



# MNL



## Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

JULY 2013

(For Private Circulation)



### MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

#### NEED FOR RIGHT INNER DISPOSITION

Dear Brothers,

Two important statements by Pope Francis in June 2013, were particularly inspiring. I would therefore like to invite each one of us to give special attention to these and reflect on these seriously, as applicable to our own life and inner disposition. In a June 21 address to the apostolic nuncios, Pope Francis stressed the importance of finding bishops who will be good pastors and servants of the faithful in their dioceses. He urged them to be sure that “the candidates are pastors who are close to the people: fathers and brothers.” Speaking about the criteria to select suitable candidates, he further stated: “Be attentive that they aren’t ambitious, that they don’t seek the episcopate”.

On the same day, he spoke on a related matter, during his homily in the Mass. He advised

the people to seek “the only treasure” that you can bring with you to “after-life”, which is “what you have given to others”. He pointed out that whatever we might have achieved or acquired during life by way of wealth, position, status, etc. will be left behind, while what we have given to others – to individuals, people, the Church, the Congregation, will remain with us or will be attributed to us, even after our death.

The message of the Pope to the Bishops, Nuncios and also to every believer is very clear. During this year of Faith and the year of the Jubilee of the New Madurai Mission, I feel this message is highly relevant to each member of the Province. As this is the time of renewal of our own personal and spiritual life and our ministries, we are called upon to reflect seriously on the matters the Pope has touched upon. His message is very much in line with our own Ignatian values and principles. We are called upon to be people-centred rather than self-centred, to be service-minded rather than status-minded, and make ourselves available (to give) rather than trying to acquire position or

status for ourselves.

After our efforts during the past two years for personal and spiritual renewal, we have launched upon a new challenge of renewing and reorienting our ministries, so that these are in tune with the real need of the people. Both for our personal and spiritual renewal and for the renewal of our ministries, we need the same attitude and inner disposition. As we have just begun the new academic year and are busy with our GBMs, let us take the challenge thrown up by the Holy Father as a challenge to each one of us personally, and respond to his invitation to be people-centred, service-centred and other-centred in our inner disposition, plans and action. May the Novena and the Feast of our Founder, Ignatius of Loyola, serve as a good occasion to interiorize deeply these values.

I wish everyone a Happy Feast of our Holy Father Ignatius!

Fraternally,  
*Sebasti L. Raj. SJ*  
Provincial

## Provincial's Programme:



### JULY

- 01 GBM: Social Action Commission – Beschi Illam
- 02 GBM: Pastoral Commission – Beschi Illam
- 03 GBM: Youth Commission, St. Joseph's, Trichy
- 05 GBM: TVET Commission -- LTI, Madurai
- 06 TNBC-TNPCRI Joint Meeting, Madurai
- 07 Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Madurai Archdiocese, Madurai
- 09 GBM: Communication Commission – Beschi Illam
- 13 GBM: Higher Education Commission – Loyola College, Chennai
- 14 GBM: Brothers' Commission – Dhyana Ashram – Chennai
- 15-17 Guntur: Spirituality Workshop for JMJ Sisters
- 21 GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission – Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 22 GBM: Finance Commission -- Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 23 Meeting with Porticus Representatives – Loyola, Chennai
- 25 Inauguration of Jubilee Celebrations in Oriyur
- 27 Consult
- 28 GBM: Secondary School Commission – St Mary's, Madurai
- 29 GBM: Formation Commission – Beschi Illam

### AUGUST

- 02-04 TNPCRI Meetings at LUMEN, Tindivanam
- 05 Visitation: Tindivanam, Pondicherry
- 07-09 Visitation: LTI
- 10 Meeting: Principals and Secretaries – AAC, Karumathur
- 11 Meeting: Headmasters and Correspondents – St. Mary's, Madurai
- 13-14 Visitation: Kalangarai, Nagapattinam
- 15 Last Vows of Fr. Irudayaraj, Kalangarai, Nagapattinam
- 16 Meeting: Commission Coordinators -- Beschi Illam
- 17 Meeting: LS/TL and Commission Coordinators -- Beschi Illam
- 18 Meeting: LS/TL – Beschi Illam – Consult in the afternoon
- 19-20 Visitation: Poondy, Vilangudi
- 21 Visitation: Kumbakonam
- 22-23 Visitation: IDEAS
- 25 Meeting: Campus Ministers – Beschi Illam, Dindigul
- 27 Visitation: Kadamalaikundu (morning)
- 28-31 Retreat for Administrators of IHM Sisters – SHC, Shembaganur  
Visitation: Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur

### Provincial's Trip Abroad:

Fr Provincial undertook a three-week foreign trip from June 01 to 22, 2013, during which he visited the United Kingdom, Brazil and Guyana. In the United Kingdom, he met three of our men studying there – Sch. Britto Arockiam (for Guyana), Kilbert Savarimuthu (for Sri Lanka) and Richard Hiruthayaraj. He also met the Provincial, (Fr. Dermoet Preston), the Socius, (Fr. Chris Boles), the Coordinator in charge of Formation, (Fr. Andrew Cameron-Mowat) and the former Provincial (Fr. Michael Holman), who is the President of the Heythrop College at present.

In Brazil, he met our Scholastic missionary, Cyril Suresh and also the Provincial of Brazil and a few others in the theology Faculty there.

In Guyana, he visited some mission centres, where the indigeneous people live, most of whom are Catholics, though small in number. He also visited the urban areas in the East coast – Georgetown and nearby towns. He met three of our men working there – Fr. Edwin Thadheu, Fr. Justin Prabhu and Sch. Maria Gohil Doss – and also interacted with the Indian Jesuits who are working there. Besides, he had a long discussion with the Regional Superior of Guyana, Fr. Paul Martin, and discussed the possibilities of further collaboration.

On his way to South America, he had a brief stop-over in USA. His plan to visit our men in Rome could not take place, as there was a problem in getting the Italian visa on time.

## Announcements



### New Secretary

Fr POSA has appointed **Fr Vincent Sekhar** the Assistency Secretary for Jesuit Secretariat for Dialogue (JSD).

### JMAADD Advisor

**Fr. Jayapathy Francis** has been appointed Province Technical Advisor for JMAADD. He will coordinate the activities and programmes of JMAADD in the Province.

### Facilitator of Commissions and Province Webmaster:

**Fr. Joseph Christie**, Province Development Director, will facilitate the functioning of Commission Coordinators on behalf of the Provincial. He will also serve as the Province Webmaster.

### Temporary Status

**Fr. Stanislaus Mariadoss**: Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, during his sabbatical.

**Fr. Paul Pragash**: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, till he completes his Ph.D. Studies.

### Regret

We regret forgetting to publish in the MNL the news of Fr General appointing **Fr Danis Ponniah** as the Rector of St Xavier's, Palayamkottai. Fr Danis took charge on 30 May '13.

### Left

Novice Augustine Daniel left the Society on 13 May '13.

### New email & cell phone

Fr Joe Srinivasan has a new email id: [joesrinivasan@gmail.com](mailto:joesrinivasan@gmail.com)

Fr Paulraj Packiam has a new cell phone no.: 94884 32237



## Events



### CHENNAI MISSION GETS A NEW SUPERIOR

More than 150 Jesuits from all parts of Tamil Nadu were present at the Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr

'centre of our life and mission.'

After the Mass he was felicitated by Fr Victor Arulappan, the out-going Mission Superior,

Mission and the Province but also for his personal friendship and concern. He went on to emphasize three points: 1. All our ministries should be people-centered. 2. We have only one



Sebasti L. Raj, the Provincial, at Loyola College, Vettavalam, on 30 June '13 when the new Chennai Mission Superior, Fr L. Jebamalai Irudayaraj (called Jebamalai Raja) took charge. In his homily he promised to take the mission forward towards the liberation of the oppressed in the way that Jesus followed. He termed the new responsibility as one loaded with both opportunities to serve and challenges to face. He invited everyone to see the world as Jesus did and imitate Him in reaching out to the marginalized masses, by having them as the

who thanked all those who helped him, especially Fr Maria Joe and the Consultors. Fr Joe Mike, Superior, Kuppayanalloor, stressed that we should work not merely for the economic upliftment of Dalits but for their progress in all areas of life. Fr Francis Jayapathy, Rector, Loyola, recalled the life and mission of Fr F.M. Ignatius, his grand uncle, who worked for the people with such commitment that they fought with his Jesuit superiors when he died to take his remains to their village.

Fr Provincial, in his concluding remarks, thanked Fr A. Victor not merely for his significant contribution to the Chennai

identity – that of Jesuits. 3. Our goals and plans must be God-centered. He welcomed and felicitated Fr Raja, and assured him and the Mission of his full support and wished that the various institutions we have started in the area should be further developed and that we should extend our service to Dioceses where our presence now is insignificant. Later at the Jesuit residence he thanked Fr Iggi, Superior, Vettavalam and the Jesuit community and the college staff for having been gracious hosts and splendid organizers. - A. Leolin



## Announcements

### IGFA - PSAC Seminar

IGFA, in collaboration with the Province Spiritual Animation Committee, has organized a seminar on the theme: "Covenant with Creation and Lessons for Today from the Jesuit Restoration-1814".

**Venue:** Dhyana Ashram, Chennai.

**Dates:** 19-20 July.

**Resource Persons:** Fr. Kasi Rayappa & Fr. Thamburaj, SJ.

Seats are still available. Please contact Fr. Jerry Rosario or Br. Sadanandam at Dhyana Ashram.

### Sisters Help the Sick and Elderly:

As recommended by the Province Health Care Committee, Fr Provincial has made arrangements for the services of Sisters in taking care of the sick and elderly Jesuits both at Beschi Illam and at St. Mary's, Madurai.

Two Sisters from the Congregation of the Pious Disciples of the Divine Master (PDDM) - Sr Sahaya Mary and Sr Annie Joseph - have already taken charge in Beschi from 1 June 2013. While Sr Sahaya Mary is taking care of the sick and elderly Jesuits, Sr Annie Joseph is assisting in the Province Treasurer's Office.

Similarly two Sisters from the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, Tuticorin, will serve at St. Mary's, Madurai from the middle of July 2013. While one will be taking care of the sick and elderly Jesuits, the other will work in the school.

### NEW HOME FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"Sagunam maruppom, sarithiram padaipom" was the theme of the rally and convention organized on 22 June 2013, by **Kalangarai, Nagapattinam** to commemorate the International Widows' Day. About 600 women attended the rally. Ms. Pandima Devi, an advocate from Chennai and Ms. Revathy, a social activist from Nagapattinam, enkindled the fire of liberation in the hearts of the participants by their rousing speeches.

Efforts are on to shift St Joseph's Community College, run in a rented building since Sept 2005, to our own new campus. - **Velankanni**

### TO LIBERATION THROUGH EDUCATION

Nearly 370 Dalit students from 6 civil districts of northern Tamilnadu were trained and helped by **Paathai Centre, Vallam**, to realize their potential during the summer camp it conducted this summer collaborating with DHRC office bearers, IACM Cadres and Gonzaga Sisters. The theme of the programme was 'Through education to liberation.' All the 10th std students in our hostel have passed in the recent SSLC examinations scoring very good marks. On 12 May we bid farewell to Sch Alton and thanked him for his wonderful service as a regent last year and wished him good luck for his theological studies. On 18 June we had the Holy Spirit Mass for the academic year 2013-14 as we welcomed into Paathai Hostel 6 new 9th std students

who are from our ministry places. Fr Dass conducted an orientation session to our Pre-novices at Vilangudi on 21, 22 June. - **S. Regis**

### FAREWELL TO LTTI

Thanks to the hard work of Fr Alphonse William, the HM and his team, **Loyola School, Kuppayanallur**, obtained 100% results in 12th Std and 99% results in 10th Std exams. The last batch of our Loyola Teacher Training Institute (LTTI) has said farewell to the institution after their successful annual examinations. The farewell Mass was celebrated by the Superior, Fr Joe Mike and during the Mass, the correspondent of LTTI, Br Irudayam, thanked the staff and trainees for their service to the institution. Br Irudayam will be the Assistant Headmaster and teach in the school from this academic year. The academic year 2013 - 2014 began with a fruitful orientation for the staff of our school by Fr Kumar Raja from Tuticorin and Fr Albert Joseph SJ on 8 June. Although Sch Magesh has left, the arrival of Sch Lawrence has infused new blood into the community. Karpaga Vinayaga Medical College offered free dental check up for the students. JMAADD, Kuppayanalloor, organized the Summer Reunion -2013 of the families of Recovering Alcoholics, which turned out to be a rare occasion for more than 80 participants to motivate themselves anew

to move to a more serene and sober future. As a new venture, a cultural troupe of 15 Recovering Alcoholics attended a 10-day training programme in street theatre and is now performing street plays in neighbouring villages during weekends with the aim of making people aware that alcoholism is a serious disease that affects one's body, mind and the soul and so those affected need treatment. JMAADD - K is organizing an intensive treatment program for the Relapsed Alcoholics.

- Lawrence

### LEARNING AT THE ARCHIVES

This summer Fr I. Raj, our PCF, sent six of us scholastics from **Satya Nilayam** to learn the rich heritage of our Province under the guidance of Fr Edward Jegannathan, Assistant Director of the Archives at SHC, Shembaganur. During our stay at the SHC, Fr Edward explained to us the five sections in our archives: the printed books, the manuscripts, the palm-leaves (olei chuvadigal), the annual letters and the parish diaries and finally the media materials - CDs, DVDs, and photographs. We also read about some great personalities of our Province - Frs Louis Saint Cyr, Adrien Caussanel, Jerome D'Souza, Bro K.V. Peter and Lawrence Sundaram. The massive collection of materials, especially on our pastoral, educational and social apostolates inspired us. We wish scholastics get

a chance every year to learn about our heritage through our Province Archives.

- M. Valan

### FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART

The new academic year began at **Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur**, with a Eucharistic celebration on 2 June '13 at which Fr Elias took charge as the new Acting Superior and 21 Tertians from different



provinces were welcomed. The celebration of the titular feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus inspired us to work with ever-burning hearts to proclaim his love. The energetic PEAK team, with its spirited new director, Fr Elias had an orientation session conducted by Fr Kulandai.

- G. Raphael Alex

### 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ST JOHN DE BRITTO'S CANONIZATION

On 7 June, we at the Arulanandar Shrine and School, Oriyur had the community orientation, led by Fr.P.S Arul, our new Superior. On 14 June, Fr. Kumar Raja from Thoothukudi Diocese gave an orientation for the staff members on the spirituality of teachers. On 15 June, Jesuit schoolmen organized group dynamics for the staff members at Amaithiam,

Devakottai. It promoted understanding and unity among the staff. We celebrated the 66th anniversary of the canonization of St John de Britto on 20-22 June. On 22 the New Adoration Chapel was blessed. On 23 June, a charismatic preacher from Colombo, Mr Nicholas Kishok, accompanied by Fr Darwin, conducted a healing service that drew a big crowd. The Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated by Fr P.S. Arul on 24 June to mark the launch of the new academic year.

- Robinson A.

### PILGRIMAGE TO PREPARE FOR THE LONG RETREAT

**Tertianship, Shembaganur**, began on 1 June evening with 21 Tertians from 14 Provinces from India and Sri Lanka with the loving accompaniment of the Instructors, Fr Michael Alosanai (MDU) and Fr Arul Sivan (MDU). It was formally inaugurated on 2 June, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus. The Sacred Heart College Jesuit Community warmly welcomed us with a grand dinner that evening, inviting all the Jesuits of Kodai hills. It was a good occasion for us to meet them all. Our first expedition was to Kodai hills on 9 June. The Assistant Director of the Province Archives, Fr Edward Jeganathan shared with us the history of Sacred Heart College and the great Jesuit mission in Kodai hills. To prepare for the Long Retreat, we went on a pilgrimage

to Vedaalai, the place of martyrdom of the Venerable Antony Criminali, the first Jesuit Martyr, St John de Britto's Shrine at Oriyur and to Fr Louie Leveil's place at Sarugani. It was spiritually very enriching. Our thanks to all the Jesuits of St Mary's, IDEAS, LTI, De Britto and Oriyur for their cordial hospitality. Kingsley (MDU) and Sahayanathan (SL) made all the arrangements for the pilgrimage and Kodai trip successfully. We and our Instructors require your valuable prayers as we will be making our Spiritual Exercises from 28 June till 28 July.

- A. Kingsley

### **FRESHNESS IN THE CAMPUS**

On 30 May, 2013, Fr Danis Ponniah took over as the new Rector of **St Xavier's Institutes, Palayamkottai** from Fr Britto Vincent at a solemn Community Mass. While Fr Britto welcomed the new Rector and thanked the Jesuit community, the latter listed the remarkable achievements of the former and expressed his gratitude to him on behalf of the community for all his accomplishments during his tenure. Anyone stepping into the campus of St Xavier's cannot but experience the freshness brought about by the freshers in the community, school and college. St Xavier's

College and School witnessed an unprecedented surge in the rush for admissions this year. In the college the undergraduate courses attracted a huge crowd of people who waited in a long, serpentine queue. The hard work of Fr Ignacy, our Headmaster and his team has achieved 99.8 % and 100 % passes in the H.S.L.C and S.S.L.C. public examinations respectively.

- Baskar

### **NEW DIRECTOR FOR GANSOVILLE**

Fr A. Anbarasan Savariraj was formally inducted into **Gansoville** (Gandhian Society Villages) Association as a member and unanimously elected as the Full-time Secretary at its General Body Meeting held under the chairmanship of Dr Victor A. Singarayar, the Vice-President, at Gansoville, Devakottai on 30 May '13. The members of the General Body congratulated Fr Anbarasan, the new Secretary and thanked Fr Stanislaus Asirvatham, the outgoing Secretary for his commendable service.

### **FROM PARIS WITH LOVE**

This is our first letter from **Paris**. We left Chennai in the evening of 14 June and safely landed in the country of our forefathers the following day. From the moment we came out of the airport we could experience the universality of the Society.

There were a Cambodian priest and a French scholastic waiting to receive us. We live in the community of Pedro Arrupe at Vanves, a place slightly away from the center of Paris, along with Jesuit students of theology from ten countries who study at Centre Sèvres. There are also some retired Jesuits in the house. This is the first time that this community has three Indian scholastics and they are very happy about it. Our Superior, Fr Joseph Michel, said on the very first day of our arrival: 'ten nationalities but one home'. He and others in the community make us feel this oneness by the love and interest they show us.

We begin the special French course designed for all the new comers from foreign lands on 1 July and for this we are moving to another Jesuit community in Paris. This will last for a month after which we will be divided into groups and sent to two different Jesuit communities outside Paris. While John is going to a place called Montpillier, I am going to Grenoble and this, I hear, is very close to La Salette. I shall indeed make it a point to visit this holy place and pray for everyone in our Province. We ask every one of you to remember us in your prayers.

- Sahayaraj Vijayan

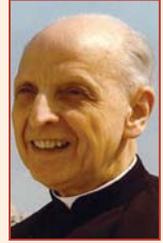
**Abide with the Lord**



Mrs Regina Mary, 76, elder sister of Br Antony Pichai, on 6 June 13.



# La Storta: St Ignatius and Fr Arrupe



**L**a Storta is a small suburb some ten miles to the north from the centre of Rome. In times past, pilgrims and other travelers would make a last stop there, before entering the city; and among the facilities made available to them was a tiny wayside oratory. According to a reliable tradition, it was in this oratory that Ignatius of Loyola had a very special spiritual experience in November 1537, as he was coming to offer to the Pope the services of a group of young men that had gathered around him, and that would soon decide to organize themselves into the Society of Jesus and choose him as the first Superior General.

What was this experience that Ignatius had?

Diego Lainez was not only the companion and confidant of Ignatius on the journey to Rome, but also succeeded him as Superior General. On the first anniversary of his election, Lainez gave a talk to a large gathering of Jesuits and he touched on a favourite topic of his day, the name of the Society of Jesus. Someone in the audience took careful notes which have been preserved, and this makes it possible to determine with fair accuracy what he had to say about La Storta:

“The initiative in adopting this name came from our Father... While we were coming to Rome on the road from Siena, our Father was often moved spiritually, and especially at the most holy Eucharist, which he received daily, administered either by Master Peter Faber or by myself -who both said Mass daily while he did not. He said to me that he felt that God the Father had imprinted in his heart these words: ‘I will be favourable to

you in Rome.’ And our Father, not knowing what they might mean, said: ‘I do not know what might become of us; maybe we shall be crucified in Rome.’ Then another time, he said he felt he saw Christ with the cross on his back, and the Eternal Father by his side, saying to him: ‘I want that you take this man as your servant.’ And so Jesus took him, saying: ‘I want that you serve us.’ Because of this, conceiving great devotion for this most holy name, he wished to call the fellowship the Society of Jesus.”

This is the account that Ignatius has authenticated with his testimony, though it differs markedly from his own. There is however no incompatibility. What can be deduced by putting them together is this: Most significant for Ignatius - and deeply impressed in his mind and heart, as can be seen from his spiritual diary - was his being placed with Christ through the initiative of the Father and in answer to his earnest prayers to the Virgin Mary. But this fundamental experience could be explicited along the lines of his growing realization that total loyalty to Christ was loyalty to the Church, and loyalty to the Church was loyalty to the Pope.

But the oratory at La Storta where this experience occurred seems to have lapsed into oblivion for some decades; there is no mention of it in early Jesuit records. Then the Duke of Bracciano, in whose territories lay La Storta, decided to have the oratory replaced by a proper chapel. As he did not complete his project, the Jesuits were called in to do so; they readily obliged, and eventually a chapel in honour of the recently canonized St. Ignatius was solemnly inaugurated in 1631... But a bombardment during the Second World War left it just a heap

of ruins. There was a quick effort at reconstruction, with such material as was available in those difficult days.

One of the cherished plans of Fr Pedro Arrupe was to make it in some measure worthy of the precious memories it enshrines. And he had the satisfaction of seeing this realized just as GC 33 met to elect his successor.

What will remain graven in the minds and hearts of the delegates at GC 33 is the farewell addressed to them by Fr Arrupe, after they had regretfully accepted his inevitable resignation and then gathered at La Storta for a solemn liturgy to thank God for his years in office. The homily of Fr Arrupe on that occasion, read out on his behalf, was his last public utterance; and it may well be regarded as his testament, bequeathing to the Society his own intimate perception of the Ignatian experience of being placed with Christ:

“What was for Ignatius the culmination and summing up of so many graces received since his conversion, was for the Society a pledge that it would share in the graces of the Founder in the measure in which it remained faithful to the inspiration that gave it birth. I pray that this celebration that is for me a farewell and a conclusion be for you and for the whole Society represented here, the beginning of a new period of service, with fresh enthusiasm. May the collaboration of the whole Society in the renovation of the chapel of La Storta be an abiding symbol and an unflinching inspiration for a united effort at spiritual renewal, trusting in the graces whose memory is enshrined in La Storta. I shall remain at your side with my prayers.”

- Parmananda R. Divarkar, SJ

(from *Ignis*, Vol 3, 1985)



## Experience

### SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

At age of 15 I read the life of St John-Mary Vianney, the holy curé of Ars, who noticed a peasant seated in the church every day for about half an hour who told him, 'What do I do? Well, He looks at me, I look at Him!' I wanted to imitate that peasant, but I could spend only about ten or five minutes, but I did it every day. It was during these moments that I felt Jesus called me to be His priest! No mysterious voice, no apparition!

So when I was 18 I requested to be admitted among Jesuit novices. After the period of probation, at age 20, kneeling before Jesus in the Eucharist I made the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. After three years as a teacher, I studied theology for three years in Rome, Belgium and France. Ordained a priest at 31, I was a teacher, priest-in charge of fellow-Jesuits, an editor of a monthly in Tamil on social questions.

At age 63 I thought I was making a friendly visit to my Provincial who was sick. Before I left his room half an hour later, I had committed myself to go to Zambia as a missionary! For about three years I was a vicar in a parish and then I prepared the launching of a Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection. While nearing 66, I received a letter from the Jesuit Provincial in Paris: he invited me over to La Reunion – the French island that had people of Indian origin who make a combination of Hinduism and Catholicism. He thought as an Indian Tamil who knew French I could serve them. And here I am for the last 23 years!

In different parishes of our island and specially at the Jesuit Residence of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Saint Denis I have offered the simple priestly services of encouragement to persons in search of a listener, in search of friendship with the Lord Jesus. In other words, I have tried to do what a priest is called to: wipe the tears of a few persons in this vale of tears, conscious all the time that God alone can wipe all tears from all eyes - join others in their particular paths in life, hoping to lead them to the Way that Christ is - sail with others in the seas of sorrows... inspired by the firm hope that Jesus is waiting for us on the other shore of Existence - listen to the sorrowful stories of fellow humans and whisper to them the message of hope in Christ.

Having celebrated my 89<sup>th</sup> birthday in May I recall the friendly question a woman once asked me: 'Father, are you afraid of death?' I said, 'No' immediately, but later I acknowledged the traces of fear that linger. A prayer that my mother taught me when I was seven, and which I recite daily after communion, offers me the psycho-spiritual strength to accept life and death. 'My Lord-God, whatever be the kind of death You have designed for me, I accept it with all the pain and sorrow linked with it. I welcome it whole-heartedly in the serenity of my heart.' However, sure that God understands how the human spirit clings tenaciously to its earthly existence, I add these words: 'My God, do not be in a hurry to call me! After all, You will have me for all eternity!'

- Arul Varaprasadam, SJ

## Memories

### WHERE DOES 'MALABAR' COME FROM?

Marco Polo, the Venetian traveller of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, called Tamil Nadu 'Maabar' meaning 'Transit', as the trade route from Europe to China crossed that region by land from the Arabian sea to the Bay of Bengal. That led the Portuguese to name the missions of the Travancore-Tinnevely coast and Madurai 'Maabar or Malabar missions.' They even called the people of Tamil Nadu 'Malabars' and their language 'Malabar'. At the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century all the Jesuits working in all the territories of Portugal in the East - except that of Goa - were brought under a separate Province named the Malabar Province. The Madurai Mission was, therefore, under the Malabar Provincial, whose headquarters were at Cochin, till that place was sacked by the Dutch in 1655. After the fall of Cochin, his headquarters were at Topo (Pulianthoppu) on the South Travancore coast.

- S. Ponnad, SJ  
Caritas, Jan 1976



## Just for...

As the parish priest, notorious for his l...o...n...g sermons, began the Sunday Mass, he thought he should explain to his congregation the little cut on his face which he suffered while shaving before the Mass. "Dear brothers and sisters," he said, "today I thought of the sermon and cut my face." When he went to the sacristy after the Mass, he found a note on the table. It said, "Father, hereafter think of your face and cut your sermon."



## New Releases

### Gujarat Sahitya Prakash:

1. Hedwig Lewis SJ, **Jesuit Saints Without Paint**, 172 pages, Rs 160/.
2. Pablo Gil SJ, **Jesus My Friend**, 160 pages, Rs 120/.
3. Michael Amaladoss SJ, **Quest for God**, 288 pages, Rs 200/.