



Madurai Jesuits' News Letter

MNL

JULY 2015



(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial



Call for Relationships and Reconciliation

Dear Brothers,

The recent encyclical of our dear Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, is a call for a proper relationship with nature. The recent letter of Fr General to the whole Society, regarding our duty to protect minors and vulnerable adults, is a call for a proper relationship with minors and vulnerable adults. The recent letter of the Provincial of South Asia on 'Our Strengths and Viruses' is another reminder to us regarding proper relationships. In my recent circular, inviting the communities to reflect on the ways for us to build our communities through appreciation, encouragement, recognition of one another and support to each other, is a concrete call for building proper relationships. In all these, in addition to the call to build relationships, there is an implied call to bring about reconciliation wherever or whenever that is needed to build relationships.

Our relationships are of three types – with one another, with nature and with God. Whenever these relationships are properly maintained and built we are able to move forward and we find life meaningful and enjoyable. When our relationships are affected in any way, our life becomes miserable and even meaningless. But our life can become meaningful and joyful once again, if we seek reconciliation and mend our relationships with others, with nature and with God. Thus reconciliation relationships are two sides of the same coin. We need relationships all the way and whenever or wherever they are broken or violated, the only remedy is reconciliation. Reconciliation resurrects our relationships.

We have many sources to inspire us, remind us, appeal to us. Ultimately, it is the individual who has to respond and build relationships. Moreover, we need to assist others consciously in building relationships and promoting reconciliation. A constructive approach in our personal life, in our ministries, and in guiding and helping people will go a long way in building relationships and bringing about reconciliation. In the same way, we need to respect, love and protect nature, as nature itself is protecting us and providing us with what we need for our life here on this planet. The foundation of all relationships, obviously, is our relationship with the Almighty. We need to ensure that our foundational relationship is alive, active, strong and firm. Once that is ensured, it will be easy for anyone to build relationships with human beings or with nature. Without that foundational relationship that implies reconciliation with God, no one can really build genuine relationships at the other two levels – with humans or with nature. So, the call of the day is that each one of us should strive to grow in these three levels of relationships and whenever necessary we must have the courage and humility to get reconciled. This may imply seeking forgiveness from others or generously forgiving others and we should be prepared for both. If we do these, we can become true sources of constructive and helpful relationships and inspiring promoters of reconciliation wherever needed.

Fraternally,
Sebastião L. Raj, SJ
Provincial



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME:

Announcements

JULY

- 05 Consult
- 08 GBM: Youth Commission – Maduralaya
- 11 GBM: Secondary School Commission – Maduralaya
- 12-14 TNBC-TNPCRI Meeting -- Coimbatore
- 17 Visitation: Maduralaya
- 18 GBM: Higher Education Commission – St Joseph's, Trichy
- 19 GBM: Spirituality & Dialogue Commission – DA, Chennai
- 20 Visitation: Maduralaya (continued)
- 21 GBM: Formation Commission – Maduralaya
- 23 GBM: Finance Commission – Maduralaya
- 25 GBM-ISI, Bangalore
- 26 GBM: Dalit Commission – Maduralaya

AUGUST

- 02 Visitation: Poondy Matha Shrine
- 02-03 Visitation: VMI, Vilangudi
- 04 Visitation: Kumbakonam
- 04-05 Visitation: Kalangarai, Nagapattinam
- 07-08 Tindivanam: Assembly of TNPCRI Major Superiors
- 09 Tindivanam: Meeting with TNPCRI Local Units
- 10 Visitation: Tindivanam
- 10-11 Visitation: AHAL, Kilpennathur
- 14-17 Mumbai: JCSA Restructuring Committee Meeting
- 19 Gansville GBM -- Maduralaya
- 22-23 Meeting: LS/TL and Coordinators – Maduralaya
- 23 Consult (in the afternoon)
- 24-27 Visitation: SHC, Shembaganur and Kodai Hills
- 29 Ordination: SJC, Trichy
- 30 Maduralaya: Meeting of South Zone Provincials and Sec. Edu. Coordinators
- 31 Assistancy Novice Masters Meet – Thozhamai Illam

Return:

Fr Rajanayagam Saleth has returned to the Loyola College Community on 06 June 2015, after his prolonged Leave of Absence from the Society. Welcome back Fr. Rajanayagam.

Housing Loan Project:

The Province has appointed a Committee, consisting of Frs. **Mariadas S**, (Convenor) Aloysius Irudayam, Thomas Jeyaseelan, Maria Joe and Leolin Arockia Doss, to study the feasibility of giving Housing Loans to the permanent Domestic Workers in our communities. The Committee is expected to submit its Report and Recommendations by the beginning of August 2015.

Jubilee Housing Project:

The Jubilee Housing Project will take off very soon and it is hoped that the construction of the 200 houses will be completed in two years from now. The Committee members – Frs **Henry Jerome** (Convener), Arockiaraj Raphael, Maria Joe, Arockiam Kulandai and Michael Raj L. will initiate the necessary steps in order to realize this Jubilee project of the province.

Yagoo for Leveil:

Fr Provincial has given Fr **Yagoo Y. Sandanam** an additional responsibility – assisting the diocese of Sivagangai in its efforts towards the cause of Fr Leveil, SJ.

JULY

- 01 Meeting of Treasurers in Mission area
- 02 Meeting of Tribals and Migrants Committee
Eve: GBM of IDCR
- 03 Kuppayanallur
- 05 Province Consult
- 08-09 Tamil Iraiyeal Mandram
- 11-12 Ceyrac Ministries, Tindivanam
- 13-14 Thirumanur Parish - Silver Jubilee
- 18 IGFA, Dhyana Ashram
- 23 Ranipet
- 24-25 Dharmapuri & Salem
- 26 Sentharappatti
- 31 Feast of St Ignatius, Ooty

CHENNAI MISSION SUPERIOR'S PROGRAMME

AUGUST

- 01 Mettuppalayam
- 02 Makkampalayam
- 08 Inauguration of Silver Jubilee of Chennai Mission at Karuveppampooni
- 09 Mission Consult
- 17-19 Social Analysis, Madavaram
- 22-23 Superiors' Meet and Province Consult, Dindigul
- 29 Ordination, Trichy

Transfers:

Fr. Provincial has made the following appointments / transfers:

- **Fr Joseph Michael** has been appointed the Acting Superior of St. Mary's, Dindigul. He will also be the Correspondent of the H.S. School and the Primary School
- **Fr. Sebastian Crossian** has been transferred to Loyola College, Chennai, from where he will carry on his ministry for the migrants
- **Br Aloysius Arulraj L.** has been transferred from Loyola College Community to Berchmans Illam where he will be the Prefect of Health.

Boundaries redrawn:

Responding to a request from the Provinces of **Delhi** and **Patna**, Fr General, through a decree, has redrawn the boundaries of the two Provinces: "With effect from 12 June 2015, the geographical area comprising five dioceses of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, namely, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Allahabad, Lucknow and Jhansi will henceforth fall within the territorial area of the Patna Province, while the Delhi Province will retain responsibility for the geographical area comprising the other four dioceses, namely, Agra, Bareilly, Bijnor and Meerut.

IGFA annual colloquium - 2015

will take place from 0900 am to 0500 pm on Saturday, 18 July '15 at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai focussing on 'Ignatian spirituality at the cross roads.' Sessions will be handled by Fr **Pavulraj Michael, SJ**, Gregorian University. If you wish to participate please register your name before 15 July with Jerry (044 2464 2821 / jerrysj1@gmail.com)

Spirituality: Seminar & Course

Seminar on Ignatian Discernment

Dates: 15, 16 August '15. Resource Person: **Fr Pavulraj, SJ**, Gregorian University, Rome. Venue: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai.

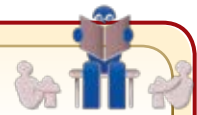
Course on Psychological Processes in Retreats

Dates: 26 – 30 September '15 (5 days from 9.30 am – 4.30 pm daily). Resource Person: **Fr Dudley Mendonca, SJ**, former Director, Sadhana Institute, Lonavala. Venue: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai.

Those who would like to attend should contact Fr Devadhas Muthiah at devadhasm@gmail.com. First come, first served. So hurry up!

New:

Fr Louis Adaikala Raj's new mobile no: 94444 51814.



Newer ways of teaching

On 01 June in the presence of all the village leaders and the college officials of **AAC** Fr Xavier Vedam passed on the principal's baton to Fr Basil Xavier. The assembled hailed him for his remarkable contribution to AAC that helped it reach newer heights in several areas. Prior to his beginning his new ministry Fr Basil sought everyone's blessing.

Arrupe Illam, AAC, welcomed the new members Frs Jayaseelan Saminathan, S. P. Savarimuthu, Schs Arockia Amalan, Karlin Viju and Tony Ajith. At the two-day orientation programme we had to answer two questions: 'Who are we?' on the first day on the second-day 'What are we to others?' We also presented our plans to carry out the mission entrusted to us. Our programme included an evening outing to Kumbakarai Falls.

The teaching staff members and especially the newly recruited ones appreciated our two-day staff orientation programme prior to the start of the academic year. Fr Thomas Alex, Principal, St Xavier's College of Education, Palayamkottai taught them newer ways of teaching. Fr Godwin Rufus, our new Campus Minister, Fr Anbu, the new Hostel Director and Vice Principal are quite busy.

- **A. G. Leonard**

Challenges and opportunities

On 12,13 June we at **ARUL KADAL** had our orientation. On 15 June we had our Tri-Fest: Inauguration of New Academic Year, Celebration of Consecrated Life and Convocation of 100-Hour Theology for Laity. Bishop Neethinathan of Chengalpattu spoke on the challenges and opportunities consecrated life offered us, Jesuits. Sr Maria Philo, Ms Auxilia Peter, and Fr Manoa Santhosam shared their views on Consecrated Life. A book written by Mr Pitchai, a student of 'Theology for Laity' course was published. After some students shared their feedback, Bishop Neethi distributed certificates to the students. Fr Baskar Antony thanked everyone. On 17, 18 our Deacons did their comprehensive exam and then were sent to SUPAM sites for the year-long socio pastoral involvement. Fr Britto Peter, Superior, gave a Para-Counsellor training to the JRS Animators in two places. Fr Maria Arul Raja, Dean, addressed the Tamil Catholic Writer's Association at Kalai Kaveri, Trichy. - **Baskar**

The Youngest Community

Seventy children attended the summer camp organized by **AHAL** from 28 April to 11 May. The first summer camp for the Irular children was organized successfully by JIM from 01 May to 10 May. 104 children participated in the camp and benefitted from it. The Parish feast was celebrated on a grand scale on 22- 24 May. At the initiative of Fr Marianathan, the Parish Priest and the co-operation of the faithful in Karungalikuppam, one of the sub-stations, the feast of St Antony of Padua – which was not celebrated for a few years - was celebrated on 13, 14 June. Arrupe Hostel has turned vibrant with the arrival of 15 students to the hostel this year. We had house warming for the rented JIM office in Tindivanam on 8 June. The orientation for the JIM animators was given by Fr Philip kumar on 14 June. The community orientation was held in the JIM office on 17 June. While we thank the outgoing members Br Victor, Fr Packiaraj and Sch Selvendhiren for their services, we welcome Fr Thangadurai and Schs Felix and Mano. With the arrival of these youngsters the community has become the youngest in the Province. - **Manoj**

Maiden sallies

On 26 May at **BESCHI ILLAM** we had the send-off to Frs Michael Alosanaya, Francis Xavier Raj, Elias, Dhanaraj and Sch John Paul. The novices expressed their heartfelt thanks

to Fr John Wilson for his tireless services to the novices, and for his accompaniment of the Novice Master. On 03 June we had a community picnic to Kanyakumari, Tiruparappu and the Shrine of Martyr Devasagayam. We enjoyed the generous hospitality of Thozhamai Illam superior and community. We had the community orientation on 07 June. Fr A. Arulanandam was the



resource person. Fr Arulanandam helped us, with some simple stories, illustrations and personal experiences to understand better the first two points proposed by Fr Provincial based on the Province



Congregation's three major concerns. In the afternoon, we took up for consideration our community life and the areas for improvement as suggested during our annual evaluation. Concrete suggestions emerged in our deliberations. We also welcomed the new comers - Frs Manuel Savariar, socius to novice

master, Puthiadam Ignatius, Stephen de Souza, Bro Victor, Sch Anto and Sch John Peter- to our community this year. The dinner was in their honour. Led by Fr Wilson, our co-workers had a joyful picnic to Velankanni and Trichy on 10 June in the company of Fr Wilson.

On 11 June our 2nd year novices started their vows retreat

under the guidance of Fr A. Victor. On the 12 June we celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr Marivalan and the Sacred Heart Center did all the planning and the preparations. While Fr Stanly Robinson, the VF of Dindigul vicariate, was the main celebrant, Fr Marivalan gave the introduction and Fr Manuel preached a touching homily. The occasion culminated in the grand dinner prepared by Br Savarimuthu. On 13 June we celebrated with joy the feast of Immaculate Heart of Mary as our House is consecrated to the Heart of Mary. At the Mass Fr Bastian preached the homily. Our community's size has been enlarged and our joy redoubled with the arrival of the 9 novices on 14 June.

21 June was a joy-filled day,

as nine of our second year novices - Anand, David, Praveen, Fazil, Jacob, John, Sujin, Vivek and Franklin Rex – took their first vows. Apart from Jesuits, priests of the diocese and sisters who had contributed to the formation of these young Jesuits attended the concelebrated High Mass at 11 a.m. It was presided over by Fr Provincial, who preached a meaningful homily. All the hymns, sung with gusto by the Novices, were their compositions. A book titled, “Maiden Sallies into Creative Expression” prepared by our novices was released by Fr Provincial and the first copy received Fr Jebamalai Raja, the Chennai Mission Superior. It showcases the novices’ attempts at writing in English and Tamil on a whole range of themes pertaining to their life and experiences. An audio CD with lyrics and music composed by the novices was released by Fr Britto Vincent, the PCF and received by Bro Natarajan, our golden jubilarian. - **Sam, N.S.J**

In his silent way

Br Arokiaraj, the new Minister of **DHYANA ASHRAM**, within a short time has given a face- lift to the campus and the residence in his own silent and effective way. Fr Thambu helped the parishioners in Maduravayal to prepare for the feast of St Antony and preached a charismatic retreat at Little Mount. He also addressed a lay leaders conference in Velankanni. Dhyana Ashram hosted an orientation programme to the Juniors of Berchmans Illam, conducted by Fr Emma, and

prayer sessions for the Jesus youth. Fr Anand Amaladoss attended a seminar in Frankfurt in Germany on Raymond Panikar.

Jerry gave a day-long workshop for the Franciscan Hospitalers at Mumbai and a seminar cum retreat on ‘Philosophy of Life’ to Pilar Priests and Brothers at Nagpur. Dhanam Movement was inaugurated in Sivangangai diocese by Bishop Susai Manickam and then in the Diocese of Ooty on the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. Jerry addressed vocation promoters from all over India at NBCLC, Bangalore and gave a three-day orientation to 47 women and men religious from 27 congregations at Ishvani Kendra, Pune.

Fr Xavier Irudayaraj rendered pastoral service at St Francis Xavier Cathedral in Bangalore during the summer. He is now organizing a lay preacher animation get together. Fr Lawrence Amalraj guides the staff at St Louis College, Adayar and helps the parishes on weekends.

- **Xavier Irudayaraj, SJ**

BLINK - Be the Link

The two Professors who head the departments of philosophy and Sanskrit in the Madras University

the last three years is substantial and there is good hope that the Institute will grow stronger in the years to come, the Committee unanimously recommends that the recognition for conducting research leading to Ph.D. may be continued.” As per their suggestions, a course-work on Research Methodology will be conducted by IDCR.

BLINK Foundation, coordinated by Mr Arun Fernandez, its Founder-Director, is partnered and hosted by IDCR within its premises. BLINK aims at teaching value education and religious harmony in schools in a creative and innovative manner. It trains college students to interact with school students and elicit from them questions from their life experiences. These questions will be keyed in through blink.org web portal, and BLINK’s ‘knowledge patrons’ – experts in various fields – will answer these questions. The web portal was launched on 1 June in a mega function attended by eminent personalities like Deepa Athreya, founder of School of Success, Shyam Kumar, CEO of Puthiya Thalaimurai, and Palam



visited **IDCR** to review its Ph.D. status. In their report they have said, “Since the work done during

Kalayanasundaram. BLINK’S motto is to nurture a value-based society that not merely accepts

but celebrates the differences in creed, class, caste and gender. Representatives from IDCR and BLINK, along with Fr Jayapathy, the Rector, met Dr. Abdul Kalam to invite him for a future event, where teachers and principals would participate. Dr Kalam encouraged the students' initiative and readily accepted to come.

BLINK has already undertaken *Campaign Castaway* to paint garbage bins across the city with motivating messages on discrimination, gender bias, etc. symbolically indicating that these as *garbages* to be cast away. It has conducted flash mobs in key locations in Chennai like Marina beach, Chennai Central, Besant Nagar and Citi Centre to bring about this awareness. Students are receiving training in topics such as Theatre, Public-speaking, Psycho-drama, Team dynamics, Story-telling and Social concern to teach in schools. St. Britto CBSE School and Matriculation School were the first ones to sign up during the launch.

- **Vincent Sekhar, SJ & Arun Fernandez**

Birth of JESCCO

With the blessings and support of Fr Provincial and the local Superior, Fr Maria

Singarayar, **JESCCO** (Jesuit Center for Counseling) has started functioning at the former Community College building at LTI, Madurai campus. A formal launch will be held later. It will function like a compass – an instrument for drawing circles and arcs – with its office situated at LTI but reaching out and touching the lives of people all over our State and beyond. JESCCO hopes to spread its wings and fly taking its services of helping and healing to as many as it could.

This new ministry of the Madurai Province will offer counseling services to those with psychological problems, besides offering programs to prepare people for psychologically healthy living. Many short-term and long-term training programs are in the pipeline this year. Some of the programs will be conducted in different zones, provided there are enough takers.

Fr Emma, Director of JESCCO, is already actively involved in conducting various counseling-oriented programs in different places. In the beginning of June, he gave two talks to 60 lecturers, new recruits at Loyola College, Chennai on Educational Psychology and 'How to Deal with Psychological Needs of the Students'. On 16, 17 June he gave a two-day Community Orientation at Dhyana Ashram for 50 Berchmans Illam Scholastics, helping them anchor in the deep

of psycho-spirituality at the beginning of this academic year. At LIBA, he has started teaching a few classes for a course on "Stress Management and Counseling." Fr Emma conducted also a two-day Faculty Orientation at the Good Shepherd School and a one-day Orientation to the faculty at Our Lady's Nursery School for a total of 87 teachers. On 21 June he conducted a workshop on "Psycho-Spiritual Enlightenment" to the Catholic parents of Holy Angels School, Chennai. On 24 June, he conducted a one-day training program to the 135 ALIET faculty (Andhra Loyola Institute of Engineering & Technology) at Vijayawada. On 25, he addressed the MBA students at Andhra Loyola College on the need of personality development and mastery of soft-skills.

If there are any specific counseling needs in your community or institution, you can contact the Director of JESCCO, Fr Emma (944 490 3613) or its administrator, Sch Mag Bay (805 645 6915).

- **Mag Bay**

To fight for their rights

On 15 June students of **KALANGARAI** community college returned after completing two months of industrial visits

Abide with the Lord

Fr George D'Campo, SJ (CCU), 85/61, on 29 May '15 at St. Xavier's, Kolkata.

Fr Gerard Van Walleghem (DAR), 88/71, on 01 June '15 at St Joseph's School, North Point, Darjeeling.

Fr Prasad Gonsalves, SJ (GUJ), 62/46, on 24 June in Ahmedabad.

Fr. Rienhold Kiess, SJ (GOA), 76/56, on 24 June 2015 in Belgaum.

Fr Paul Palatty, SJ (KER), 69/51, on 30 June 2015 in Calicut.

Mr Antonyswamy, 82, brother of Fr Paul C Jesuraja, on 08 May in an accident at Dindigul.

Mrs Anthoniammal, 94, mother of Br Antony Simon, on 30 June at Sindalacherry.



and field experience. They began their annual exams on 20 June. On 23 the leaders of 'Widows Livelihood Movement' organized the celebrations of International Widows' day. The rally started from Nagai new bus stand and reached SMY marriage hall. Six hundred widows from Nagapattinam district participated in this convention. Mrs Seraphin and other leaders of the movement



presided over the convention. Prof Saraswathi of People's Civil Rights Commission, Mrs Ananthiammal, Secretary, 'Helping Hands,' Chennai and Sr Flora, former principal of Fatima College, Madurai were the invited speakers. They motivated the widows to fight for their rights. The participants unanimously passed resolutions that demanded educational assistance for widows' children, preference in employment opportunities, loans for doing small scale industry, increasing their pension from Rs 1000 to Rs 3000 etc. These resolutions were sent to respective government departments to initiate appropriate action.

- **S. Jayaraj**

Homes for Homeless

'Arivalaya' – revived after many years - brought a

troupe of 10 energetic scholastics during the summer to instill awareness on alcohol and drug dependence covering nearly 20 villages in and around **LOYOLA School, Kuppayanallur**. The programmes targeted not merely the alcoholics but also their family members. Fr Britto Vincent, the PCF, Fr Masillamani and his team worked hard for this life-promoting initiative. On 07 June a one-day orientation was conducted by Fr Victor Roch and Sch Annaraja for the Loyola HSS staff at PATHAI, Vallam, helping them draw up an action plan through SWOT analysis of the previous year. The entire campus is now buzzing with the LISCCO (Loyola Inter Sectional Cultural Competitions) and Sports Day activities.

The parochial feast of Our Lady of Victory at Nallur was celebrated in a grand scale as it was the silver jubilee year of the building of the church. This was aptly marked by laying the foundation stone for a community hall by Bishop Neethinathan of Chengleput. With the efforts of Fr. Jebamalairaja, CMS, Fr Dominic and Fr P. S. Arul, the second phase of Anandaraj Housing Project (AHP) realized 10 more new houses for the people of Nallur and Theetalam. The relatives of Fr Anandaraj happily presented the houses to the people.

A farewell function was organized to thank Fr. Joe Mike, the outgoing superior, Bro Irudayam and Sch Lawrence who have made a lasting impact in the campus by their selfless service. Fr Masillamani has taken charge as the new acting superior. The arrival of young Jesuits, Fr. Victor Roch and Sch Anna Raja, has brought a youthful

vigour to our life and work here. - **Victor Roch**

Ready for take-off

It's time to rejoice and celebrate the realization of a vision. The newly born **LOYOLA COLLEGE, METTALA** (Mettu Aalamaram) is ready to take off in style from this academic year. On 24 November, the feast of Christ the King, we had the laying of the foundation stone for the college main building. It was blessed by Bishop Singarayar of Salem and opened by Fr. Sebasti L. Raj, the Provincial, in the presence of Fr. Jebamalairaja, the Chennai Mission superior, the Province Consultors and others. The construction work started on 28 Nov '14 and is steadily progressing. The ground floor and the first floor will be handed over to us before the inauguration.

The Mettala community fondly remembers all those who made this dream a reality – Fr Provincial and his team, Chennai mission superior and his team. Special thanks to Fr Guna who initiated it by locating and acquiring the land for the College. We thank in a very special way Fr. A. Joseph, who spent sleepless nights guarding the building. and who spearheaded the process of getting the needed approval for the college. The new arrival of Fr Xavier Vedam has given us hope that the Government will soon approve the new College. The college opens on 01 July with an orientation programme for the newly recruited staff.

- **Berchmans**

Newly built hostels

On 2, 3 June, the LISoR team on Dalit Entrepreneurship held a two-day consultation, at Chennai, reviewing methodologies for training young



entrepreneurs. A farewell lunch to thank the outgoing officials of **LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM** – Frs Igi, Royce and Eugene - was hosted on 8 June. The annual Orientation Programme for the teaching staff was held with the help of Mr Nicholas Antony, the Director of WinMax Academy, on 15, 16.

Fr Rajarathinam, the new Campus Minister, conducted the inaugural prayer service to start the academic year for the senior students on 18 and for the first year students on 24. The admissions have been good this year, thanks to great spade work done during last academic year in surrounding schools and parishes; more than 400 students have joined the first year courses. The newly built hostels have started functioning. 130 boys and 110 girls have joined the hostels.

The senior Jesuits had their Orientation Programme on 21 and the Scholastics had theirs on 27, animated by Fr Dominic, the Chennai Mission Treasurer.

- Maria Joe

Job orders before the course is over!

The first graduation day for the second year Motor Mechanic Vehicle students of **LTI**, Madurai was held along with the tie-up programme with Hyundai Motor Ltd. All the 21 students received their graduation along with their job appointment orders, from eight Hyundai branches from all over Tamil Nadu. This is the first time all the students of a particular trade have received appointment orders two months before the completion of their course!

LTI was proud to have the first graduation day also for the non-formal one year Auto Mobile students, in collaboration with the TATA Motor and ABT companies. Certificates and appointment orders



were issued along with the stipends to the students in the presence of their parents and the officials of the companies.

This is the first year (2014-2015) when both the 1st and the 2nd year students of ITI came under the semester pattern. Results for 1st and 3rd semester have been announced and we have obtained 99% passes.

- Mag Bay

End of battle

ST. JOSEPH'S family rejuvenated itself through various programme to face dynamically the new academic year. *College:* Frs Arockiasamy Xavier and Andrew along with a Professor went to Delhi on 29 April for an interface with UGC regarding the Heritage Proposal wherein the UGC gives Rs. 5 crores as grant for the colleges that are more than 100 years old. The proposal was well received by the committee. We are anxiously waiting for the sanctioning order from the UGC. On 29 June Fr Principal, along with three other staff members, went to Delhi to present the Kaushal Project to UGC. The long awaited renovation of Chemistry Building has started. Thanks to the efforts of Fr G. Pushparaj, the long legal battle between the government and the college has come to an end. Regional Joint Directorate of Collegiate Education has sanctioned the release of salary for the 24 assistant professors appointed in June 2012. Let us praise and thank the Lord!

The school started its new academic year with the Holy Spirit Mass celebrated by Fr John Britto, the Rector and Fr Jesu Nesam, the parish priest. The school staff orientation programme was conducted by Fr Cyril Antonysamy and Mrs Thamilarasi, teacher from Vadugerpetai. The much-appreciated programme kept the staff attentive and active for the whole day.

Fr. Arockiam Kulandai presented a paper at the 22nd

IFSSO General Conference held at Seijo University, Tokyo, Japan on 29 May - 1 June. The theme of the conference was 'Glocalisation: A Scientific Approach towards Social Design for the Creation of a Multi-cultural Society'. His stay at Jesuit house, Sophia University was memorable.

On 29 June 2015, Camboulives College and School Musical Band was blessed with a fully renovated building. Now we have a spacious stage in front of the Band Room where we can have regular practices. In the presence of Fr G. Pushparaj, the band's Director, Fr Rector blessed the building, and the senior Band member, Mr Wilfred, opened the new, extended stage. Fr Secretary unveiled the Band's logo. Fr Vice Principal and Fr Headmaster distributed gifts to workers.

- V. Viji Bose

Well looked after

The Keelachanthaipettai substation of **ST MARY'S, MADURAI** parish celebrated the annual feast of St. Antony from June 23 to 27 with the novena and other celebrations with the active participation of the people. Fr James Antonisamy, the new assistant parish priest, is quite active. The Britto hostel, which has admitted 430 boys this year, celebrated the Newcomers Day and Parents Day in a grand manner under the leadership of the new Warden, Fr George Vedamuthu. Led by our Headmaster, Mr Max Britto, our school staff members went on their annual pilgrimage to the Anjal Nagar Church. Mrs Thamilarasi, teacher from Vadugarpettai and Fr Cyril gave

an orientation course to the staff members with special emphasis on human rights. The staff members found this programme very relevant and useful. The Correspondent, Fr Albert Joseph, saw to all the arrangements. The Senior Jesuits are well looked after by two new Sacred Heart Sisters from Tuticorin. Fr Michael Jeyaraj guided the community in the orientation programme, emphasizing the teachings of Pope Francis. The group discussions and action plans prepared the community for the forthcoming year.

- G. Packiaraj

Big rush this year

College of Arts and Science:

There was a big rush this year for admission to various programmes at **ST XAVIER'S**. It looked like students were abandoning engineering colleges and queuing up for courses in the arts and science stream. The upward movement further in this trend is quite predictable in the years to come. The Student Council Election was held on 26 July and Fr Gilbert, Principal, Fr J.M. Das, Secretary, Fr Sahayaraj, Vice-principal, Prof V. S. Joseph Albert, Deputy Principal, Prof Anto Kinsley, Vice-principal and the entire college deserve our appreciation for the smooth and peaceful conduct of the election.

School: Our school joined hands with the Labour Department of Tamil Nadu Government in organizing a signature campaign on 08 June. Mr Karunakaran, I.A.S, District Collector, Tirunelveli inaugurated the campaign.

College of Education: A five-day Psycho Pedagogy programme was organized by the college for teachers working in the evening

tuition centres of JRS – Tamil Nadu. The staff of the college were the resource persons and the entire programme was well coordinated by Fr Thomas Alexander, Principal and won the appreciation of the participants.

- Jesu Raja

Joys and struggles

We, the Supamites, gathered at Arul Kadal for our final and fourth **SUPAM** sharing on 26 May. We shared our joys as well as the struggles and difficulties we faced during the year. We talked of the formative values we acquired from the Parish Priests and the people during the year. Fr Provincial, Fr Britto Vincent, PCF, Fr Arockiaraj, Supam Director, Fr Britto Peter, Superior, Arul Kadal, Fr Maria Arul Raja, and Fr Baskar and all the Deacons were present for this meeting. Fr Britto collated and presented the feedback that was given by the Supamites as well as by the respective Parish Priests.

All the senior Jesuits appreciated the Supamites for their valuable contributions to the respective parishes. Fr Provincial assured the Supamites that all their experiences and what they have learned from them will help them face the challenges they will encounter in any ministry. The meeting ended with the Eucharistic celebration and we thanked Fr Arockiaraj, Director, Supam, for accompanying us during the year.

- Antony Markus

26 Pre-Novices

On 17 June, **VMI**, the Jesuit Pre-Novitiate, Vilaangudi, joyfully welcomed 26 pre-novices. The

“We have won a crucial legal battle for salaries!”



Even after the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court issued an order to the Directorate of Collegiate Education, Tamil Nadu, on 17 Jan '15 to release immediately the salaries for the sanctioned posts at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchy, the Directorate did not act for eight weeks. This forced us to file a Contempt of Court complaint, and the Honorable Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on 03 June issued contempt notice and ordered the Directorate to release the salaries without any delay. Accordingly the Regional Joint Directorate has promised to release the salaries from June 2015. This legal battle was jointly launched by the Jesuit Higher Education Commission of the Province and the Consortium of Minority Higher Education Institutions. We have won this historical judgement, thanks to the efforts of our Legal Counsel, Mr. Isaac Mohanlal. He argued that Minority Colleges need not get prior approval for filling in the sanctioned vacancies, and

that Minority colleges need not have the UGC- prescribed Selection Committee. We have only to adhere to minimum Standard Qualifications. We thank our legal Counsel Mr. Isaac Mohanlal and his team of lawyers. I appeal to all the Secretaries of our Jesuit Colleges to appoint Non-Teaching staff waiting for 18 years from 1997.



The Consortium has obtained a judgement in their favour in February 2015.

- **G. Pushparaj, SJ**
(*Outgoing Province Co-ordinator for Higher Education*)

Orientation given on 18-20 by Fr Viji Bose and Sch Thyriam helped the pre-novices to gracefully embrace the Jesuit way of life. A one-day recollection preached by Fr. X. Savarimuthu prepared them spiritually for the new academic year that began with the Holy Spirit Mass on 22.

- **Kamilas, SJ**

Recalling history

As the Collector declared a holiday on 01 June due to Vaigasi Visagam in Thiruchendur, **ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S H.S. SCHOOL**, Thoothukudi reopened on 02 June. On 05 June, during the school assembly, the historical events related to the campus were recalled. We had the Holy Spirit Mass on 19 June. While the new Superior, Fr Ignacy was the main celebrant, Fr Vincent Amalraj, Headmaster, preached the homily. We went to Thomazhai Illam for the community orientation program. Fr Arockiaraj gave very meaningful reflections based on the "Joy of the Gospel" and "The Consecrated Life". All the community members felt that it was a good beginning.

The cultural fest was conducted on 22-24 June. Students actively participated in all the competitions. Mr Prabakar T. Samson, the HM of Caldwell Hr. Sec. School, was the chief quest at the valedictory function. Madha TV telecast our Headmaster, Fr Vincent Amalraj's views on how the relationship between parents and their children could be improved.

- **Xavier Rajan, SJ**

Strengths and Viruses

There are times when as individuals and as communities, we are led to a deeper awareness of who we are. The JCSA meet in Vinayalaya, Mumbai (Feb 22-28, 2015) provided us with such an opportunity. The provincials of South Asia studied and reflected on transformational leadership that led us to identify and to accept 'the strengths and viruses' of South Asian Assistency.

STRENGTHS:

We recognize that:

- We are a 'multi-cultural society' and have enormous resources and possibilities of inter-acting with many cultures, languages and ethnic groups and thus enrich us as a corporate body.

- We are blessed with human (personnel) and material resources both in the urban and in the rural areas to support our mission.

- We are witness to greater desire and openness among provincials/provinces to share resources of personnel and finance, as their contribution to the universal mission of the Society.

These positions of strength also indicate areas of alignment already underway in Provinces and Zones, to foster a greater sense of the Assistency as a corporate body.

The first set of challenges in this area are those involving apostolic planning and restructuring of the Assistency as a whole. Alignment is also visible in the form of commitment from the provincials to give 5% of men for the common works of the Assistency and 5% for the international needs Viruses:

We also recognize that there are 'viruses' that disable and destroy our mission. Among others, we identified the following three as

deserving urgent attention.

1. VIRUS OF ETHNIC DIVISIVENESS.

The temptation of provincialism, regionalism or parochialism is prevalent among us.

It has led to inordinate attachment to ethnic, linguistic and caste groups. Ethnic feelings, caste considerations and mono-cultural groupism seem to grip us in such a manner that 'power, money and position' are matters of great importance. There was a time when Jesuits were sought after, as 'men of integrity' to resolve ethnic and caste conflicts. Today we seem to have fallen prey to these forces, thus curtailing our apostolic vitality and weakening our fraternal communion. JCSA urges all major superiors to take note of the debilitating ethnic and caste virus and to deal with it with utmost urgency and firmness.

2. VIRUS OF FINANCIAL MISBEHAVIOR

There are instances when Jesuits have been involved in financial scandals. What has come to light as a modus operandi is that they run or support NGO's associated with family members, relations, or friends, in a bid to profit from and thus gain access to unaccounted money. Jesuit institutions should be much more accountable and transparent, so that 'the prevalent corporate culture outside' does not undermine our way of proceeding, and lead us to misuse our 'authority' for personal financial gains.

Admissions and appointments to our institutions should be transparently conducted and communicated, and misuse of 'authority' in this regard should be diligently dealt with. 'Revisors' of accounts of each Community/Institution should make their assessment of financial accountability more thorough and bold. On the personal level too, there is need to make over to the superior or minister, ministry income as well as other gifts – in cash or kind -- that



George Pattery, SJ, POSA

are given to us. According to our way of proceeding, what comes to the individual belongs to the community.

3. VIRUS OF SEXUAL MISBEHAVIOR

Sexual misconduct, especially with minors, has rocked the church in recent times; we Jesuits have a share in this painful story. The South Asian Assistency is being challenged with various types of sexual misbehavior involving Jesuits.

We have, no doubt, set in place protocols and commissions at Province and Assistency levels to address this issue. More importantly have we followed up our intentions with proactive actions? Or have we conveniently shelved them for a casual and ad hoc approach to sexual misconduct? We should not take an attitude of protecting 'our men' at any cost, at the expense of the victims of our sexual misconduct. Provincials, superiors and directors of works are urged to monitor them with zero tolerance, take proactive steps especially to protect minors and vulnerable adults, and to promote greater awareness and gender sensitivity in our communities and institutions.

Jesuits are invited to be 'holy and learned' (GC 35 D.1.); ours is a heroic calling; there is no place for mediocrity and complacency that settles for comfort zones, careerism and groupism. Rather than falling prey to a denial mode of these viruses, let us enter upon a serious review of our life and mission.

Congratulations



to **Fr Britto Vincent**, who successfully defended his doctoral thesis in Folk Arts on 15 June '15.



Memories

Women's education in Madurai

The first Girls' school began when the Viagula Mada (Our Lady of Sorrows) Nuns came from Trichy to settle at Madurai on 1 February 1881. Soon an annual retreat for girls became a regular feature of the Sisters' activity. In 1897, because of the famine that was prevailing in the town, the parish feast had to be cancelled because the Catholics could not face the expenses of the *sappram* procession, but the girls' retreat in the convent went on as usual. Two years later no less than 70 girls followed an eight days' retreat. Women's retreats too seemed to have been in demand. In 1901 the retreat was attended by 90 women from various communities. The Haslam bungalow that was to be the first convent of the Sisters of St Joseph, on the Old Kosavapalayam Road, was bought in January 1904. There the Sisters made themselves at home at the end of June 1906. As soon as they had mastered some English and Tamil, they set out teaching in the Danappa school, in the Brahmin quarters, where the Viagula Mada Nuns went on teaching Tamil. Drawing, music and needle-work were also part of the syllabus taught by the St. Joseph's Sisters. In 1927 the Danappa School was closed. It was now possible for them to turn their attention to the East Gate school where the Catholic girls were in number. From 1921, at the request of the Government, the Sisters of St. Joseph opened in their boarding a section for Kaller girls. East Gate Girls' School soon increased, and it is there that the first classes (1st and 2nd Forms) of the High School opened in 1932, while funds were being collected in Europe to house the new institution. The foundation work began in July 1934 in the new European convent ground where the St Joseph's Sisters had shifted in 1937, and on their Patron's feast day, 19 March 1935, Fr. Kueny, the Superior of Madura, went on with the blessing ceremony. The classes opened immediately in their new quarters with 292 girls in the high school and 60 children (boys and girls) in the kindergarten classes.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1943)

Just for...



The wife was heard cursing everyone who had anything to do with the T shirt her husband was wearing that day. The T shirt had these words: 'Please don't disturb me, as I am already married and feel very disturbed.'

Secrets

for Well-being and Peace



Pictures on our Inner Walls

Our inner life is like a holy space that needs to be kept in good order and well decorated. Prayer, in whatever form, is the way to make our inner room a place where we can welcome those people who search for God.

After I had spent a few weeks slowly repeating Paul's words, 'Love is always patient and kind; love is never jealous – love never seeks its own advantage,' these words began to appear on the walls of my inner room much as the licence in a doctor's office. This was obviously not an 'apparition' but the emergence of an image. This image of a picture with sacred words on the wall of my inner room gave me a new understanding of the relationship between prayer and ministry.

Whenever I meet people during the day, I receive them in my inner room, trusting that the pictures on my walls will guide our meeting.

Over the years, many new pictures have appeared on my inner walls. Some show words, some gestures of blessing, forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing. Many show faces - the face of Jesus and Mary, the faces of Therese of Lisieux and Charles de Foucauld, the faces of Ramakrishna and the Dalai Lama.

It is very important that our inner room has pictures on its walls, pictures that allow those who enter our lives to have something to look at that tells them where they are and where they are invited to go. Without prayer and contemplation the walls of our inner room will remain barren, and few will be inspired.

- **Henri J.M.Nouwen**
(in *Here and Now*)