



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

JANUARY 2015

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

AN OPPORTUNE MOMENT FOR SELF-RENEWAL

Dear Brothers,

At the beginning of this New Year, and in the context of the Year of Consecrated Life, I invite each member to reflect seriously about our personal and spiritual life. Let us recall the repeated appeal of our Superior General, Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, for spiritual depth. In order for the Church and the consecrated life to become effective and relevant today the spiritual dimension of life is the most important requirement. While this dimension should be manifested in our life of love and service, we need to examine dispassionately whether we witness to this in the Church in general and also within religious communities, including our own.

In this context, the pronouncements of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, regarding the sicknesses in the Vatican Offices are worth reflecting upon (*See p.11*). Obviously, at least some of these are applicable to our own

province. It is time for each one of us to look at ourselves and our inner dispositions, personal desires and our approach to our life as religious. As all of us know very well, any meaningful renewal of religious life can come about only through the efforts and cooperation of individual members, while the external ambience can only encourage this process. Therefore the real call of this year is self-renewal which requires self-examination and personal determination to live a life according to our vocation.

At the recent meeting of the Local Superiors and Team Leaders, held on 29 December, we spent some time reflecting collectively on the possible ways through which this personal renewal can be promoted in the province. In the light of this collective reflection by the administration team of the entire province, I invite each member to look at himself, his level of commitment to the Society, the degree of his identity as a Jesuit, his level of availability for the different needs of the Society or the province, his actual contribution to the ministry to which he is assigned, etc. The Action Plan of June 2012, evolved collectively by the whole province, is very relevant

at this moment, as that specifies what is expected of each one at the personal/spiritual level and in our community life. Further, I request each Local Superior/Team Leader to plan some common programmes to enable and encourage the members to renew and rededicate themselves.

Let our spiritual life, the foundation of Consecrated Life, become visible in our actions, in our attitudes, in our relationships and in the way we do our work. Whatever we do – if it does not spring from our spiritual values – cannot be called ministries. Our works become real ministries, only when these are based on our spiritual values, spiritual outlook and spiritual approach. This spiritual foundation makes the real difference between our services to the people and those of others who do it for the sake of power, profit or political gain. Let our services emerge from our spiritual depth and make a difference to our world!

Fraternally,
Sebastien L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



JANUARY

- 03 Ordination of Deacons Cyril Suresh and Britto Arockiam, Madurai
- 05-08 Visitation: Beschi Illam, Dindigul
- 12-15 Visitation: St. Mary's, Madurai
- 17 Visitation: Clive House, Trichy
- 18-23 Visitation: St. Joseph's, Trichy
- 24 Consult
- 29-31 Visitation: Myanmar

FEBRUARY

- 01-08 Visitation: Myanmar
- 10-16 Visitation: St Xavier's, Palayamkottai
- 19 *Coetus Praevius* of the Province Congregation meets
- 20-21 Consult
- 22-28 JCSA Meeting – Vinayalaya, Mumbai

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

JANUARY

- 03 Ordinations, St. Mary's, Madurai
- 04 Seminar on the Mission of Fr Trincal SJ, W Pudukatti
- 09 Youth Convention, Chennai
- 10-13 Dharmapuri & Salem
- 20 Chennai Mission Consult
- 24 Province Consult
- 25-26 Companions Meet, Trichy
- 29-30 LAV, Vadamelakkam

FEBRUARY

- 07-08 Thirumaanur
- 10-12 Maakkampalayam
- 15 Chennai Mission Consult
- 18-19 Thindivanam, Pondy
- 20-21 Province Consult

Announcements



Fr Provincial to all the Province members on Transfer Requests/Proposals:

In case you would like to have a transfer or a change of responsibilities, you are requested to discern over this matter prayerfully and write to me stating your proposal clearly and also giving the reasons for your proposal. Even if you have already spoken about this to me, you are expected to communicate this to me again in writing. All such requests must reach me, preferably through email, the latest by 15 Feb 2015.

While your request will surely be considered, in consultation with your Local Superior/Team Leader, you are expected to be ready to abide by the final decision of the Provincial. Moreover, at this time of transfers and new assignments, I would like to remind everyone to reflect prayerfully on the Ignatian principles of total availability and indifference and to be prepared to receive any new mission that may be assigned to you or go willingly to a new community to which you may be missioned.

Approved for Final Vows: Fr General has approved for Final Commitment in the Society: **Frs. Mathew Cyril Antony, Marianathan Chinnasamy and Joe Xavier P. and Bro Arockiasamy Pitchaimuthu.** Our hearty congratulations and prayerful good wishes to each one of them.

Approved for Diaconate: After gathering the required information, and after consulting the people concerned, Fr Provincial has approved for Diaconate Ordination: Scholastics Alex Yagoo, Antony Inico L., Francis Xavier Arockiadass, Poondy Rajan Y., Richard Hiruthayaraj, Victor Desoza A., and Vincent Irudhayaraj M. While Sch. Richard Hiruthayaraj will be ordained in London on 07 Feb

STATUS

Fr. Provincial has made the following transfers:

NAME	FROM	TO
Victor Roch G	Tertianship	Loyola, Kuppayanallur
Joseph Ignaci G	Tertianship	Arulanandar HSS, Oriyur
Amaladoss Xavier S	Sabbatical	SXCE, Palayamkottai
Felix Joseph	Pondicherry	SJC, Trichy

2015, the other six will be ordained in Delhi on 14 February 2015. Let us keep all these seven men in our prayers.

Common Retreats for Young Priests of the Southern Provinces before Tertianship: 1. At Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal from April 29 evening to May 7 afternoon. Preacher: Fr Joseph Pulickal (KER). Contact Person: Fr. Britto Vincent; e-mail: pcf@mdusj.org; Mobile: 94865 58265. 2. At Dhyanasrama, Mount St. Joseph, Bangalore from May 12 (evening) to 20 (evening). Preacher: Fr Julian Fernandes (KOH). Contact Person: Fr. Francis Menezes (KAR); e-mail: msjrector@gmail.com. Mobile: 94486 27209.

Province Retreat: At Thozhamai Illam. Kanyakumari from May 5 evening to 13 evening. Preacher: Fr. Rex Pai. Contact Person: Fr. Britto Vincent; e-mail: pcf@mdusj.org; Mobile: 94865 58265.

New: Fr Mathew J. Moolel, St Mary's, Madurai writes that since someone has kidnapped his old, faithful cellphone, he has adopted legally a new one: 75986 19075. Leolin Arockiadass, SHC, Shembag has a new mobile: 74012 99381. Sch. Stephen Robert's new email id is stephenrobertsj@gmail.com. His new cell no: 99625 01859.

Left: Br Ignacy Augustine has left the Society after signing his papers on 30 Dec '14. Novice Kingston Maria Bosco J. left the Novitiate on 19 Dec '14.



Events



CHRISTMAS JOY

The Annual Camp-Fest 2014 was held at AAC, KARUMATHUR after meticulous planning. Fr Jegat Gaspar, Tamil Maiyyam, Chennai and Mr Vijay Antony, actor and musician, were on the stage at the Inaugural Function on 12 Dec and Mr Joe Malloori, actor and writer, at the Valedictory Function on 13 Dec. Our Scholastics brought joy to the children of our neighbourhood during the Bala Mela 2014, our annual neighbourhood festival. Br Aaron was the youthful Chief Guest. Fr K Amal SJ, Superior, and a few of our community paid a courtesy visit to the new Archbishop Antony Pappusamy of Madurai. Fr Rufus, coordinator of the Bridge Course, has successfully concluded the six-month long Bridge Course. At the initiative of Fr Xavier Vedam, Principal, AAC has signed MoUs with a few industries to strengthen the Food Science department.

The entire AAC campus experienced Christmas joy with all the hostels, college and community having their own celebrations. Fr Basil Xavier presented a paper at a

national seminar arranged by our Philosophy Department, while Fr M. J. Mahalingam spoke at seminars at NBCLC, Bengalooru and Lady Doak College, Madurai.

- A G Leonard

READY TO WELCOME ALL

With the new rooms blessed by Fr Jebamalai Raja, CMS, on 23 Dec, we the ARRUPPE ILLAM community, Mettupalayam welcome you for individual or group retreats and recollections. If you need individual rooms, our Centre can accommodate



only six persons. If people are ready to share rooms, we can accommodate up to 24 persons. Our strengths are a pleasant natural surrounding and the ever cool climate. If you are lucky, you can have a 'dharsan' of elephants at close

Jesuit Contribution to Nation Building Assistancy Seminar in Pune

“If the Jesuits had not been there, India would not have a written history” said Romila Thapar, the greatly acclaimed Indian historian. “Not only in the field of history but also in scientific achievements Jesuits stand out – almost 5% of all the scientists from antiquity to 1900 were Jesuits. It is not only as academicians, historians and scientists, but also as pastors, spiritual guides and as men



involved in the empowerment of people and building of communities, Jesuits have contributed immensely to nation building in South Asia. Most of these contributions are often hidden and silent, contributing to the transformation of the knowledge and well-being of people,” she said at the Jesuit South Asian Assistancy Seminar on the “Jesuit Contribution to Nation Building in South Asia from the Nineteenth Century till Today,” held at Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune on 27-29 Nov 2014. The seminar became a platform to share our success stories as well as to become aware of our wrong moves and activities, so that we Jesuits and our collaborators and beneficiaries could enter the third centenary of the restored Society of Jesus with renewed vigour and commitment.

Nearly 100 participants

- mostly Jesuits with 12 lay collaborators and a diocesan priest - gathered in Pune to commemorate the 200th year of the Restoration of the Society of Jesus. The rationale of the Seminar is in the words of Fr Adolfo Nicolás, Superior General, in his letter to the whole Society of Jesus: “We do not wish our attention to be focused solely on the past. We wish to understand and appreciate our past better so that we may go forward into the future with renewed fervour and

zeal for our life and mission today.”

The seminar focussed on the activities of the Jesuits in South Asia since the nineteenth century. It aimed at an objective, factual and critical assessment of the contributions of the Society towards nation-building in South Asia. Besides a historical overview, it made realistic assessment of multiple Jesuit activities such as involvement in liberation movements, empowerment of the marginalized, individual and social transformation through socio-pastoral ministries, Jesuit contribution to education, languages, social and physical sciences, arts and mass media, their commitment to “the triple dialogue” of life, cultures and religions, their role in guiding and animating clergy and religious communities, and in promoting leadership of youth and lay faithful, and their readiness to go boldly to the frontiers.

Fr. George Pattery, the Provincial of South Asia, urged all Jesuits and collaborators to get enthused to

work as a corporate body by being “brave and humble.” With well-researched papers (24 by Jesuits, 3 by lay men and women collaborators, and 1 by a diocesan priest) the seminar educated, enlightened and challenged the participants on Jesuit contribution in various fields. The participants had a great feeling of ‘joy and pride’ and an awareness of the challenges ahead and the need to respond to them with courage and creativity. Various presentations and discussions highlighted the urgent need to (i) deepen Ignatian spirituality studies in South Asia, (ii) to get younger Jesuits to undertake serious historical studies.

Among others, the following were emphasized for the continuation of Jesuit mission in South Asia: (i) to emphasize Jesuit commitment to the internal migration issues and the Tribal/Dalit thrust; (ii) need to exploit the Government sources for social involvements; (iii) to invest in dialogue with Islam (iv) to initiate/support Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lankan higher education projects; (v) to re-emphasize Jesuit pastoral thrust; and (vi) to initiate a youth movement that is value-oriented.

Fr. Leonard Fernando, SJ, the Convenor of the Seminar, said: “Remembering the past should not lead us to complacency with the laurels of achievements but spur us to move forward, read the signs of times and make a new commitment to God and to God’s people. For this we surely need also to critically look back at the past history in order to correct the wrongs done and make a fresh start with radical commitment and generosity of heart.”

- Edwin Philip Rodrigues

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quarters if you venture out at night. Fr S.M.Selvaraj's crib has been attracting the passers by all through the Christmas season. - **Devadhas Muthiah**

IMAM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

At a Special Assembly, **DE BRITTO** honoured a team of Doctors, - our alumni - who work in and around Devakottai. They offered free medical aid for all our staff. Dr Shivakumar donated Rs. 50,000/ in honour of retired Tamil Teacher Mr.Dhasarati. This money will be used to help the students who excel in Tamil Language. Our student Kathiravan, the Sivagangai Revenue & Divisional Districts medalist, bagged the Bronze Medal at a State-level competition in the 200 meter running race. To spread Christmas joy a Carol Team, led by our Headmaster, Fr Yagoo, visited the houses of all teaching and non-teaching Staff and the educational institutions near by. This 5 day-carol event was well received. At a special Christmas Assembly, our Sivagangai MP, Mr P.R.Senthil Nathan honored Karthiravan and other 22 Sports persons, who represented the State. The Christmas Message delivered by Mr Faizur Rahuman, the Imam of Devakottai, and Dr Ganeshan, the Headmaster of NSMVPS School, made the program an inter-religious one. - **Y.S.Yagoo**

JOY AND HOPE

Fr Provincial's visitation, in the company of the CMS, in the first week of December

brought **DHYANA ASHRAM** joy and hope, and inspired us to evolve a master plan for the campus. We hosted our Brothers who came for their annual retreat followed by Brothers' GBM, at which Fr Baskar Antony gave a beautiful outline of the history of the Church. Fr Jerry conducted a workshop for the Seva Missionary Sisters and an advent triduum in our church. His major books have been researched for a doctoral thesis by a Sister, who has got it printed. Fr Xavier Irudayaraj goes to various parishes for pastoral ministry on Sundays. We had an enjoyable Christmas get-together with our co-workers. Fr Thambu is creating a Zen garden which is sure to be admired by all the visitors. - **Xavier Irudayaraj**

'POOVUM POTTUM'

KALANGARAI, Nagapatinam released a CD titled 'பூவும் பொட்டும், என் உரிமை' on 29 Nov '14. There was a State level



consultation held at Kalangarai with the members from Widows Livelihood Federation, Tamil Nadu. Fr Kulandai took part in a

one-day Conference, organized by UNO, held in Delhi on 04 Dec. There were two special programmes for widows and their children in December. Twenty women attended a 10-day training programme on public speaking. Thirty participants benefitted from a five-day workshop on arts and crafts for widows' children.

- **Jeyaraj**

BUILDING UP NETWORKS

Fr Stephen J. Muthu of **IDEAS-LAAS** moderated a session on Justice in Higher Education at a conference organized by Tamil Nadu Open University in Chennai. Fr Jeyaseelan addressed the History students of Fatima College, Madurai on the importance of Family Law for women. On invitation by UN Women, Fr Paul Michael, along with Fr Kulandai and Mrs Valarmathy, a widow from Kalangarai, took part at a consultation and a launch of a study 'Empowerment of Widows and their Coalitions' on 03 Dec '14 in Delhi. The forum, consisting of Government and Civil Society Organizations' representatives from India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, reflected deeply on the plight of widows and ways for their emancipation. The opportunity paved the way for building up of networks both at the national and international levels. Fr. Aloysius visited Kathmandu, Nepal to participate in the Conference of South Asia Parliamentarians Forum for Social Justice & Equity on 25 Nov '14 by the Asia Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF) on the

occasion of the SAARC Summit. The 50 Parliamentarians from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan attending the Conference released a declaration with a call to the Executive, Legislative and Judicial organs of governance in the South Asian countries to "End Untouchability and Caste Discrimination in South Asia". Four seminal research publications, in which Aloysius had some significant role to play, were released during the Conference. - **Jeyaseelan**

TO THE YOUTH IN REFUGEE CAMPS

Fr Stanny Fernandez, Director, JRS South Asia, visited **ICRDCE** and explored the possibility of offering Community College training to the youth in refugee camps of Tamilnadu. The ICRDCE team participated in the annual day, Christmas day celebrations and Convocation of Concerns Community College, Advantage Community College, Bangalore during the month of December, 2014. It also participated in the inauguration of St Teresian UGC Community College, Mysore. ICRDCE has submitted to National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) the curriculum of life-skills and 30 work skills for its approval leading to evaluation and certification, which will benefit all the Community Colleges in India. The draft proposal was discussed with the leading Community College Directors and their inputs have been added to the proposal. ICRDCE also conducted a review of a

few UGC Community Colleges in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

- **Xavier Alphonse**

700 ARTISTS FROM 32 DISTRICTS

LOYOLA Students Support Services (LSSS), in collaboration with Alternative Media Centre, Chennai (AMC), organized a mega folk event by name Veethi Viruthu and seminar on Dalit Identity and Reality on 06,07 Dec '14. Nearly 700 artists from 32 districts of Tamil Nadu participated in the seminar and performed their arts on the Jubilee quadrangle of Loyola College, for the first time in the College's history. Political leaders such as Thiru. Nalla Kannu (CPM), and Thol. Thirumavalavan, and



film directors like Mr Vetrimaran, Mr Ranjith, and Mr. Ram, great folk artists like Kollangudi Karuppayi honoured the event with their presence and talks. Veethi Viruthu award was given to 45 senior folk artists. The event won the appreciation and admiration of all folk artists and grass root intellectuals. LSSS also organized an interface meeting with Gypsy children and their parents on the promotion of Education, Health and Hygiene on 20 Dec '14 with the help of our scholastics Arul and Udaya Prakash. Nearly 75 children and parents participated

in this programme. Fr Francis Jayapathy was the chief guest who motivated the parents and their children on the importance of education. LSSS organized a two day workshop on promoting health and hygiene in Chennai slums through folk media on 22, 23 Dec '14. The event's sponsor, the Slum Clearance Board, donated Rs 9 lakhs.

Venkat Sai of *LICET* has won a student entrepreneur award at a national level competition organized by Confederation of Indian Industries. Renault India has donated two Duster cars to LICET so that the engineering students could study the engine and the functioning of the automobile. Among 300 competing engineering colleges from all over India, LICET team has been selected for the final round of International Go-Kart Championship conducted in Punjab.

Loyola College of Education conducted a one-day seminar on 11 Dec on the various aspects of Indian educational scenario based on the Ministry of Human Resource Development's Annual Report of 2013-14. The resource persons were our own faculty members. Five days citizenship training camp was conducted on 19-23 Dec which included sessions on blood, eye and organ donation, first-aid and fire fighting. Ms. Magdalene Rock of Mathematics Department won the Chennai district University first rank for

the year 2013-14. She was felicitated by Fr. Rector during the cultural celebrations. The LCE also conducted its alumni meeting on 21 Dec. For the first time the members of the executive committee and their families of the *Loyola Alumni Association* came together for a Christmas Get-together on 13 Dec. A special gift to the alumni was the rendering of a traditional Tamil carol by the Jesuits, including Fr. CMS and Fr. Rector. Members of the the Loyola Hostel Alumni Association (LOHO) met for the 13th time at Kodaikanal with their families on 02-04 Jan. - **Francis Jayapathy**

NEIGHBOURHOOD MINISTRY

The **LTI** Community warmly welcomes Fr I. Valanarasu, who will be our new Minister. We were privileged to have Archbishop Antony Pappusamy with us for a brief visit on 18 Dec. Our ITI Students were the winners in Football, runners in Volleyball and badminton and won the individual Championship in sports and over all Championship in the District level Sports and Games held on 18, 19 Dec held at Don Bosco ITI, Madurai. The community recollection in preparation for Christmas was preached by Fr

Leo Correya. A special Sacrament of Reconciliation service was arranged for the staff and students as part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas. The students and staff celebrated Christmas with the students of St. Joseph Blind School, Paravai and gave away Christmas gifts to all. Our hostellers celebrated Christmas with the community and staff on 22 Dec. At the celebration on 23 Dec Fr Leo Anand, Assistant Parish Priest, St. Mary's, Madurai gave the Christmas message. Fr Valanarasu gave the Christmas message at LEUCA Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Bastian Nagar. As our Neighbourhood Ministry we have started a study centre for poor Dalit children at Poonganagar slum behind Gnanaolivupuram Parish Church. We are thankful to Fr. A. Wilson, St. Mary's HSS, Madurai who serves as our student counsellor. TATA automobile students were placed in ABT for their internship. The Madurai Kamarajar University exams are held in our campus.

- **George Raja**

FRIENDLY MATCH

On 01 Dec our students of **LIS, RANIPET** had a friendly volley ball match with the seminarians from the dioceses of Chennai, Chengalpattu and Vellore. This interaction with seminarians has helped our students. A Talent

Meet- 2014 and Christmas celebration was held on 16-21 Dec. It was the celebration of students' talents as well as the feast of Christmas. - **S. Manick**

BEFORE THE CRIB

The Parish Priest of **ST MARY'S, MADURAI**, Fr. Arockiaraj, and his two Assistants, along with some parish members, were very busy during the Christmas season, visiting the Catholic families, exchanging greetings and singing carols. Many non-Catholics visit our Cathedral and pray regularly before the crib during this festive season, whose highlight was the grand Christmas midnight Mass celebrated by our Archbishop. Fr. G. Packiaraj preached two retreats to the clergy of Tuticorin diocese and the Servite Sisters. The Alumni Team of our School organized a career guidance programme to our final year students. Ten experts from different fields were there to help the students plan their future. They also addressed a big group of parents on how to guide their children in choosing their future career. As part of the Christmas celebration many of our community members visited the differently-abled persons at the Annai Theresa

Abide with the Lord

Fr J. Cyril Raj Kumar, (KHM), 36/13, on 26 Nov '14 at Kohima.

Fr Joy M T Fernandes SJ (KAR), 48/30, on 31 Dec '14 in Bangalore.

Sr Sanctamary, 83, sister of Fr. G. Packiaraj, on 05 Dec '14 in Periyakulam.

Mrs Jeyaseeli, 86, mother of Fr Cyril Antony Samy, on 24 Dec '14 in Chennai.

Mrs Innaciammal, 84, mother of Fr Kulandaisamy Antony, on 29 Dec '14 at Thinaikulam.

Mr Maria Joseph, 76, father of Fr Berchmans M.J., on 30 Dec '14 at Nagercoil.



Convent. Fr. Albert Joseph, the local CRI Secretary, organized a Christmas get together attended by more than 100 religious. Our Archbishop gave the message emphasizing the need for mutual collaboration between the religious and the diocese during this year of the consecrated life. The CRI also visited the St. Joseph's Hospice for the aged to share Christmas joy. - G. Packiaraj

XAVIER PROUD OF BRITTO

SXC: ST XAVIER'S College is proud of Dr. A. John de Britto, Associate Professor at the Department of Botany who has been appointed the Registrar of M S University. The Research Department of English organized a two-day UGC-sponsored National Conference on 09, 10 Dec. The Department of Chemistry organised a symposium sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry on Recent Trends in Chemical Sciences on 12 Dec.

XIBA: Morning prayer services, conducted by the students everyday on the themes of the social calendar, has become a regular feature. XIBA celebrated Human Rights Day on 10 Dec. Fr John Kumar, Director of Social Watch, Chennai, spoke on

the significance of Human Rights and the students took an oath to fight for Human Rights. The Smart People Club of XIBA organised a programme on "Alcohol Awareness" on 11 Dec. Mr. Jerald Sahaya Raj and his team from JMAADD, Nagercoil gave a presentation on the harmful effects of alcoholism. XIBA faculty and students celebrated Christmas with the mentally challenged children and aged parents of St. Anne's Rehabilitation Centre, Palayamkottai on 23 Dec.

B.Ed. College: The Human Rights Day was celebrated on 10 Dec. The prospective teachers of SXCE, shared the joy of Christmas along with the students of XIBA with mentally challenged children. School: On 02 Dec, the eve of the feast of St. Francis Xavier, our school celebrated 'Heritage Day' when a team of Jesuits headed by Fr Maria Augustine addressed the Catholic students on the heritage of the Society and on the life and mission of Jesuits. An action plan that evolved from the community orientation in the beginning of the academic year, it is the first of its kind in our history. Br Arockiasamy, Director of Campus Ministry, effectively coordinated the programme. Our

ARULAPPAN MANUEL, SJ

08.03.1925 – 06.12.2014

Br. Arulappan Manuel, 89/58, became a Jesuit after a struggle. His family wanted him to be a retail seller of clothes after an arranged marriage. They didn't know he had been nursing a deep desire to consecrate his life as a Jesuit. Ultimately the Creator God prevailed against the will of the family.



All along he was assigned the job of taking care of the food, clothing and healthcare of Jesuits, seminarians and the hostellers. He sustained and healed all those entrusted to him with a motherly care. Br Sadanandam, a Golden Jubilarian, said: "Whenever the young ones, including me, approached him for guidance, he affirmed each one of us with a sense of deep faith and of belonging to the Society." Frugality with minimum personal needs has been the hallmark of Arulappan. But he was extravagantly generous with others especially while providing food for them. All visitors to Arul Kadal will bear witness to his generous hospitality. Arulappan's entire life could be described as a rhythmic, precise movement in harmonious union with the Creator. His personal prayer, sleeping patterns, eating habits, writing accounts, physical exercises, conversations, or aesthetic engagement with the television - all had been organized in perfect harmony with predictable regularity.

For almost 20 years he distributed communion and blessings to thousands of pilgrims at the Besant Nagar Shrine and Lazaraus Parish in Chennai. In 1995, impressed by his pastoral service, priests requested the Archbishop to ordain him a Deacon. The Jesuit Provincial conveyed the Archbishop's desire to Fr General who proposed the necessary clerical studies. He couldn't consider them as he was in his 70s. But he happily continued his pastoral involvement till he breathed his last. He was buried at the Loyola College cemetery after the funeral Mass presided over by Fr Provincial with a stirring homily by Fr Elias.

- Maria Arul Raja, SJ

LOURDURAJ JOACHIM MARIA, SJ

08.04.1930 – 24.12.2014

Fr Lourduaraj was born on 08 April 1930 in Tiruchirapalli. He entered the Society in 1951. He was ordained a priest in the year 1963. His first appointment was as Minister at Campion school, Trichy and then he was a General Prefect



in Devakottai for a year. After his short stint as a teacher in De Britto, he was made Correspondent and Headmaster of St Xavier's High School, Palayamkottai. After his successful ministry there for a decade, he was asked to be the Headmaster at St. Mary's, Dindigul, St. Mary's, Madurai and De Britto, Devakottai in a row, thus completing an enviable record of 21 years as Head Master. His service as correspondent and headmaster was commendable. After retirement, he served as a Parish Priest for nearly ten years in Michaelpatnam and Muthupettai. After his parish ministry he came to LTI, and then went to Palayamkottai to be a spiritual guide of the diocese. He was back in LTI.

On 21 Dec as he was going to the nearby shop to buy some greeting cards he tripped and fell down near our main gate and broke his hip. He was rushed to the hospital and the orthopaedic surgeon decided on a surgery on 26 Dec. But God's will was different and Fr Lourduraj breathed his last at 03.00 am on 24 Dec after a massive heart attack. On 26 Dec morning it was taken to St. Mary's residence where many paid their last respects. His friend, Fr Louis Xavier, blessed the body and it was taken in a procession to St. Mary's Cathedral. At 10 a.m. the funeral Mass began, presided over by Fr. Provincial, and attended by relatives, several of his former staff and old students. Fr Lawrence Gabriel preached the homily. His nephew, Mr Raja and his close friend, Mr. Peter from St. Mary's Tope, Trichy and Fr. Maria Singarayar paid rich tributes to him as a holy priest and exemplary religious. He died on the eve of Christmas as if he was eager to celebrate the birth of the Saviour in heaven. May the Lord grant him eternal rest! - Valanarasu

school team, led by Fr Ignacy, the headmaster, won the first prize of Rs. 10,000/- in the District level Inter-school crib competition organised by KCG group of Institutions, Chennai. - William

TECHNICOLOR DREAM COAT

We, the Juniors at VIDYANIKETAN, Trivandrum, were blessed by the visitation of South Indian Provincials when we celebrated the feast of our patron, St John Berchmans. After the feast day Mass the Provincials met the juniors and the staff separately. After supper we staged a musical play, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat."

On 03 Dec we joined St. Xavier's college community for the feast day Mass. The second term exam on 16 - 23 Dec was a challenge to register academic progress. Advent was observed with special prayers, candles and the tree of Jesse. Fr Devadoss, our Superior, gave a much-appreciated Christmas message at Loyola School, Sreekarium. On Christmas eve we joined the St Xavier's community for carols, singing and dancing. After decorating the house, crib and the Christmas tree we went for the midnight Mass.

Now we are looking forward to a joyful and grace-filled Community Day celebration on 27-29 Dec. - A. Hansel

EDEN IN OUR GARDEN

Fr. Arul Sivan joined the community of THOZHAMA ILLAM after completing his ministry to the Tertians at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, for this year. He conducted a 2-day workshop on Leadership for 24 CIC Sisters. Fr Francis Sales gave an 8-day retreat to 16 Jesuit Brothers and 3 Scholastics at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai.

Fr Josephraj participated in a seminar on Karl Rahner at Arul Kadal. Fr G. Arockiaraj gave a 1-day orientation to the teachers of St Ignatius' High School, Kovalam and a 5-day retreat to the Kottar diocesan priests on 15-19 Dec. Bishop Peter Remigius of Kottar visited Thozhamai Illam on 18 while his priests were in retreat here. During the Christmas holidays 42 Sisters of St. Anne's, Trichy, are expected to make their annual retreat here. Besides his regular work as the Administrator and Treasurer, Fr M. Charles spends his time is trying to create a mini Eden in our garden.

- G. Arockiaraj

IGNATIUS GNANAPRAGASAM, SJ

02.07.1917 – 12.12.2014

It may not be an exaggeration to say that an epoch came to a close when the oldest Jesuit of Madurai Province – Fr G. Ignaci - passed away on 12 Dec '14 at Beschi Illam, Dindigul. Affectionately called Annan, he was born in Idaikattoor on 02 July 1917 to Periakottai Mr Gnanapragasam and Mrs Santhammal. He had 2 brothers and 2 sisters. As a young boy he had to labor in the field as it was the time of recession after World War I. He went to St Joseph's, Tiruchi for high school, and after his schooling, he joined the Society on 24 May 1939. During his regency, he was sent for M.A. Mathematics at St. Joseph's, and then sent to Rome where he did his licentiate in philosophy and his doctorate in theology. He was ordained in Rome on 12 July 1952. After his return to India he was sent to Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur to teach Philosophy, which he did for 40 long years, without a break. He took his final vows on 15 Aug 1956. The last 2 years of his teaching career he spent at Satya Nlayam, Chennai. When he retired, he was made the Vice- Provincial for Formation. He was one of the founders of the Regional Theologate, Arul Kadal and a pioneer of inculturation of theology.

In Shembaganur along with teaching philosophy he did pastoral ministry at Pannai Kadu, a remote village in the cusp of Palni hills. When his term as the Vice Provincial for Formation ended, he was sent to the Gonzaga Noviciate in Tindivanam, where he worked for 12 years. Then, he was sent to the Gonzaga aged Sisters' home in Cuddalore to be their chaplain.

Thus he gave 18 years of dedicated service to this Congregation, which was well acknowledged by their Superior General at the Funeral Mass. After an active life, rendering diverse services till his 95th year, he came to Beschi in 2012 to have his well-deserved rest. His health was still good enough for him to go for frequent walks and lead a normal life following all the community exercises. He would be the first to sign up for community outings or pilgrimages. His participation was always a source of encouragement and joy for the other members. He was a much sought-after confessor and counselor for priests, religious and lay people. He was an excellent correspondent never failing to reply to letters from his friends, relatives and former students.

The last days of his life were marked by great resignation to God's will and a certain eagerness to go to the Lord. He had a fall in his room and since then he began to feel weak and giddy. His food intake decreased. He was mostly in bed. This condition lasted for five days. On 10 Dec night, we shifted him to St Joseph Hospital. Oxygen was administered to him as he had breathing difficulty. His condition was deteriorating but he was conscious. On Friday, 12 Dec evening Fr Tagore, the Superior, met him and Fr Ignatius spoke to him about the renovated Grotto, which incidentally he had blessed and inaugurated. At the suggestion of Sr Sahayam, our Infirmarian, Fr Superior administered the sacrament of the sick. Fr Ignatius told him that



he should organize a Mass of thanksgiving for all that the Lord had done in his life. Around 8 15 p.m. Fr G. Ignatius breathed his last.

On 14 Dec the funeral Mass was a Thanksgiving Mass with the Gloria sung, as Fr Ignatius wanted it to be. Fr Sebastia L. Raj, the Provincial, was the main celebrant, who spoke of Annan's manifold services rendered joyfully in several institutions of the Province and to the Church of Tamil Nadu. He thanked the Lord for his long and edifying life that was a source of inspiration to thousands of young Jesuits and Sisters in formation. Fr Xavier Irudaya Raj, in his homily, highlighted his qualities of head and heart as a Professor of Philosophy, as a counselor and spiritual director and above all as a warm, unassuming, non-threatening and friendly human being. After Communion, Sr Stella, the General of the Gonzaga Sisters, Prof Xavier Raj, the retired French Professor of Loyola, Chennai, Fr A. Ambrose, and Mr Albert spoke of his life and contributions. Fr Valan read out Annan's letter dated 30 Nov. After the Mass the Provincial said the blessing and the procession wended its way through the newly laid alley to the cemetery. All along the way nature itself stood sentry during the last journey of this doyen of the Madurai Province. The final blessing at the grave was said by Fr Valan, and Annan Ignaci's mortal remains were interred in the grave while all prayed, sang and paid floral tributes.

- Frs Leo Tagore &
X. Irudayaraj, sj

15 *Sicknesses that may affect our work and life*

01. Feeling immortal, immune or indispensable. A Curia that doesn't criticise itself, doesn't update itself, that doesn't seek to improve itself is a sick body.

02. Working too hard. It is the disease of those who, like Martha in the Gospel, lose themselves in their work, inevitably neglecting what is better; sitting at Jesus' feet.

03. Becoming spiritually and mentally hardened. It's dangerous to lose that human sensibility that lets you cry with those who are crying, and celebrate with those who are joyful.

04. Over-planning. Preparing things well is necessary, but don't fall into the temptation of trying to close or direct the freedom of the Holy Spirit.

05. Working without coordination, like an orchestra that produces undisciplined noise. When the foot tells the hand, 'I don't need you,' or the hand tells the head, 'I'm in charge.'

06. Spiritual Alzheimer's. We see it in people who have forgotten their encounter with the Lord ... in those who depend completely on their here and now, on their passions, whims and manias, in those who build walls around themselves and become enslaved to the idols they have built with their own hands.

07. Indulging in rivalry or boastfulness. When one's appearance, the colour of one's vestments or honorific titles

become the primary objective of life.

08. Existential schizophrenia. It's a sickness that often affects those who, abandoning pastoral service, limit themselves to bureaucratic work, losing contact with reality and concrete people.

possessions. The apostle tries to fill an existential emptiness in his heart by accumulating material goods, not because he needs them but because he'll feel more secure.

14. Forming closed circles



09. The terrorism of gossip. It's the sickness of cowardly people who, not having the courage to speak directly, talk behind people's backs.

10. Glorifying one's bosses. It's the sickness of those who court their superiors, hoping for their benevolence ... they honour people who aren't God.

11. Being indifferent to others. When, out of jealousy or cunning, one finds joy in seeing another fall rather than helping him up and encouraging him.

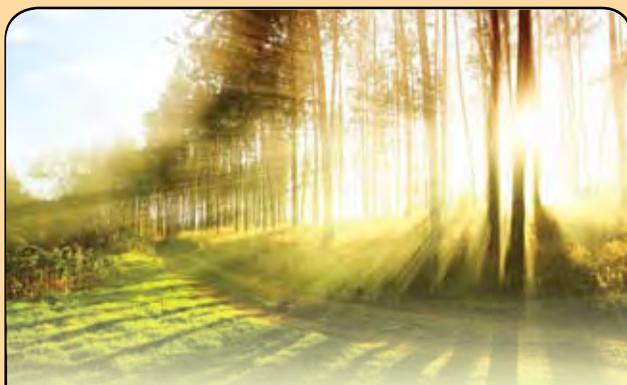
12. Having a funereal face. Theatrical severity and sterile pessimism are often symptoms of fear and insecurity. The apostle must be polite, serene, enthusiastic and happy and transmit joy wherever he goes.

13. Wanting material

that seek to be stronger than the whole. This sickness always starts with good intentions but as time goes by, it enslaves its members by becoming a cancer that threatens the harmony of the body and causes so much harm and scandals especially to our younger brothers.

15. Seeking worldly profit and showing off. It's the sickness of those who insatiably try to multiply their powers and to do so are capable of calumny, defamation and discrediting others, even in newspapers and magazines, naturally to show themselves as being more capable than others."

- **Pope Francis** in his speech to the Officials of the Holy See



SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

Eric Weiner comes up with an Epilogue to sum up all he had said in his *Geography of Bliss* (Black Swan, 2008). "My search is over: I've logged tens of thousands of miles." So what did all these travels reveal? What did he find regarding what everyone everywhere seeks - happiness? What will he like us to keep in mind so that we become happier individuals?

Is money important? "Money matters, but less than we think and not in the way that we think," he says. Abject poverty, with all its attendant evils, robs us of our dignity and happiness. We all need some money that will take care of our basic needs. But money loses its value beyond certain limits. It promises a lot, but deceives you.

In Qatar, an excessively rich country, he finds out something about all the comforts that money can buy you. "We equate happiness with comfort, but is there really any connection? Is there a point where excess comfort actually dilutes our contentment? What happens to a person's soul when he or she indulges in excessive, obscene amounts of craven luxury?"

Alright, money is not that important. What about the place? Are there perfect places that will make us happy? "The word "utopia" has two meanings. It means both "good place" and "nowhere".. The perfect person would be insufferable to live with; likewise, we wouldn't want to live in the perfect place, either.. Ruut Veenhoven, keeper of the (happiness) database, got it right when he said: "Happiness requires livable conditions, but not paradise."

Then what is important?

"Family is important. So are friends." This is indeed the finding of Weiner in all his extensive travels. "Social scientists estimate that about 70 percent of our happiness stems from our relationships - both quantity and quality - with friends, family, coworkers and neighbours. During life's difficult patches, camaraderie blunts our misery; during the good times, it boosts our happiness." - **M.A.J.A.**

(from *Lead, Kindly Light*)

Memories

SO MUCH IN SO SHORT A TIME

Through Fr. Trincal's account book we can check upto the last pie the cost of his enterprises. The erection of a 'chattram' to shelter the Catholics from the villages; a kitchen, a stable, the school and the orphanage buildings, all were the work of his first six months. We are left to wonder how he could manage so much in so short a time with very little to show as local income. The month of November, the best of the year according to those who know, brought some Rs. 8 as Mass stipend; the Christmas feast, so dear to all, gave a kanikkei (offerings) not amounting to Rs. 2 and the other sources of income, such as palm trees in the church enclosure, some kilns for bricks and the house rent collected from the Saliers' colony did not yield much either. True, these were the golden days when the rupee had a real market value. One rupee would fetch two bottles of claret and one of Mass wine. A good horse - not a pony, mind you, but a reformed cavalry horse from the Trichy Queen's own Regiment stables - would not cost more than twenty rupees, and a brand new carriage, cushion, upholstery, fresh varnish and all, would amount to Rs. 75 only.

Fr. Louis St. Cyr, the Superior at Dindigul, Fr. Rapatel, his right hand in the extensive missionary field whose range went from Marambadi to the end of the Combay valley, Frs. Hurlin (Rajakembiram), Perrin (Sarugani) and Compain (Sooseyapperpatnam) were those Fr. Trincal kept in touch with in the Marava. To them he sent regular supplies through 'the Madura Basket' which provided all the requisites of life like bread, potatoes, sugar and some cash. (*Caritas* 1943)



Congratulations

To the new Doctor, **Fr Ignacy Arockiasamy**, who successfully defended his Ph.D thesis in Visual Communication on 10 Dec at Jhansi, U.P.

Just for...



The scene in the film was tense, as the hero and the heroine argued aggressively. The audience sat enthralled. Suddenly the hero slapped the heroine on the face, and she began to cry. In the silence that followed, the voice of a little boy in the theatre was heard clearly: "Why doesn't she hit back like you do, Mummy?"