: Meeting of Superiors of the Mission
- 16 E: Chennai Mission Consult
- 17-18 Harur and Salem
- 22 LAAS: Legal Programme

March

- 01 Loyola, Chennai: Seminar on Tribals
- 03-05 Salem & Dharmapuri
- 08 Consultation on Tribal Ministry
- 14 Chennai Mission Consult
- 22-23 Superiors Meet at Dindigul
- 24-25 Province Consult
- 27-31 Ooty, Mettupalayam & Makkampalayam

PCF's Programme

February

- 01 Jubilee, Tiruchy
- 02 Jubilee, Vettavalam
- 04-05 SUPAM Meeting, Hogenakal
- 09 Province Consult
- 17-24 PAC Meeting, Diaconate, Delhi
- 26 Ranipet

March

- 03-06 Palayamkottai, Karisal
- 07-08 Karumathur
- 12-14 Vilangudi
- 29 Vocation Camp Orientation

Announcements



Fr General has appointed:

- **Fr Rudolf Uher** Provincial of the **Slovakia Province** (SVK). Fr Uher, at present Vice-Rector of the Most Saint Saviour College of Bratislava, was born in 1968, entered the Society in 1990 and was ordained a priest in 1995.

- **Fr José Frazão Correia** Provincial of the **Portuguese Province** (POR). Fr Frazão Correia, at present Rector of the Comunidade Pedro Arrupe of Braga, was born in 1970, entered the Society in 1995 and was ordained a priest in 2004.

- **Fr Osvaldo Chirveches** Provincial of the **Bolivia Province** (BOL). Fr Chirveches, at present Superior and Master of Novices at Oruro, was born in 1971, entered the Society in 1990 and was ordained a priest in 2000.

Amicable settlement:

The Province and the Diocese of Sivagangai arrived at an amicable settlement of a land dispute on 09 Jan '14. The disputed land (1.84 acres) was returned by a gift deed to the Society of De Britto by the present Director of SMSS, Paramakudi. (See p.7)

Jubilee Seminar:

A seminar on 'Reading the Footprints and Creating History' to commemorate the Twin Jubilees, organized by the Department of History, Loyola, Chennai is held on 27-28 Feb '14 at Loyola, Chennai. Journalist P. Sainath is to give the inaugural address. Other speakers include Dr Dhruv Raina of JNU (an authority on Jesuit Scientists and their contribution) Fr Charles Borges (Loyola University, Maryland, Baltimore, U.S.) Fr Leo Fernando (Vidyajyoti, Delhi), and Dr John (IIT, Madras). Details at liferanchi.org. Contact Dr Bernard D' Sami: 94442 88774 (bernarddsami@gmail.com).

Courses:

Xavier Institute of Communications, Ranchi offers PG Diploma Courses and a Summer Course on topics related to Communications. For details visit xicranchi.org or contact director@xicranchi.org. Phone: 9031373148, 7677816480



Events



TWIN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Jesuit Madurai Province celebrated the Twin Jubilee - the 200th year of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus and the 175th year of the New Madurai Mission - in the 170 year old St. Joseph's College premises with joy. The ecclesiastical function started with a concelebrated Eucharist. Bishop Antony Devotta of Tiruchirappalli was the Chief Celebrant, accompanied by Bishop Antony Pappusamy of Dindigul, Bishop Susaimanickam of Sivagangai, Bishop Soundararaju of Vellore and Bishop Amalraj of Ooty. The homily was preached by Bishop Soundararaju, SDB, of Vellore. Jesuits, heads of Religious congregations, teaching and non teaching staff, parishioners, and students participated.

At the felicitation function that followed Fr Sebastia L Raj,



SJ, the Provincial, welcomed the gathering. Fr P Jean Yues Grenet SJ, the Provincial of France representing the French Jesuits - the illustrious pioneers of the New Madurai Mission - recalled the commendable spiritual, social and educational services rendered by the Jesuits of the New Madurai Mission. The Bishops lauded the selfless service of the Society of Jesus to the Church and the society - especially to the downtrodden and marginalized with their revolutionary zeal for social justice and social transformation. They also congratulated the Province's policy of preferential option for the Dalits and the poor. Fr Jebamalai Raja SJ, Superior, Jesuit Chennai Mission, proposed a vote of thanks.

The Civic Function started at 5.30 pm. Mrs Margaret Alva, Governor of Rajasthan, could not attend the program as her



flight from Jaipur was cancelled because of intense fog. Dr G Viswanathan, the founder and Chancellor, VIT, Vellore, Bishop Devasagayam, the CSI Bishop of Madras, Sr Corona Mary, Superior General of Servites, Palani G Periyasamy, Industrialist and Educationist, AKJ Hussain Ahamed, partner Ahamed Brothers, Fr Thomas Paulsamy, Vicar General of Trichy Diocese were the prominent people who spoke at the function. The Rector of St Joseph's, Fr John Britto, welcomed the gathering. Thiru Palani G Periyasamy, an alumnus of SJC, recollected his golden days of a holistic formation in the hands of stalwarts like Fr Siqueira. the Chief Guest, Mr G Viswanathan an alumnus of Loyola College, Chennai, paid glowing tributes to the services rendered by the Jesuits of New Madurai Mission. Fr Sebastia L.Raj SJ, Provincial, warmly accepted the felicitations and pointed out that the Jesuit education is always founded on the timeless spiritual values inspired by the good news of Jesus and his call for love and sacrifice. He expressed his dream to be present in all dioceses in Tamil Nadu and informed that Jesuits are starting an Arts



and Science college in Salem and soon another institution in Dharmapuri diocese. He wholeheartedly thanked the Jesuits of St Joseph's College who planned and conducted the Twin Jubilee celebration so meticulously.

On the next day, 02 Feb '14, the second Jubilee celebration with the people whom we serve was held at Loyola College, Vettavalam. Fr Provincial, with the four French Jesuits and the Consultors, celebrated the Eucharist. The second part of the celebration featured a play guided by Fr Alphonse Manickam and a talk by Fr. A.J. Thamburaj on the suppression and restoration of the Society of Jesus. Later, Prof. Dr. Victor L. Anthuvan, from LIBA shared his views on the New Madurai Mission. After the lunch served to all the participants, the audience witnessed cultural programmes given by all Jesuit Centres. Nearly 600 people participated in the celebration. The team work of the AHAL community, Keezhpennathur, LCV community, Vettavalam, college staff and students made this great event a grand success.

- Jesu Nesa Raju & Alwin Prakash





3rd CHENNAI MISSION ASSEMBLY

After his contact visits, Fr L. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Chennai Mission Superior (CMS), decided to convene the 3rd Mission Assembly on 12-13 Jan '14 at Loyola College, Chennai, on the theme, 'Belonging and Building.' The aim was primarily to rediscover our 'collective identity' and recharge its members. Around 245 Jesuits and 15 Lay Collaborators from the Mission area attended. On 12 Jan '14, the inaugural ceremony began at 9.00 a.m. around the statue of St Ignatius and Bro Peter Arockiam, the senior most participant, declared the Assembly open. The Inaugural Eucharist was presided over by the CMS and the Jubilarians. In his homily the CMS invited the Jesuits to belong to the Mission and to give themselves totally to building the people of God by putting aside their self interests. At the end of the Mass, the Jesuit Jubilarians were honoured. In the first session, Fr. Henry Jerome, convenor of the Organizing Committee, presented the dynamics of the meet. Fr. Ambrose Pinto delivered the keynote address on "Emerging Realities and Jesuit Mission." Quoting extensively Pope Francis, he contrasted being prophetic and clerical and said we as religious are called to be prophets. In the next session, Fr Alphonse Manickam presented the collated reports of the communities on the questionnaire of CMS and listed the strengths, blocks, signs of hope, negative trends and concrete recommendations. In the afternoon session 15 lay collaborators shared their experiences and expectations. The evening session, an open discussion on 'Quo Vadis,' was moderated by Fr Francis Jayapathy, in which Fr Xavier Alphonse traced the growth of Chennai Mission, followed by a video by Fr Ignacy Arockiasamy and experiential sharing by Frs Joe Mike and Ignacy Arockiasamy. After the sharing of the participants the day ended with a meaningful prayer led by

Satya Nilayam Scholastics.

The next day the first session was a panel discussion moderated by Fr. Francis P. Xavier. The panelists were Frs John Kumar, Arockiasamy, Maria Arul Raja, A.J. Thamburaj, Yesumarian, Bro Ignacy SJ and Sch Poondy Rajan SJ. They reflected upon the Ignatian questions: What have we done for the people, what are we doing and what ought we to do for the people. The next session was on 'Framing Action Plan'. In the last session, after lunch, Chennai Mission Superior expressed hope that the new initiatives like the migrant ministry in Thiruppur, tribal ministry in Tindivanam, an Arts and Science College in Salem, a Higher Education Institute in Dharmapuri and a spirituality centre in Mettupalayam would soon see the light of day.

In his address, Fr Sebasti L. Raj, the Provincial, emphasized the need to own the preferential option for the Dalits and belong to the people we serve. He highlighted the efforts of the Province administration, during past several years, in offering services to the oppressed communities. Further, he called upon all the members to be positive and supportive in understanding our option and in implementing it. He stated that the concrete suggestions that emerged in the assembly will be studied and appropriate decisions taken, regarding their implementation. He clarified certain questions raised in the assembly by some, regarding the roles and designation of the Chennai Mission Superior, on the basis of the communication he received from Fr. General. According to this communication of Fr. General, the Mission Superior is the Coordinator of the various apostolic activities of the Mission. He also stated that a document on his tentative roles and functions has been given to the Mission Superior. Fr. A. Maria Joseph, Executive Assistant of the Mission, proposed the vote of thanks. Fr. Provincial celebrated the thanksgiving Eucharist along with seven newly ordained priests of the province.

- A. Leolin

Beschi pioneers meet after 60 years

On 13,14 Jan '14 eight of us, who belong to the very first batch of Beschi, assembled at Beschi where we started our Jesuit life as novices in the year 1954. We gathered for our Diamond Jubilee Fellowship at our mother house. Out of 10 novices, Fr Leonard Paul (AND) and Fr J. Malieyakal (MDU) could not travel to Dindigul. The other 8 - Frs Aelred D'Silva, Chelladurai, Felix Joseph, Br Jesudoss, Lourdu John,



Maria Jeyaraj, Michael Amaladoss, and Pappadil (DAR) were there to remember lovingly our novice master, Fr. I. Thomas and socius, Fr K. P. Joseph. Looking at each other we felt happy that we have remained united as one body till now, even though we are different on account of caste, language and region. In our sharing we recalled with nostalgia our novitiate days and narrated our experiences of illnesses and mental struggles, ups and downs, triumphs and tragedies and also God's loving hands leading us all the way to celebrate our Diamond Jubilee. There was immense joy, fulfillment and appreciation of God's care and concern. Fr. Devadoss, Superior, Beschi welcomed us warmly and invited us to speak to the novices. We shared the vision and values that have guided us in the past 60 years. Later novices felicitated us with music and dance. We left Beschi with warm feelings hoping to meet again for the Golden Jubilee of our priesthood in 2017.

A.M.D.G.

- Felix Joseph

WINTER CAMP

A three day “winter camp” brought all the 6th – 9th standard students of our study centres to **AHAL** campus and we trained them in cleanliness, self confidence and study skills. There were training cum planning sessions on 5 and 19 Jan ‘14 for the “children’s mela” to be held on 25 Jan.* Fr Gerlin, the parish priest, and the organizing committee worked hard to celebrate the feast of the Child Jesus at Kilpennathur’s substation Vazhuthalagunam on 14 and 15 Jan. A meaningful eucharistic celebration, a colourful cultural programme and a grand dinner to all the people were the highlights of the feast.

- **Selvendhiran**

PRESIDENT AT LOYOLA

Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India, inaugurated the School of Commerce and Economics at **LOYOLA, CHENNAI** on 20 Dec ‘13. He highlighted the need for inspired teachers and the importance of innovation, which is the key to economic progress. He appreciated that Loyola College has produced 131 doctorates and more than 400 international / national publications during the past five years. At this grand function, the President of India released a coffee table book on the profile of Loyola College and the first copy was received by Shri K. Rosaiah, the Governor of Tamil Nadu. Some of the alumni such as Dr G. Viswanathan, President, Loyola Alumni Association, and Chancellor of VIT, Mr Rajadas etc. were honored for their sterling contribution to the School of Commerce and Economics. The credit for the success of this function goes to the meticulous planning and execution by

many people including Prof. Joe Jesudurai, the alumni and the Jesuit management.

All the first-year students of LIBA went to Pegasus, near Pondicherry, for a special three days (11-13 Jan ‘14) activity-based training called Outbound Learning. While the Pongal celebration was held on 17 Jan, Catalysis 2014 focused on the theme: Economic Development and Social Concerns. Emma gave a talk to the staff at St Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai on ‘Teacher as Counselor.’



LICET teams have won the 2nd prize in the Boeing National Aero-Modeling Competition conducted at IIT-M and another 2nd prize in Wright Design competition, while it has bagged the first prize in an essay competition. Mr. Srikanth, the former Indian Cricket team Captain, inaugurated on 20 Jan the LICET Tournament in Cricket and Badminton and Volley Ball. *Francis P Xavier delivered the convocation address at Immaculate College of Education for Women in Puducherry. *A paper on Ethical Dilemmas towards Food Security written jointly by LICET’s Director, Principal, and Dean of Research was presented in a conference in Bangkok. *Anna University is promoting a patent for a hand-mixie developed by a final year student, David, of LICET.

- **Emma**

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

We organized a children’s festival for the children of our neighborhood ministry on 17 Jan

at **ARUL KADAL**. More than 120 children enjoyed the games and their cultural performances. Fr Lonergan’s memorial seminar was organized for the youth of our weekend ministry parishes on 25 Jan at Paathai Centre, Vallam. Nearly 100 youth took part in it and benefited. Thanks to Frs Emma Arockiam and Dominic Jeyakumar for having motivated the youth on the theme of ‘Fear and Relationship Management for a Successful Life.’ We went to Bangalore on 30 Jan for a one-day community picnic.

- **Vargheesh**

WITH CHILDREN FROM 12 PARISHES

On 23 Dec ‘13 the **BESCHI ILLAM** community with the domestic staff had the Christmas celebration with a lot of enjoyment and excitement. On 26 evening the novices gave a Christmas programme at St. Joseph Hospital. On 28 Dec children from 12 parishes around Dindigul came to Beschi to celebrate the Holy Innocents Day with a cultural programme. Frs G. Ignaci, Chinnnadurai and Deva were the chief guests. * Fr Vara shared with the novices and the community about his mission in La Reunion. Fr Nirmal, the Provincial of Dumka, Fr Stan Fernandes, Regional Director, JRS - SA and Diamond Jubilarians - the first batch to start the Beschi Novitiate in 1954 (See p.5) addressed the novices on 13, 14 Jan. *On 14 Jan we celebrated Pongal and the feast of Bl. Devasahayam with a Eucharist in the morning and a grand dinner in the evening with the Diamond Jubilarians. *Fr. Provincial made his visitation of the house from 14 – 17, On 16 January he conferred the Ministries of Lector and Acolyte on the second

year novices. He concluded his visitation on 17 with an exhortation and concelebrated Eucharist followed by dinner.

- V. Karlin Viju

STAFF DISCUSS OUR ROAD MAP

One of our teachers, Mr Vijayan, of **CARMEL SCHOOL, NAGERCOIL**, explained to his colleagues the main points of the evaluation report of the secondary education ministry in the Province on 06 Jan through a PowerPoint presentation. The teachers actively participated in the discussion that followed and suggested how 'the road map' could be followed.* On 10 Jan our newly ordained priest, Fr Baskar, celebrated a thanksgiving Mass. * Pongal was celebrated on 11 Jan and many staff and students turned up in traditional outfits, and cooked and shared pongal. *In view of the Road Safety Week on 11 Jan -17 Jan, elocution and essay competitions were conducted. *Carmel is now enjoying the fruits of the labour of our PET masters that have yielded a Gold Medal for our student, B. Sharon.

- Vincent Amalraj

SETTLED AT LAST

On 09 Jan '14, the disputed land (1.84 acres) was returned by a gift deed to the Society of **DE BRITTO** by the present Director of SMSS, Paramakudi. While appreciating the co-operation extended by Bishop Soosaimanickam of Sivagangai and other officials of the Diocese, we place on record our sincere thanks to Fr Provincial, his committee led by Fr Paul Mike, Mr John Xavier, our lawyer and Fr Santhanam, the Jesuit legal adviser, for their strenuous and painstaking efforts and learned

advice. * Our Alumni Association Director, Fr Gualbert and JAAT Asst. Co-ordinator, Fr Joseph Kennedy led a contingent of 14 alumni of our school to Ahmedabad, Gujarat for the National Alumni congress. They have come back with happy experiences and enriched by some thought-provoking inputs. *Our senior athlete, G. Kathiravan won the bronze medal in 200 metres race at the state level athletic competitions held in Coimbatore. This is a record of sorts for our school as a state level medal comes after many years.

- Kennedy

REVIEW WORKSHOP

The **ICRDCE, CHENNAI** organized a consultation among Community Colleges to explore the possibilities of cooperating with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Sector Skills Councils. * Director, ICRDCE was invited by AIACHE to be a resource person for the 1st AIACHE Students National Assembly at Bishop Heber College, Trichy. *ICRDCE conducted review workshop for the Northern Community Colleges at SVD Provincial House, Jharsuguda, Orissa on 05, 06 Dec '13. Fr Xavier Alphonse was awarded the Indira Gandhi Award for Excellence by the International Business Council on 21 Dec '13 in New Delhi for helping to start 320 Community Colleges in India.

- Xavier Alphonse

STUDIED OTHELLO

We, the MDU Juniors here at the **BELGAUM JUNIORATE**, began the New Year with a triduum directed by Fr Roland, SJ (GOA) on 02-05 Jan '14. At the end of the triduum, we renewed our vows at Mass. In early January we studied Shakespeare's Othello and have now started a Spanish course, taught by Fr Oscar SJ, our Dean. During the visits of Bombay and Goa Provincials and at St Paul's

School, Belgaum we performed an operetta called, 'To Hell and Back' - an amalgamation of 'The Bishop's Candle sticks' and 'Les Miserables' of Victor Hugo. It is basically about poverty, starvation and injustice and the qualities of sympathy and goodness. On 19 Jan we brought the elderly and physically challenged people from Karunalaya and performed cultural programmes for them.

- Jackson

AT MULLAIKUDI

On 07-09 Jan '14 JRS's Regional Office Team, Delhi, headed by Fr Stan Fernandez, the Regional Director and Fr Claudius, the Treasurer, visited **TN JRS** office for the annual evaluation. They felt happy about the service that the JRS team is rendering to its target people. *We also had an exhibition organized by all the four zones. *On 16 Jan Fr Louie Albert, TN JRS Director, presided over the farewell programme at Darapuram Girihini. *About 34 students enthusiastically participated in the English Coaching camp in Erode District on 16, 17 Jan '14 and Girihini and drop-out students were trained in the use of computers on 20, 21 Jan at Mullaikudi, Trichy by Mag Bay, the JRS Regent. - Mag Bay

PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO

In view of the forthcoming parliamentary elections **LAAS** helped SAPI (South Asia People's Initiative)-TN release the 'People's Election Manifesto' formulated by 21 people's organizations of Tamil Nadu. It was launched at a press meet in Madurai on 10 Jan. The organizations have resolved to present the Manifesto to leaders of political parties to motivate them to hear the cry of our people. *All the

animators and lawyers involved in the common project of the Province's social action ministry came together along with their families to celebrate Pongal at Deepam Centre on 16 Jan.

LAAS organised a meeting on 'AAM AADMI - Clarity and Search' on 23 Jan. Mr. M. Lenin, Co-Convenor and spokesperson of Aam Aadmi party, Tamil Nadu addressed a gathering of advocates, law students and grassroot leaders and inspired them to join hands to weed out corruption and pave the way for people-centred politics.

- **Santhanam**

TO ENSURE COLLABORATION

Following up on a recommendation of the Evaluation of Jesuit Higher Education ministry in the Province, **JESUIT HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION** organized an interactive session on 17 Jan '14 at St Joseph's, Trichy for the lecturers from our 4 Colleges who volunteered to write a book in English and Tamil titled 'A Guide to the Heritage of Society of Jesus' under the guidance of Fr James Thamburaj. The meet helped them finalize the layout of the book, scheduled to be released by June 2014. Acting on another recommendation, an interactive session with Heads and Professors of the departments identified as 'strong departments' by Principals and Secretaries, and Deans for Research and Conveners for IQAC was held on 19 Jan '14 at Loyola College, Chennai. This interactive session concluded with an assurance from HODs and Deans to collaborate at the earliest in academic research.

They also made recommendations to Secretaries and Principals of Colleges and Directors of Institutes to ensure collaboration. This is the first meeting of its kind organized by Jesuit Higher Education commission.

- **G. Pushparaj, SJ**

A NEW TRANSFORMER

Erratic electricity supply with power cuts and frequent fluctuations was a major problem for us at **LOYOLA ACADEMY, VADAMELPAKKAM** for the past two years. Through sustained hard work Fr Mark, our Superior, succeeded in getting a new transformer constructed and now the campus as well as our neighbourhood enjoys uninterrupted power flow. *The German officials of St Boniface Anbagam Society made their annual visit to our school on 21-23 Jan '14. Their concern and promises to help have encouraged us to work harder to realize our aim of giving "the best to the least". On 19 and 22 Jan the students of Class 1 conducted a Science Exhibition that showcased to the public their innovations.

- **Gladwin**

ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION

On 21 Dec '13, we had our Christmas celebration at **LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM** with carols and a crib competition in which all the students participated enthusiastically. The scholastics went to Dhyana Ashram to renew their vows. On 28 Dec we celebrated Mass at the Vettavalam parish on its feast day. A one day training programme was organized for all the staff on group discussion and Photoshop. The staff were also informed about the significance of the twin jubilee celebration, mainly the causes that led to the Suppression of the Society of Jesus. The college reopened on 6 Jan. On 7 Jan Fr Alphonse Manickam gave a talk on the Suppression of the

Society of Jesus at St Xavier's H.S. school, Palayamkottai. - **Alwin**

FOR SITE INSPECTIONS

Our efforts to take **LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RANIPET** to the next NCVT level resulted in two teams from Delhi visiting our campus for site inspections. Fr Ignacy Arockyaa, who worked hard to make the visit successful, is sure we will soon get the affiliation. *Fr. Victor was busy preaching retreats to Servite Fathers in Chennai, and a one-day Recollection to the priests of the diocese of Vellore. *Our Hostel boys presented cultural programmes at the Vellore jail and at Ranipet town in order to create 'electricity awareness'.

- **Berkmans**

FIRST ALUMNI GATHERING

As part of the twin Jubilee celebrations, we went on a pilgrimage along with the students and staff of **LTI, MADURAI** to Kalugarkadai. Fr Maria Singarayar presided over the concelebrated Eucharist. *There was a special reconciliation service conducted by Fr Ambrose Arockiasamy for our staff and students to prepare for Christmas. We had an inter-religious celebration of Christmas with the representatives of three religions. *Fr Lawrence Gabriel, Director of Campus Ministry, presided over the Pongal celebrations on 11 Jan. He preached a retreat organized by IGFA, Madurai for Sisters from different Congregations on 20- 28 Jan. *At our first Alumni gathering, organized by Fr Singarayar, Director and the Association's Executive Committee on 26 Jan we honoured all the staff including Fr Amalraj Santhanam, Minister, an

alumnus. The alumni promised to conduct special classes for the present students every first Saturday and to help in training and later in placements in their companies and industries.

- **Lawrence Gabriel**

HAPPY ABOUT THE SUPPORT

Mr Emerson from Thondi presided over the Pongal celebrations at **ST ARULANANDAR H.S. SCHOOL, ORIYUR** on 11 Jan '14 and distributed gifts to the poor students. * Fr P.S. Arul presided over the Golden Jubilee function of Arulagam, our Boys Hostel, on 26 Jan and the chief guests were Fr Anto, Principal, Loyola College, Chennai and Mr S.A Doss, Bengaluru - both alumni of our hostel. They recalled their happy lives in the Hostel and the formation that helped them succeed in life. Hostellers exhibited their talents in cultural programmes. Fr Xavier Raj, Hostel Director, and his team organized the programme successfully. * On 26 Jan, the novena for the feast of St John de Britto began with the hoisting of the flag by Fr Tagore, in the presence of the De Britto community. We are happy about the support and cooperation from the parish council and the substations to celebrate the feast.

- **Robinson**

CALL FOR A NEW COMMITMENT

On 05 Dec '13 **PAATHAI CENTRE, VALLAM**, DHRC and the IACM arranged a public meeting in Chengalpattu for the AICUF students during their cycle rally promoting social awareness. *On 07 Dec we had the Paathai-IACM Evening Study Centre animators meeting in which animators from 5 civil districts

of the northern part of Tamilnadu assessed the activities of our evening study centres. *On 23 Dec we had Christmas celebration in Paathai hostel and Fr Dominic was the chief celebrant who preached about the call for new commitment. As a symbol of re-committing ourselves to God, people and nature our hostellers planted a rose sapling each. *On 16 Jan Fr Arockiadass presided over a symposium for the CTC sisters at Shanti Nagar.

Nearly 80 Evening Study Centre teachers benefitted from a workshop on 19 Jan. Fr William Alphonse, the HM of Kuppayanallur Loyola HSS was the resource person who inspired them to understand the rural students from their point of view. Frs Maria Joe, Arockiadass and Yesumarian were the other speakers. *On 25 Jan we hosted the annual Lonergan Memorial Seminar for the Arul Kadal community. Nearly 120 youth participated from 14 different parishes. *On 26 we conducted a special coaching camp for the 10th std students at Devikapuram.

- **Regis**

PONGAL AT THE FARM

ST. MARY'S HR SEC SCHOOL, DINDIGUL has launched a magazine for the English medium sections under



the guidance of the Fr. V. Stephen. At a national level competition, Santhosh of 5th std from St. Mary's Primary School has bagged the Gold Medal in Taekwondo held in Mumbai and Suresh of XI std has won the

Silver Medal in Shot Put held in New Delhi. AMUTHU, under the direction of Fr Devasahayam, conducted a 'winter camp' for 40 students of 10th and 12th stds. The community went to Amali Farm to celebrate a meaningful Pongal with farm workers there. Vaigarai had its own book stall at the popular Chennai Book Fair.

- **Paul**

FREE SEAT IN THE ENGINEERING COLLEGE IF...

85 practitioners of Native Medicine attended a one-day seminar organized by the SHEPHERD Department of **ST JOSEPH'S, TRICHY** and expressed their concern for the revival of native medicines. Fr. F. Andrew, the Principal, asserted, "Tamil medicine, with a long, rich history is our medicine and allopathy (English medicine), is the alternative one and not the other way about." Fr Soosai Sebastian, the Secretary, congratulated them for continuing our Tamil tradition and distributed certificates. A book on Tamil medicine was released on that day. *Fr. Soosai Sebastian was a member Coordinator of NAAC Peer Team to assess and accredit a College of Education at Pattan, Gujarat on 27, 28 Dec '13. *Fr Rex preached to the preachers at Divine Centre, Muringoor, Chalakudy, giving two retreats (15days + 3days) to about 60 of the Centre's lay staff -preachers, media persons, counselors and helpers. *About 310 youth - young men and women from Jesuit colleges, parishes and centres - attended a two-day seminar, organized by the Tamil Nadu unit of the Aicuf and Jesuit Youth Ministry of the Province. It aimed at making youth aware of their responsibility for the

society. *Seventh JAAI Congress was held in Ahmedabad on 04, 05 Jan '14. Around 550 alumni/ae from all over the country gathered for the event. The largest contingent - around 80 delegates - was from Tamilnadu. "Jesuit Alumni Towards Vibrant India" was the theme. The Congress came up with action plans to be implemented in the next three years. The 8th JAAI would be held in the Central Zone in 2017.

*Traditional folk dances like Silambam, Karagam, Kumbam and Oyilattam were performed during Pongal celebration on 8 Jan '14. Mr. G. Balakrishnan, the Chairman of Indra Ganesan Engineering College, Tiruchy, the special guest promised the outgoing 12th std students of our school that all those who secure 900 marks and above in the forthcoming public examination would be offered free engineering seat in their college.

- Jesu Nesam

AN INDIAN'S POP IN VENEZUELA

After the New Year festivities that ended on 03 Jan our group of 29 scholastics from 15 countries began our Pre-



Ordination Program (POP), in a small town called Los Teques in **VENEZUELA**. We felt enriched and inspired by the sharing of our vocation stories and our aspirations for our mission in the context of Latin America. Every

prayer moment and the Eucharistic celebration motivated us to be generous in our call to priesthood. We felt proud to be part of the universal mission of the least Society of Jesus. It was a unique opportunity for me to participate in this event, making my companions comment that for the first time they had an Indian Jesuit for such an event.. With an invigorated spirit, we returned to our respective theologates on 30 Jan, after visiting some historical places connected to the Jesuit mission in Venezuela.

- Cyril Suresh

PONGAL IN DELHI

Fr Hans Zollner, SJ, Vice-Rector of the Gregorian University, Rome and the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Centre for Child Protection of the Institute of Psychology of the Pontifical Gregorian University, gave a talk to staff and students of **VIDYAJYOTI COLLEGE, DELHI** on 'Abuse and Protection of Children.' The talk made us realize the enormity of this painful issue and what we can do to protect our children. *Tamil Catholics Ministry Group that serves Catholics from Tamil Nadu working in different parts of Delhi organized the Pongal celebration on 19 Jan at the Diocesan Centre in collaboration with Delhi Archdiocese and Tamil Association. Schs. Berchmans and John Paul, who minister to the Tamil Catholics, along with other Sisters and Brothers from Vidyajyoti made the function a memorable one through their contribution to the liturgy and cultural programme. *We, the third year Scholastics, have successfully finished our diaconate retreat that has enriched our resolve to serve the Lord as Jesuit priests.

- Antony Markus

CLAD IN A WHITE DHOTI

A large number of our students and staff coming to **ST XAVIER'S, PALAYAMKOTTAI** clad in a white dhoti hit the headlines of the dailies.

Wearing cotton dresses - aimed at promoting the cause of the sick handloom industries - became the highlight of the Pongal celebrations in the campus. *A Mathematics Training and Talent Search (MTTS) Programme was



conducted by the Department of Mathematics in collaboration with the Central University of Thiruvavur. Prof. B.P. Sanjay, the Vice-Chancellor of this University was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the six-day training programme. Fifty students from various colleges participated in this training. *The Constituency Model of Skill Development Programme was inaugurated by Mr S. Ramasubbu, MP. Mr. S. Ramadorai, the Chairman of the National Skill Development Corporation said that this training guarantees job opportunities to the degree holders. * On 04 Jan a team of resource persons from JMAADD explained to the students why youth should be freed from addiction to alcohol. *On 18 Jan a one-day career-orientation programme was conducted for class X students. Mr Vijaya Karthikeyan M.B.B.S, an IAS officer, motivated them to become achievers. Two of our school boys, Ramanathan and Sivaraman, have been selected to represent the State Volleyball Team under 14 to be held in Uttar Pradesh on 27 Feb.

- Sch Baskar

SHARED CHRISTMAS JOY

We, the Juniors at **VIDYA NIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM**, shared

the joy of Christmas with St Xavier's College community and people of neighbouring parishes, with some helping in the liturgy. We gathered on Christmas evening and shared gifts. The Community Day celebrations were enjoyable with games, singing, acting and dancing. An outing to Thoothur, Pozhiyur and Poovar added to our joy. The New Year began with a Triduum and at the end we renewed the vows. The creative celebration of Pongal Eucharist enabled the community to know the significance of this festival. We prayed for Mr. Mathai, father of Fr Joe Mathew, who died on 13 Jan. - **M. Michael Sudherson**

FAMILY DAY

On 01 Dec '13, we celebrated our Family Day here at **VMI, VILANGUDI** in order to build a good rapport with the parents of our pre-novices. Their admiration for and knowledge of the Society surprised us. The 'cycle pilgrimage' to Poondy Madha Basilica on 03 Dec '13 was a moment of grace and blessings. Fr Innaci John preached a triduum for two groups of

scholastics from St. Joseph's Trichy at VMI. Fr Bella, the parish priest, and his lay collaborators and choir members visited the houses of the parishioners to share the Christmas joy. On 19 Jan the parish organized a Pongal sports day for the children. At the end of the day every child went back home with a prize and a smile.

- **G.S. Thayriam**

'JESUITS AND THE PEARL FISHERY COAST'

XAVERIANA community organized a special seminar on the occasion of the Bicentennial of the Restoration of the Society for the teaching and non-teaching staff of



our school, the priests of the area and members of the CRI on 'The Jesuits and the Pearl Fishery Coast.' Bishop Yvon Ambrose inaugurated the seminar in which Mr A.P. Ramakrishnan a high ranking official of the VOC Port and an

alumnus, was the chief guest. He spoke highly of the Jesuits' work as he has seen both in his alma mater and in the eastern part of India where he had served as a Collector. The seminar treated topics like the Suppression and Restoration of the Society of Jesus, the situation of the then Jesuits in the Pearl Fishery Coast, the relationship between the Jesuits and the Portuguese, the Punnaikayal Mission (particularly the work of Fr Henriques) and the Adaikalapuram mission. Frs Alphonse Manickam, Arockiasamy Xavier and Edward Jeganathan were the Jesuit speakers. Prof Francis, Fr X.D. Selvaraj, the VG, and Fr John Selvam, the P.P. of Punnaikayal, were the other speakers.

The Parent-Teacher Association held its meeting in January. While the parents appreciated the standard of the school in academic matters they made some suggestions towards what it can do for personality development. The Old Boys' Association held its annual day preceded by competitions for students in games and intellectual abilities. - **Rajan**

Abide with the Lord



Fr Simon Furtado (KAR), 95/75, on 16 Jan '14 in Bangalore.

Fr Francis Mathias (KAR), 94/75, on 26 Dec in Mangalore.

Fr Marty Coyne (NEP), 80/61, on 31 Dec in Nepal.

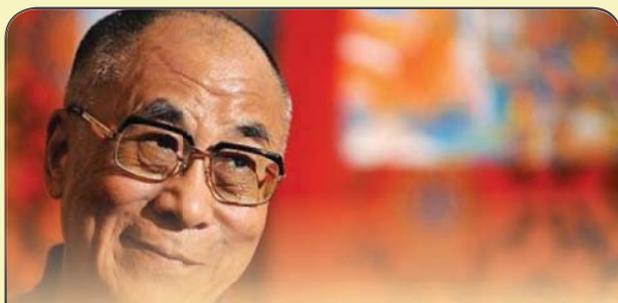
Fr Everic Pais (BOM), 87/58, on 6 Jan in Mumbai.

Fr Zucol Linus (KER) 98/70, on 06 Jan in Calicut.

Fr Vittorio Piovesan (KAR), 87/67, on 01 Jan '14 in Italy.

Mr A. Soosaimanickam, 77, father of S. Selvaraj, on 03 Jan '14.

Mr Ousepachan Mattam, 91, brother of Fr. Mattam, on 26 Jan '14.



SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

Dalai Lama affirms that happiness is not a luxury, but the very purpose of our existence. He points out the mistake many people commit - confusing pleasure and happiness. But, of course, all pleasures are not evil that we need to avoid by all means. No, you don't have to say no to the pleasure of watching a sunset, listening to K.J. Yesudas, gazing at a Rembrandt's painting or Michelangelo's statue, enjoying a hot cup of coffee early in a December morning or a cup of ice cream on a hot summer day. What we need to keep in mind is the satisfaction that pleasures offer is momentary and you can't depend on them to be happy. Watch out: some pleasures are destructive. While they kiss you they kill you.

Once the basic physical needs are met, it is the mind that matters – not money or fame or particular people. So train your mind, says Dalai Lama. What does training our mind mean? It means learning that negative emotions are harmful. The negative behaviours they beget make you miserable. Hatred, jealousy, anger and fear and the behaviours they lead you to destroy your happiness.

Howard Cutler asked Dalai Lama for his definition of a psychologically healthy person. He replied, "I would regard a compassionate, warm, kind-hearted person as healthy." So you are training your mind for happiness, if you rid yourself of poisonous emotions like hatred, anger or jealousy and cultivate kindness and compassion that open the doors to peace and joy. Another important aspect of training our mind is learning ethical behavior – "doing wholesome deeds."

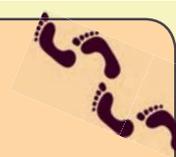
Connecting to people is the antidote to loneliness, he said. How do we connect to others? By understanding how similar others are to us. We are all interconnected, interdependent. Closeness to others – intimacy – promotes physical and psychological health.

Humans have a spiritual dimension and so we should find time for spiritual practices like prayer – which is mostly a daily reminder of your deeply-held principles, like the need for compassion and forgiveness.

- M.A.J.A.

In *Lead, Kindly Light*

Memories



FIRST MARTYR

In October 1544 St Francis Xavier passed into Travancore and within a month baptized 10,000 Mukkuvars. But already in 1545 the "Apostle of the East" left Cochin for the Far East. Later he paid only two more flying visits to the Indian Mission. In one of those occasions in 1548, he appointed the Venerable Antony Criminale as Superior of the Mission. But in less than one year Fr Criminale was killed in a raid by the soldiers of the Madura Nayakkar king near Vedalai, opposite Pamban Island. He is reckoned as the first martyr of the Society of Jesus. He was only 29 years old.

In 1549 his successor as Superior, Fr. Henry Henriquez (1520-1600), retranslated the common prayers. Only then he could, for the first time, hear the confessions of the people 13 years after their baptism.

- Joseph C. Houpert, SJ

-A South Indian Mission-
The Madura Catholic Mission



Congratulations

to **Fr Britto Bonaventure** and St Joseph's Community, to **Fr Ignatius Amalraj** and Loyola, Vettavalam Community and to **Fr Gerlin Amaladoss** and AHAL Community for successfully organizing the twin jubilee celebrations.

to **Fr Leo Tagore, Fr Paul Mike** and **Fr Santhanam Arockiasamy** for helping settle the De Britto land dispute amicably.



Just for....

"You Christians have taken everything from us," argued the Jewish rabbi.

"Like what?" asked the priest.

"Like the Ten Commandments, for a start."

"We may have taken them," replied the priest, "but you can't possibly accuse us of keeping them!"