



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

JANUARY 2014

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

NEW YEAR, NEW SPIRIT, NEW JOURNEY

Dear Brothers,

The Commemoration of the second centenary of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus, officially begins on January 3, the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, and ends on September 27, the anniversary of the confirmation of the Society in 1540. As a preparation for this great event we have been looking at our life as individuals and as communities. We have also assessed our ministries and formation. Just now we are in the process of planning for the renewal and restructuring of our province. Moreover, we are evolving concrete ways to express our solidarity with our option people.

In his letter of November 14, 2013, our Superior General, Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, invites every Jesuit, all our collaborators, every community, apostolic work, Region and Province of the Society to commemorate this event “with humble and sincere gratitude to

the Lord, with a desire to learn from our history, and as an occasion for spiritual and apostolic renewal”.

Fr. General also appreciates the various efforts in different provinces to make scholarly studies, publications, meetings, academic conferences, etc., “in order to promote a deeper knowledge and understanding of the complex realities of the Suppression and the Restoration of the Society....” He further comments that “the better we remember our history and the more deeply we understand it, the better we will understand ourselves and our identity as an apostolic body in the Church”.

Further, Fr. General states that this is the time to ask the Lord for “an interior knowledge of all the good I have received, so that acknowledging this with gratitude, I may love and serve His Divine Majesty in everything.” (Sp. Ex. 233). In other words, we need have a double-edged focus – we do not merely look at the past and try to understand it, but we try to “understand and appreciate our past better so that we may go forward into the future with ‘renewed fervor and zeal’ (GC 35, Decree 1) for our life and mission today”.

Fr. General reminds us once again that our commemoration of the Restoration should avoid triumphalism or pride, while ensuring that we make efforts “to commemorate this anniversary in a manner that is memorable as well as personally and communally significant”. Fr General wishes and prays that this commemoration may be “blessed with a deeper appropriation of our way of life and a more creative, generous and joyful commitment to give our lives in service for the greater glory of God”.

I invite each one of you, dear Brothers, to reflect personally on these words of Fr. General and renew yourself, so that you can appropriate to yourself ‘our way of life’ and a creative, generous and joyful commitment of yourself to the service of the Lord. In this New Year, when we commemorate the Restoration of the Society, let us imbibe a new spirit and begin a new journey AMDG.

Fraternallly,
Sebasti L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



Announcements



JANUARY

- 01 New Year
- 02 Coordinators Meeting – Beschi Illam, Dindigul
- 03 Meeting with Auditors – Beschi Illam, Dindigul
- 04 Ordination: St. Joseph's College, Trichy
- 05-06 Visitation: DNC, Pune
- 07-12 Chapter Guidance: Holy Spirit Sisters, Pune
- 13 Chennai Mission Assembly – Loyola College, Chennai
- 14-17 Visitation: Beschi Illam, Dindigul
- 18 Meeting: Treasurers – Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 19 Consult
- 20 Workshop: FSPM Sisters - Madurai
- 21-22 Visitation: Xaveriana, Tuticorin
- 23-28 Visitation: St Xavier's, Palayamkottai
- 30 CRI Executive Committee Meeting - LUMEN, Tindivanam

FEBRUARY

- 01 Jubilee Celebrations – St. Joseph's College, Trichy
- 02 Jubilee Celebrations – Loyola College, Vettavalam
- 03-07 Accompanying the Provincial and other Jesuits from France
- 08-09 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

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

January

- 04 Ordination, Trichy
- 8 & 10 Mission Assembly Core Committee
- 12-13 Chennai Mission Assembly, Loyola, Chennai
- 17 Chennai Mission Consult
- 19 Province Consult
- 21-23 Meeting with Germans of Anbaham Society, Vadampakkam
- 26 Jubilee Celebration at Chennai
- 29-30 Thirumanur and Kumbakonam

February

- 01 Trichy: Jubilee Celebration
- 02 Vettavalam: Jubilee Celebration
- 02 Chennai Mission Consult at Vettavalam
- 08-09 Province Consult
- 11 Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Trichy
- 14 AICUF Programme
- 22 LAAS: Legal Programme

PCF's Programme

January

- 02 Co-ordinators' Meeting, Beschi
- 03-04 Ordination, St. Joseph's, Tiruchy
- 06-08 St. Joseph's, Tiruchy
- 10 Kalangarai
- 12-13 Chennai Mission Assembly, Loyola
- 14 Formation Commission Meeting, Loyola
- 15 Ranipet
- 21-22 Vocation Promoters' Meeting, Kalangarai
- 28-31 DNC, Pune

February

- 01 Jubilee, Tiruchy
- 02 Jubilee, Vettavalam
- 04-05 SUPAM Meeting, Hogenakkal
- 08 Province Consult
- 17-24 PAC Meeting, Diaconate, Delhi

Status of Tertians from Hazaribag:

Fr Michael John A.: to St. Joseph's College, Trichy

Fr Antony Inigo D.: to Loyola Institutions, Kuppayanallur (Ongur Parish)

Fr Stephen D'Souza, who was ascribed to the Australian Province for a few years, has returned to the Province and Fr General has re-ascribed him to Madurai Province.

Fr Sebasthi John Baskar T. has ceased to be a member of the Society of Jesus, with effect from 17 Feb 2012, as he had incurred ipso facto dismissal from the Society because of the civil marriage he contracted that day.

Special Retreats:

On the occasion of the 200th Anniversary of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus the Province is organising 3 special retreats:

1. Pre-Tertianship Retreat

(For all those who have not done their Tertianship)

Dates: 04 evening to 12 May 2014

Place: Franciscan Institute of Spirituality, Bangalore

Preacher: **Fr George Stephen, SJ**

2. Post-Tertianship Retreat

(for All those who are yet to take last vows and those up to five years after their last vows)

Dates: 15 evening to 23 May 2014

Place: Holy Cross Centre for Eco-Spirituality, Bangalore

Preacher: **Fr Fio Mascarenhas, SJ**

Those who are not able to attend these retreats are expected to get prior permission from Fr Provincial.

3. Province Common Retreat

Dates: 02 May evening - 10 May '14

Place: Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur

Preacher: **Fr Fermin D'Souza, SJ.**

Kindly contact Fr PCF to book your place for these retreats.

Left:

Novice **Xavier Sesu** left the Novitiate on 07 Dec '13 and Novice **Vinoth Santhappan** on 12 Dec '13.



Events



MADURALAYA BLESSED

It would have been hard to find a more appropriate day than 03 Jan '14 to bless and inaugurate Maduralaya – the new building for our Provincialate. 03 Jan was the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus – the day when our Company was christened the Society of Jesus. This year it was the day when the bicentennial commemoration of the Restoration officially began.

Fr Provincial was the chief celebrant at the morning Eucharist at Beschi. He was accompanied by Fr Deva, Superior and Fr Ilango, the Novice Master.



Kumar blessed all the rooms and the chapel. Before the concluding blessing, Fr Provincial introduced Mr Simon, our Contractor, and his main associates and thanked them and all the workers for the fine job they have done.



Immediately after the Mass the members of the three communities –Maduralaya, Beschi and St Mary's – gathered in the portico of the new building. Fr Provincial said the prayers, Fr G.Ignaci, our 96- year- old youth and former Vice Provincial, read the Gospel reading , and Brs Antony Pitchai and Mariadass and Sr Annie, PDDM offered prayers. After Fr Provincial blessed and cut the ribbon, Frs Joe Antony, Selvanayagam, Christie and L.V.

The sheer lack of basic facilities necessary for the Provincial's Curia had made former Provincials think of a new building. But, alas, their plans did not materialize. God has made it possible in this Jubilee year. It is Fr Sebast L.Raj's determination, rigorous planning, expertise and experience in putting up buildings and tireless hard work that have given this gift to our Province - this new, elegant building, Maduralaya that will serve the Madurai Province for many long years. - M.A.J.A.

MY VISIT TO MAURITIUS

Fr Francis Besses, who worked in India for about 40 years as a missionary, went to Mauritius in 1986. He is now 89 years old and he celebrated the 70th year of his entrance to the Society on December 15, 2013, at Rose-Hill, Mauritius. He is the only living French Missionary to MDU.

It was his personal desire that I should participate in his Jubilee, as he knows me from my scholastic days. He wanted some photographs of the places where he worked, which I carried along with me. It



was a very impressive celebration, in which the Bishop and about 500 people participated, along with the priests of the diocese and the Jesuits of the Island.

Fr. Besses remembers vividly his missionary work in India and most of his companions and contemporaries in the Province. He conveys his greetings to all the Province-men.

- Sebast L. Raj

VAIKO STOLE THE SHOW

Campus Fest 2013 was celebrated at **AAC, Karumathur** on 12-13 Dec in such a grand style that the media gave it a lot of coverage. Thiru Vaiko, the Chief Guest for the Inaugural Function, stole the show with his new attire and his two-hour long speech without an iota of politics. Mr Kumarimuthu, a veteran comedian in Tamil films and Mr James Vasanthan, a film music composer, struck a chord with the students by their frank sharing of the struggles they had to face in order to succeed in their career. *"Saaral", an inter-departmental Tamil drama competition, was held on 16 Dec on the theme, "Jesuit Saints and the Contribution of the Jesuits to social upliftment" The 12 plays that were staged have created an interest in knowing more about the saints and in joining the Society. - **Rufus**

THROUGH CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

Led by Fr Gerlin, the parish priest, **AHAL** has started a new cultural troupe called 'Sahayamatha Kalai Kuzhu' that has begun to present the Good News through cultural programmes during the Advent and Christmas season. *On 01 Dec training was given to all the AHAL animators on how to help the students - especially 10th and 12th std students - face their exams. - **Selva**

MARCH TO THE CATHEDRAL

On the feast of St Xavier all the Catholic students of **Carmel, Nagercoil** marched in a procession to St Xavier Cathedral, Kottar on 26 Nov '13 and then prayed and sang during the Eucharist celebrated by the Jesuits of Carmel. *At the special school assembly on 02 Dec the Chief Guest, Mr Vasantha Kumar, industrialist, donated Rs 100,000 for the building fund and announced that he would give an award of Rs 200, 000 if our students got a state

rank in the board examination. He gave a cash award of Rs 2,000 each to the students who performed creditably in the public examination. *To encourage the students to become numismatists a coin exhibition was organized on 29 Nov '13 by the History Club. More than 200 numismatists exhibited their collection. A book written by our teacher, Mr Arul Seelan, was released by Fr. Jerome. *Dr V. Paulraj, retired professor of Scott Christian College, was the chief guest at the Christmas function. *During his official visit to Carmel on 28, 29 Nov '13, Fr Provincial met also representatives of the staff and helped us rejuvenate our mission at Carmel. - **Vincent Amalraj**

CHRISTMAS IN ALL THE ZONES

On behalf of TN JRS Sch Sarathi and Sch Mag Bay conducted English and Basic Computer Courses for 16 school drop-outs on 15-17 Dec at Mullaikudi, Trichy.



*A Christmas programme combined with training for all the Complementary Education Teachers was held in all the four zones of **TN JRS**. 54 teachers from Thiruvannamallai Zone, 69 from Kovai, 39 from Nellai and 63 from Trichy participated. *Fr Louie visited all the Zones to celebrate Christmas and distribute Christmas gifts.

*On 22 Dec Tamil Nadu JRS had its family gathering and Christmas celebration at JRS Office, Dindigul. Fr Devadass, the Superior of Beschi celebrated the Eucharist along with Frs Ilango, Wilson and Louie Albert.

- **Mag Bay**

SEEN 80 TIMES

During his visitation Fr Provincial asked the community of **Dhyana Ashram** to discuss how to make use of this campus of 3 acres more effectively. Fr Mission superior felt ours was a healthy and happy community. Fr D. Jayaraj animated the JMJ sisters in Vijayawada. *Fr Thambu organized an interaction with a visionary - an Italian lady who claims to have seen Our Lady 80 times in her village when she was young. *He organized Christmas fellowship programmes for the charismatic group, Senior Forum and Malai mottukal. *Fr X. Irudayaraj gave a 5-day programme on prayer to 20 FSJ sisters. *Fr Jerry directed a special retreat for the office bearers of the General Council of Sacred Heart Brothers and then for Benedictine Fathers in Bangalore. *He organized a Dhanam meet in Madurai with help from IDEAS. *After preaching a 30-day retreat to the CIC sisters of Madurai, Fr Devadhas Muthiah is directing an 8-days retreat to 50 St Anne's, Trichy Sisters. *At the end of the Brothers' GBM Fr Provincial released Vergal - a book written by Fr Vi. Ma. Dasan on the lives of Jesuit Brothers of the Madurai Mission. - **Xavier Irudayaraj**

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day was celebrated at **Gansoville, Devakottai** on 08 Dec '13 focusing on the rights of children. Over 100 school children from the neighbouring villages participated in the elocution, essay, poetry, dance and drama competitions conducted on the theme "Human Rights". Fr. Cyril Antonisamy, SJ and Sr Emni Juliette, SAT, spoke on "Rights of Children" and "Right to Health". Fr Anbarasan, Director, Gansoville conducted a Quiz programme. Dr Victor A. Singarayar, Vice-President, Gansoville presided over the function and gave away prizes

to the winners. A large number of human rights activists, co-workers, local school teachers and friends of Gansville participated.

- A. Anbarasan

SANG THEIR WAY INTO THEIR HEARTS

During his visitation to **De Britto, Devakottai** on 08-09 Dec '13 Fr Provincial encouraged us, spent some time with the staff members and sat for a photograph with our sports men who have qualified for the state championship. Eight of our athletes in various track and field events including the prestigious relays (4x100 and 4x400 mts) are going to the state level competitions - a record for our school after 7 years. Our senior (U-17) volleyball team has created a record by becoming the first team from Devakottai educational district to qualify for state level tournaments. Carol singers among our staff, led by Fr Y.S. Yagoo, sang their way into the hearts of the families of our staff members.

- Joseph Kennedy

"FOUNDATION FOR MY PROGRESS"

Fr Provincial was the main celebrant in the thanksgiving

Eucharist at **St Arulanandar School, Oriyur** on 05 Dec '13 on the occasion of the school's Golden Jubilee. Fr P Arul Sureshkumar, OCD, an alumnus of the school, preached the homily. All the former headmasters, superiors, retired and transferred teachers were honoured at the end of the Eucharistic celebration.

*"This school laid the foundation for my progress in my life, especially in my political career. Education is the basis for any progress in life. Christians are still the forerunners in imparting education to the country," said Mr. S. Thirunavukarasar, former Union Minister and presently one of the national secretaries of the Indian National Congress, at the valedictory function of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of St Arulanandar School, Oriyur on 05 Dec '13. 2013. He concluded his speech with a promise that the top rankers from the school will be given free engineering education including free board and lodging in his son's engineering college in Madurai from this year onwards. Fr Sebastia L. Raj, our Provincial, while offering his felicitations, assured that this school, being a rural one, catering to the most downtrodden, he, with the collaboration of well-wishers, will do everything possible to enhance the infrastructure and other facilities of the school. Students enthralled the audience with their well-prepared cultural show at the end.

- S.M. John Kennedy



JOY OF THE GOSPEL

Fr Michael Jeyaraj of **IDEAS** spoke on the main points of the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis, 'The Joy of the Gospel' in an interview given to the Tamil service of the Vatican Radio. The text of his speech has taken a booklet form, currently available with IDEAS for purchase. *At a seminar held by Fr Jerry's Dhanam movement held in IDEAS on 22 Dec, around 40 women and men participants from St Mary's Cathedral parish were inspired by his lively sharing. *Keen to see that Dalit people have easy access to the many welfare schemes of the T. N government Fr Stephen J. Muthu met Ms Kannagi Packianathan, IAS, Secretary to Government, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department. As part of the South Asian study team, Fr Aloy participated in the research workshop on eradication of discrimination based on work and descent in Bangladesh, India and Nepal held at Kathmandu on 07 Dec '13. *The following day he attended South Asian Parliamentarians' Conference on Dalit Concerns and drafted the Conference Declaration. *Then he joined an advocacy consultation with Parliamentarians in New Delhi on 11 Dec on inclusion of socially excluded sections in disaster response and risk reduction. - Aloysius Irudayam

SCENIC BEAUTY AND SERENE AMBIENCE

It has been eight months since I came to this village in the **Kohima Region** in the North East for my regency. I am assigned to a tribal society, Dima Hasao, Assam. I teach in our school, TM Good Shepherd School, and take care of the boarding. The tiny village, Gunjung, is far away from

the noisy towns; but the people - good-hearted and simple - have come very close to me. The scenic beauty of the hills and the serene ambience of the place are a real feast to our eyes and hearts. The most cherished part of our mission is our students. Though a majority of them are first generation learners, their confidence and enthusiasm for learning are impressive. I enjoy their guitar-accompanied singing, life-packed games and vigorous manual work. You may be surprised to know that we are only two as is the case in many mission centers in Kohima Region. Fr Charles D'Souza, my work director, is a real missionary and visionary, who guides me through my ups and downs. It is a blessing for me to work with him. The most grace-filled time during these 8 months was the visitations of Fr Provincial and Fr PCF. I was deeply moved by their care and concern and their timely visit was a big source of motivation.

- Sathyabalan

MODEST AND MEANINGFUL

IDCR, Loyola, Chennai concluded the training in Inter-Religious Awareness and Practice (IRAP) to 40 students drawn from different city colleges. Certificates were awarded to all participants. *IDCR celebrated Fr Amaladoss' Diamond Jubilee in the Society in a modest and meaningful way. *Vincent Sekhar organized the 6th Writers and Researchers Forum of Madurai Province. Frs Ignacimuthu and Francis P. Xavier were resource persons who shared about their Institutes' research activities. Frs Maria Packiam and Stephen Martin presented their research projects on pesticides and Tamil cinema. *Vincent Sekhar gave two sessions on Research Methodology at MS University, Tirunelveli. *He gave the inaugural address at Gurukul Interfaith Movement. *He was instrumental in holding an

interfaith celebration at Broadway parish. *Religious leaders from the neighbourhood were honoured during the Christmas celebration. Two new, mega events of Campus Ministry at Loyola, Chennai drew a large crowd. 'Gloria 2013' brought in various institutions and parishes in the Campus for the Campus Carol competition. Loyola Jesuit community invited all the staff in various units of Loyola - teaching, non-teaching, and domestic, to the Staff Christmas celebration. This innovative move to bring together all those who work for Loyola was much appreciated.

- Vincent Sekhar

GAVE A CHEQUE IMMEDIATELY

The Annual General Body Meeting of the Alumni Association of **St Joseph's College, Trichy** was held on 14 Dec '13. Justice S Rajeswaran was the chief guest. Some retired staff,



prominent Josephites and four non-Josephites were honoured for their meritorious service in different fields. Josephites Reunion-2013 was held on the same day. Around 200 alumni/ae participated. A brochure for fundraising in view of constructing an administrative block for the Alumni Association was released by the Rector and the first copy was received by the chief guest. The proposed block will house an administrative office, mini conference hall and eight guest rooms. The estimated cost is Rs 70,25,000. The alumni have promised to meet the entire cost. Mr A Joseph Louis, an entrepreneur, gave a cheque for Rs 3,00,000 immediately. Ln Lectchumanan, a non-josephite,

assured that he will supply the required steel at cost price. *A. Irudayara Raj presented a research paper on the role of social media at a national conference at St Joseph's College, Bangalore. An impressive ELT Assembly - with speeches, dances and skits - was organized by the 6th std students on 27 Nov. The chief guest, Dr. Sankaran, former HOD of English Dept., National College, Trichy was highly appreciative of the performance of the students. Mrs Jayabharathi, Asst. Commissioner for customs and central excise inaugurated the GSP (Government Services Project) academy in the school. 350 students participated in the inaugural motivational seminar. *At a Christmas celebration of caring and sharing 60 students were given free uniform clothes. The students contributed Rs 50,000 to St Joseph's Hospice, a home for dying destitutes run by Fr Thomas at Metturgate near Dindigul. *Fr Provincial laid the foundation stone for a new building for St Joseph's C.H.S. School on 22 Dec '13.

- Jesu Nesam

GENERAL'S VISIT

Nearly 1500 students attended the Children's Day celebrations in 5 Evening Study Centres of Nagapattinam district and vowed to safeguard the environment. *On 04 Dec '13 representatives of **Kalangarai** widow's movement held state level consultations at the AICUF House with other groups and activists working for widows' welfare. The meet decided to formulate a draft for a new law and request the State government to form a welfare board to protect the rights of widows. *On 06 Dec a team led by Fr Maria Packiam from the Entomology Department of Loyola college, Chennai trained our people on preparing vermicomposting, mushroom cultivation and house gardening. *Since St Joseph's of

Lyons Sisters are our collaborators in the ministry for widows their General visited Kalangarai on 16 Dec and appreciated our work. *On 23 Dec the Community College had an inter-religious Christmas celebration. - **Gnanaraj**

BABY JESUS & MOSQUITO MENACE

Christmas festive mood descended on **St Xavier's** campus with the Inter-Hostel Carol Singing competition organized by the director of campus ministries at which S.H. Hostel got the first prize. Inter-Departmental Carol Singing and Crib Competition culminated in a grand function at which Fr Joe Mics, Vicar General of Palayamkottai gave a touching message. At other celebrations in various units Dr V. Joseph Albert, Sr Madonna, ICM, Fr Susai Selvaraj and Sr Pushpa delivered the Christmas message. The inter-departmental crib competition, which attracted the attention of the media, depicted social evils. A crib that portrayed the mosquito menace by showing Baby Jesus and others protected by a mosquito net and mosquito coil stole the show. The Crop Protection Research Centre, Department of Zoology organized the IV Biopesticide International Conference on 28-30 Nov '13. On 16 Dec the Department of Tamil organized a one-day international conference on 'Context and Ideology in Tamil Literature'. Gramiyam, an inter-school folk competition, was conducted for three days on 25-27 Nov to inaugurate the Silver Jubilee of Folklore Resources and Research Centre (FRRC). Around 900 students from 25 schools

participated in the programme. Apart from giving away rolling cups in the name of N. Vanamamalai and Dr. Lourdu, a special trophy was instituted this year in the name of Fr Francis Jeyapathy, the first director of FRRC. The event was organised successfully by Fr. Sahayaraj and the staff. On 19-20 Nov the staff of St. Xavier's College of Education travelled to Anugraha, Nochodapatti for a two-day programme on IPP. There were a series of student enrichment programmes in the B.Ed College including yoga training and AIDS Awareness on 09-14 Dec. The prospective teachers had their Christmas celebration with the mentally and differently-abled children at St. Anne's Rehabilitation Centre, Palayamkottai. XIBA has been chosen as a nodal centre by the state Entrepreneurship Development Council to train 35 prospective entrepreneurs from three districts; they would receive huge subsidies after the training for their start-up ventures. - **Baskar**

TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND VULGARITY

Fr Devadoss Mudiappasamy gave the staff of **St Mary's, Dindigul** an inspiring talk on 'Jesurrection- 200' highlighting the details of restoration of the Society. *Masters C. Paramasivan and V. Christopher of XI Std won the National Sub-junior Badminton Championship. *Master Infant Shyam of VIII Std who won the first place for English oratory at the state level was the chief guest for the Children's Day and Dr Santhana Kumar was the guest of honour. *AMUTHU organized a one day seminar for about 60 women on women empowerment and the laws related to women's rights. *Ten new Evening Study Centers have been opened in Ottenchatram taluk. *Children's Parliament was initiated

in seven villages. *Our LASAC team organized a district level one-day camp on 23 Nov for the LASAC students. An Awareness Rally in the on Prevention of Violence and Vulgarly in films drew the attention of the city. *On 08 Dec Thiruvarturperavai organized an inter-religious celebration of Ramzan, Deepavali and Christmas. - **Paul**

VISIT OF 4 PROVINCIALS

*On 26 Nov the feast of our patron St John Berchmans was celebrated here at **Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum** on the theme, 'the extraordinary in the ordinary'. The four Provincials of southern provinces concelebrated. *After Mass Fr Sebastia L.Raj blessed the site for the new refectory and kitchen and the foundation stone was laid by all the Provincials. They also met the juniors and the staff separately and offered suggestions. *The bust of St John Berchmans donated by Beschi Illam and brought with care by Fr Provincial added to the joy of the occasion. Thanks to Beschi Community for the generous gift and to Fr Provincial for bringing it safely. The variety entertainment after supper provided a golden chance for the juniors to showcase their histrionic talents. *The Course on 'Current Sciences' by Fr Jerome Manyahi helped us develop a scientific bent of mind. The Archbishop of Trivandrum visited Vidyaniketan on 05 Dec. He blessed the community after a short prayer service. He met the juniors to share his rich experiences and the staff to brief them of the various initiatives in the Archdiocese.

- **Ebenezer Amalraj**

Abide with the Lord



Fr Marty Coyne, SJ (NEP) 80/61 on 31 Dec '13.

Sr Dunstan Mary (83), sister of Fr G. Packiaraj, on 11 Dec '13.



SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

A Jesuit professor of theology at the Loyola University, Chicago for more than three decades, John Powell, combined in his writings psychology and theology and wrote in a lucid, lively style. One of his books is called *Happiness Is an Inside Job* (Tabor Publishing, Texas) which he wrote in 1989. What are the main ideas that the book offers on what can make us happy?

If someone is chronically unhappy, it simply means that something is wrong – something is missing. Because all of us were created to be happy, asserts Powell. “I believe that God made us to be happy in this world and for ever in the next.” This explains why we desire and seek happiness.

But our own experience shows that many a time our desire to be happy is not fulfilled, our efforts to be happy are thwarted by so many things.

Since nobody else can make us happy or unhappy and our happiness is entirely our responsibility, we must do what we need to be happy.

What can we do? John Powell comes up with a list of ten avenues to happiness but these are “life tasks” – things that cannot be done simply once and for all but only gradually. What are the ten life tasks?

1. We must accept ourselves as we are.
2. We must accept full responsibility for our lives.
3. We must try to fulfill our needs for relaxation, exercise, and nourishment.
4. We must make our lives an act of love.
5. We must stretch by stepping out of our comfort zones.
6. We must learn to be “goodfinders.”
7. We must seek growth – not perfection.
8. We must learn to communicate effectively.
9. We must learn to enjoy the good things of life.
10. We must make prayer a part of our daily lives.

If John Powell is right, it means: The more we accomplish these ten life tasks, the happier we will be, the more meaningful our life will become.

- M.A.J.A.

In *Lead, Kindly Light*

Memories



THE FIRST JESUIT COLLEGE IN THE WORLD

Before leaving Goa, St. Francis Xavier accepted the management of the seminary or college of St. Paul, thus starting the first Jesuit College in the world and the first Christian College in India. In 1542 Fr Paul de Camerino and Francis Mansilhas took up work in the college. “I hope,” St Francis wrote to St Ignatius, “this College will soon send out men capable of spreading the Faith in these countries. Already there are over 60 Indian students. I believe that before six years there will be 300 students of every tongue and race and nation.” The Saint came that very year to Tuticorin with three Indian priests. But the Madura Mission was for long the humble satellite of the Province of Cochin. It had no seminary of its own and consequently no Indian secular clergy. The European Fathers, on their part, came as fully trained men from Italy, France and Portugal, with the experience of ministry in Europe.

The Modern Jesuit Mission, on its part, tried to consolidate their work by training auxiliaries in the country. In 1844, Fr Audibert opened at Nagapatam a College-Seminary, transferred to Trichinopoly in 1883. In 1849, Fr Saint-Cyr, its rector, rejoiced at having six candidates for the clerical life. Ever since, a Preparatory Seminary has been a more or less distinct part of St Joseph’s High School. From there the candidates pass into the religious life or the secular clergy.

- Joseph C. Houpert, SJ

-A South Indian Mission-
The Madura Catholic Mission



Just for....

Little John found the old, abandoned family Bible in the attic. He opened it to find a large leaf, pressed between its heavy pages. He kept looking at it, thought for a while, and said: “Oh, this must be Adam’s clothes.”