



Madurai Jesuits' News Letter



JULY 2016



A Happy Feast!
Fr Provincial and all at the Province Curia wish you a very happy feast of St Ignatius.

(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial



Variety of Ministries

Dear Brothers,

Last month, we reflected on the quality of our ministries. This time, let us look at the variety of ministries in the province – parish or pastoral, social action, spiritual, communication, counselling, education (primary, secondary, higher, technical and professional). Through all these ministries, we are able to serve the people, particularly the Dalits and the marginalized, the victimized and the neglected sections, in a variety of ways.

Our pastoral ministry is primarily for the people of our option – the dalit Catholics -- and those in similar socio-economic situation – the tribals, the rural poor, etc. Moreover, all our parishes, except two, are in the rural areas, which means that our pastoral ministry is directed towards the economically poor and socially neglected or exploited sections of people.

Our social action ministry has perhaps the biggest variety and it works for the empowerment of Dalits, tribals and other victims of different types of injustices. We have taken up some new ministries too: ministry to the widows, ministry for the alcoholics and drug addicts, ministry for the empowerment and liberation of the Irulars and ministry for the internal migrants and external migrants.

Our spiritual and dialogue ministry is taking a variety of shapes and forms. Our men are assigned to carry out these ministries, basing themselves in four different spirituality and dialogue centres. Moreover, individual Jesuits, working in different Centres or Institutions are also engaged in different types of spiritual ministries. Hundreds

of people, particularly the women religious are the beneficiaries of our spiritual ministry. There is a new attempt now to extend our spiritual ministry to the lay people more and more.

Education is perhaps the biggest ministry of the province as we are involved in a variety of education ministries – primary, secondary, higher, professional and technical. In fact, we are known for our education ministry, which we are doing fairly well, with the cooperation and collaboration of lay people.

We are also contributing our men to collaborate in the universal mission of the Society in a variety of ministries in different countries.

Through these ministries we are in touch with over 60,000 people directly and many thousands more indirectly. We have reason to feel grateful to God that we have been found worthy to take up so many ministries in a variety of ways and are in a position to reach out to thousands of people, most of whom are badly in need of our services. We are beckoned to reach out to every one of them through our ministries, our words and action and above all through our witnessing life.

Let us rejoice that we are able to take up so many ministries, let us thank God for these opportunities through which we are serving thousands of people of our option directly, many thousands more indirectly. With this sense of joy and gratitude let us re-dedicate ourselves to the service of our people. Through these services let us 'touch the hearts' of as many people as possible.

Fraternally,
Sebasti L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme



JULY

- 01-03 Electors Meet – Patna (North and Central Zones)
- 04 POSA Consult in Patna
- 07 GBM: Communication Commission – LTI, Madurai
- 08 GBM: Pastoral Commission – Maduralaya
- 09 LCC, Chennai – Chennai Mission Final Celebrations
- 10 GBM: Secondary School Commission – Maduralaya
- 11 Consult
- 15-17 Electors Meet – Bangalore (South and West Zones)
- 18 GB Meeting – ISI, Bangalore
- 20-21 Visitation: Maduralaya
- 22 GBM: Formation Commission – Maduralaya
- 23 GBM: Higher Education Commission – Loyola, Chennai
- 24 GBM: Spirituality & Dialogue Commission – DA, Chennai
- 26-27 Visitation: SHC, Shembaganur

AUGUST

- 01-04 Sri Lanka – Meeting of South Zone Provincials
- 05-06 Annual Assembly of TNPCRI Major Superiors – Tindivanam
- 06 St. Joseph's College, Trichy: Last Vows of Fr. Arul Oli
- 07 Meetings in Maduralaya – JES and HLP
- 15-17 Leadership Course for the Sisters of St. Anne, Madhavaram
- 20 Consult
- 21-22 Visitation: IDEAS-LAAS
- 23 Visitation: LTI, Madurai
- 25-28 Restructuring Meeting – ISI, Bangalore

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

JULY

- 05 Vettavalam. Blessing of Hostel Buildings
- 06 Thamizh Irayeal Mandram
- 09 Loyola, Chennai. Chennai Mission Silver Jubilee
- 11 Province Consult
- 15-17 Bangalore. Electors of GC 36 Meet.
- 19-20 Makkampalayam
- 23 GBM: Higher Education
- 24 GBM: Spirituality Commission
- 27-29 Madhavaram: Classes for Tertians

AUGUST

- 05 Kuppayanallur
- 06 Pondicherry
- 10 Vadamelpakkam, LAV
- 12 Mission Consult
- 20 Province Consult



Announcements

Transcription of Novice Francis Xavier K:

Fr. General has approved the transcription of Novice Francis Xavier K. to Darjeeling Province. We wish him all the best in his new province.

Incorporation into the Society:

Fr. General has approved the final profession of four of our men: Frs. Arul Oli S., Godwin Rufus U., Anbarasan Maria Raj and Gerlin Amaladoss. Our congratulations and prayerful good wishes to these four men who will soon be fully incorporated into the Society of Jesus.

Jesuit Education Support (JES):

Fr. Provincial has appointed the Province Subsidy Committee (PSC), consisting of Frs. L.V. Kumar (Convener), Xavier Alphonse, Stephen L. Pragasam, Maria Singarayar and Aruldoss Selvaraj. This Committee will work in close collaboration with the Local Subsidy Committees (LSCs) in each community.

Meetings:

Fr. Provincial has convened a meeting for all the members of the PSC (Province Subsidy Committee) and the leaders of the LSCs (Local Subsidy Committees) on 7 Aug 2016 at Maduralaya, from 9.30 a.m. till 12.30 p.m.

Fr. Provincial has convened a meeting for all the members of the Housing Loan Committee (HLP-PC) and the leaders of the HLP-LC (HLP Local Committee) on 7 Aug 2016 at Maduralaya from 3.00 p.m. till 6.00 pm.

Status:

At the request of the Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, the services of Fr. Louis Adaikalaraj has been lent to the Archdiocese for a period of one year. He will function as the Priest in Charge of Our Lady of Good Health Church, Mathur.

Fr. James Santhanam of Jamshedpur province has joined the community of St. Joseph's College, Trichy. He will be teaching at JIM.

Welcome Back Home:

Deacons Sahayaraj Vijayan and John Michael have returned to the province, after completing successfully their theological studies in Paris, France. Warm welcome back home.

Correct phone number:

The mobile number of the present DUM Provincial, Fr Varghese Palli is +919546638434.

SUPAM: Our Deacons have been assigned to the following parishes for their Pastoral Ministry:

Arockia Alton S.	Shevapet	Salem Diocese
Christu Raja M.	Cathedral Parish	Salem Diocese
Prabu Francis	Karenkadu	Kuzhithurai Diocese
Michael Pugazhendi A.	Paramakudi	Sivagangai Diocese
Rayappan Innasi	Jayamkondam	Kumbakonam Diocese
Stephen Robert	Kokudi	Kumbakonam Diocese
Varghese Antony M.	B.Pallipatti	Dharmapuri Diocese
John Michael V.	St. Mary's, Madurai	Madurai Archdiocese
Sahayaraj Vijayan	Sammanasur	Thanjavur Diocese
Benedict Santosh V.	Makkampalayam	Ooty Diocese

They met, they celebrated...

Celebrations, Functions, Courses...



AAC, Karumathur organized talks on the evil of alcoholism to its hostel students and day scholars. A team led by Fr Anbin Amalan, OFM-Cap gave the talks. **Fr Rufus**, AAC, conducted a 7-day Spoken English Training Programme to the JRS staff.

AHAL Jesuits organized St Antony's feast day celebration in their sub-station, Karunkalikuppam on 11,12 June with a car procession and *samabhandhi*.

After a two-day Orientation Programme **Arul Kadal** celebrated a 'Mupperum Vizha' whose highlight was the convocation of the '100 Hour Theology' programme at which certificates were awarded to those who successfully completed the programme. Bishop Soundararaju of Vellore and Fr D. Alphonse, TNBCLC, and Fr Joe Xavier, PCF, were the main speakers.

On 03 June, the Institute of the Heart of Jesus and **Beschi Illam** celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus with a Mass, at which the out-going officials were thanked and the new officials welcomed. On 13 June Beschi Illam community celebrated the 93rd birthday of **Fr L. Chinnadurai** and thanked God for his qualities of head and heart. On 21 June, the feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, eight novices pronounced their first vows, which were received by Fr Provincial. On 29 June Bishop Thomas Paulsamy of Dindigul celebrated the Eucharist at which 12 pre-novices donned the cassock and joined the ranks of the Novices.

On 28 May **ICRDCE**, Chennai awarded diplomas given by the Tamil Nadu Open University to the successful students of Mahatma Gandhi Community College at Puzhal Prison. One of the prison inmates bagged the gold medal from the University! Fr M.S. Jacob was the chief guest.

IDCR organized an interfaith forum on 'International Brotherhood' in the presence of Hujjat al Islam Sayed Ali Qazi Askar, Representative of Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Hajj & Ziyarah and Swami Shrihariprasad, Managing Trustee of Sri Vishnu Mohan





Foundation, Chennai.

Jesuit Educators' Meet, organized jointly by **JCERT, SEC** and St. Joseph's College Hr. Sec. School, on 11 June '16 at St. Joseph's College, Trichy insisted that this policy should take into consideration the views of all the stakeholders. 250 selected teachers from all the ten Jesuit schools in Tamil Nadu participated. Fr. Sebastia L. Raj, MDU Provincial and Mr. S. Prabakaran, Deputy Commissioner of Police spoke.

Kalanganarai and Widows' Livelihood Rights Sangam, Nagapattinam organized a rally followed by a public meeting in Nagapattinam on 24 June, International Widows' Day. About 700 widows participated in the events.

On 21 June **Loyola Academy**, Vadampakkam observed the International Yoga day with a teacher's demonstration of *asanas* which the students tried to do. In the promotion camp held at Loyola School, Kuppayanallur on 02-10 May '15 students were selected and admitted into LAV.

Fr Provincial, the **Maduralaya** community and other Jesuits from Beschi and St Mary's happily received Bishop Thomas Paulsamy of Dindigul on Wed, 06 July '16. The simple, affable Bishop enjoyed the dinner and his conversations with all.

With the aim of empowering women by helping them become entrepreneurs, **STAND, St Xavier's**, organized a two-day workshop on 25, 26 June for 60 women from the villages adopted by STAND. They were enlightened on how to get loans for the production of Azola and Vermi compost and on marketing the products.

At S.H.C., Shembaganur, 21 **Tertians** from 12 Indian provinces began their tertianship on 01 June. On 02 June Fr Arul Sivan, Tertian Instructor, presided over the inaugural Mass. After their 'Kodai Darshan' on 12 June, the Tertians began their pilgrimage to Vedalai, Oriyur and Sarugani on 17 and began their 30 days retreat on 26 June.

VMI, Vilaangudi, is bubbling with life with 23 candidates this year. A 10-day refresher course was conducted for 14 candidates selected for the Novitiate.

They have done it!

Something new, something good...

The Summer Camp organized by **AHAL** drew 140 participants and JESIM's Camp 250 students. This year 29 students have joined the Hostel.

Beschi Illam community is becoming bigger and bigger. With the arrival of 12 novices and 5 senior Jesuits, the number has swelled to 61!

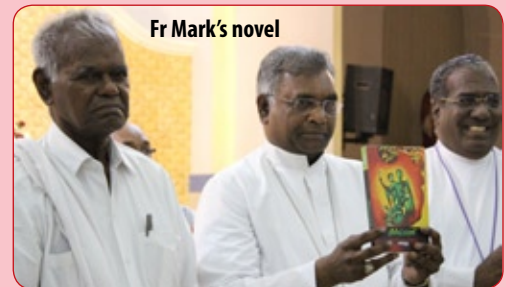
Fr M.S. Jacob, Director, **ICRDCE** travelled to Myanmar at the invitation of Fr. C. Amal through Animation Resource Centre to explore the possibility of opening community colleges in Myanmar. On 09 June he addressed all the 16 Catholic Bishops of Myanmar and around 40 leaders of religious congregations working in Myanmar. Their response was overwhelmingly in favour of starting community colleges. He addressed also the Tamil business people on the concept of industrial partnerships with the community colleges.

A few Jesuits from Loyola, Chennai and Arul Kadal visited the great Anjuman-E-Hymayath-E-Islam masjid and joined Muslim brethren for an IFTAR meal and prayer on 28 June. They were welcomed by its President Mr. Rafeeq Ahmed and his colleague. The visit was organized by **IDCR** and the Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought.

Fr. P.S. Arul, Kuppayanalloor has been appointed a Vicar Forane in charge of the Palliagaram vicariate in the diocese of Chengalpattu.

A novel written by **Fr Mark Stephen, Meelveli**, was released on 26 June by Bishop Neethinathan of Chengalpattu in a function held at Kanikkai Matha Aalayam, Rayapettai, Chennai. Mr Nallakannu, the Communist leader, Fr S.J. Antonysamay, V.G., of Madras-Mylapore archdiocese, Ms Bhama, writer and several priests spoke about the novel.

More than 480 Irular and Dalit children and children of brick kiln workers benefitted from camps, organized by the **LRRS**, Thiruvallur Zone in three different places (Mettupalayam, Murichembedu and Kadambathur). The camps helped these children of the rain-affected people in Thiruvallur district to vent their traumatic experiences through short stories, drawings, and verses. Our Scholastics and LSSS volunteers trained them in spoken English, Tamil and rudimentary arithmetic through folk songs, proverbs, games etc. A book, titled *Catholic Shrines and Pilgrim Centres in India*, written by **Fr Ignacimuthu** and two





other writers, was released by the Archbishop of Madras Mylapore at a function organized by the New Leader.

The first batch of 8 gypsy children trained by **LCS, Loyola** joined the primary school in Ongur. This is a reward for LCS's DESAM camps conducted in the Loyola campus from 2008, a part of its 'Mission with Gypsy Children.'

Fr Ignacy Arockyaa took charge as Director of **LICET** in the presence of Fr Rector and LICET officials. All expressed appreciation for and thanks to the out-going Director, Fr Francis P.Xavier for his outstanding contribution to LICET's growth. 65 LICET students and 5 staff members, including Fr Justine Emma, went to France for the students summer programme. Two new French ICAM engineers have joined LICET from June.

The 1965 – 66 batch students of **St. Mary's HSS, Dindigul**, on the occasion of their Golden Jubilee, got the school stage extended as a token of their gratitude. They were present with their families when the new stage was blessed. The Alumni Association organized an innovative initiative named 'Vision Ignatius' at which 29 of the alumni adopted 29 poor students, pledging to take care of all their educational expenses till they completed their school education. On 01 June, Francis Block, the newly constructed school building, was inaugurated and blessed by Fr. Joe Mike.

The new Headmaster of **St Mary's High School, Madurai, Mr. Dominic Savio**, took charge in the presence of the new correspondent, Fr. Soosai Sebastian. To inaugurate the academic year, they organized a Mass of the Holy Spirit for the Catholic Students and a special prayer service for the non-Catholic students. More than 120 students attended the Vacational Bible Classes, organized during the summer holidays by the parish priest, Fr P. Arockia Raj.

On 17 June Fr Sebastia L.Raj, Provincial, blessed the Tertiars Block at **S.H.C., Shembaganur**, renovated beautifully thanks to his support and generosity and the efforts of the former Superior, Fr M.J. Christie. The Block has now bath-attached rooms for the 21 Tertiars from 12 provinces.

The Student Council Election at **St Xavier's, Palayamkottai** was held smoothly and peacefully on 24 June thanks to the efforts of Fr Britto Vincent, Principal and Fr Arulanandam, vice-principal.

Correspondents:

M.S. Jacob, John Kennedy, John Richard, John Vimal, Kamilas, Lenin, Leo Anand, Manoj, G. Packiaraj, Roch, Ronald, Rufus, Viju, Vincent Sekhar.

RAJU YAGAPPAR, SJ

1942 - 2016

After he celebrated his Golden Jubilee in the Society in 2012 Fr Fr Raju Yagappar, whom everyone called Y.Raju, suffered a mild stroke. Later he had to be hospitalized twice. After his second stint in the hospital he came home to the Jesuit residence at AAC, Karumathur, on 30 May '16. But when he tried to get down from the car, he was not able even to stand without support. He wanted to go to his room in the first floor, but, seeing his condition, Fr Jayaseelan, Minister, told him to occupy the room in the ground floor, and he readily accepted.

On 01 June, his 75th birthday, after the Mass we gathered in his room to sing, 'Happy Birthday!' while he cut

the cake. On 03 June, feeling unwell, he wanted to be taken to the Hanna Joseph Hospital where his pulse rapidly declined and around 11.30 pm Fr Raju passed away quietly.

Fr Raju was born in 1942 in Pulikanmai and was the first one from that village to join the Society in 1962. He was ordained a priest in 1977. He served as the Hostel Warden and a Parish Priest before he went to the North and Northeast where he worked for nearly 20

years as a teacher and a pastor. Returning to the province in 2003 he served at Beshi and then our estates. In 2011 he went to AAC, Karumathur where he taught English. He took that task very seriously and his room was full of books and notes on English grammar. He wrote two books on the subject and had material ready for another.

Those who know him well say that it was the famous Tony de Mello who freed him from many inhibitions. Jokes about his uninhibited speech abound. He was a free, bold and jovial person, although he didn't seem to have many friends and mostly kept to himself.

Fr Sebastia L Raj, MDU Provincial, was the chief

celebrant at the funeral Mass at St Mary's the next day and several Jesuits, priests and Sisters attended. Fr Xavier Vedam, former Principal and Raju's friend, in his homily, referred to Fr Y Raju's frank and bold comments on life. Fr K.Amal, Superior, thanked the Minister, Fr Jeyaseelan and the co-workers for looking after Raju for the past three years with selfless dedication. May the soul of Fr Y Raju rest in peace!

- A.G. Leonard, SJ



New Releases



Catholic Shrines and Pilgrim Centres in India, S. Ignacimuthu, SJ, V. Joseph Raj and Michael John Britto, 2016, Claretian Publications, Bangalore, Pages 294, Price 195.

மீள்வெளி, மாற்கு, பாவை பதிப்பகம், சென்னை, பக்கம்: 354, விலை: ரூ.275.

உரையாடுவோம் வாரீர், அருட்தந்தை மரிய செயராசன், சே.ச. நாஞ்சில் பதிப்பகம் 2015, நாகர்கோவில்.

நற்றமிழ் இசையால் நாதனைப் போற்றுவோம், அருட்தந்தை மரிய செயராசன், சே.ச. நாஞ்சில் பதிப்பகம், நாகர்கோவில்.

Memories

Voluntary Catechists' Association

Trichinopoly – The Voluntary Catechists' Association, St. Paul's Seminary was set on foot in the year 1922 with a view to instructing the hundreds of the so-called low caste children and ragamuffins roaming about the slums of Trichy without the least religious instruction. The work was to afford, at the same time, an excellent opportunity to the seminarians to descend from the heights of their theological and philosophical speculations to the low level of the children and bring home to them the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is gratifying to note that the record of work accomplished since the commencement of our Association bears evidence to its vital growth and progress. When we undertook our humble ministry there were only 250 children gathered in 8 "centres" or places of catechetical instruction, all within the limits of the Cathedral parish; whereas at present our activities extend all over the town and its neighbourhood. 66 students of philosophy and theology systematically instruct every week 1145 children in 23 centres within the parish limits of the Cathedral, Holy Redeemer's, Our Lady of Dolours' Church and St. Joseph's Church, Golden Rock. Of this army of little ones, over 800 boys and girls belong to the Cathedral parish. In addition to preparing the children for the worthy reception of the Sacraments of the Church, our catechists instill into these young hearts a solid religious education that is intended to last for life.

(From Caritas, March 1935)

Just for..



Saami: I was so angry and upset that I threw my watch down from my apartment which is on the 10th floor of the building. But soon, realizing my mistake, I ran down the stairs and managed to catch it.

Friend: Oh my! How did you do that?

Saami: You see, my watch is always 10 minutes late.

Secrets

for Well-being and Peace



Cherish the differences

Treat every person as a unique gift. We are each as unique as our fingerprints. Respect, honour and cherish the differences; they are what make us special. William McNamara wrote: "I once lived near a mansion where only one of the many gardeners employed had succeeded with every one of the roses. I asked him the secret of his success. He told me that the other gardeners treated all the roses too generally. They treated them all in the same way; whereas he watched each rose separately and followed out for each plant its special need for soil, sun, air, water, support and shelter."

Most of the problems that surface between human beings arise from a failure to see the other person's perspective. If we could remember that one of the most important of all of the human hungers is the need to be understood and then took the time to try and see the situation from the other person's perspective, there would be far less conflict and far more harmony - both in the workplace and within the world.

Be polite. Peter Drucker once said: "To excel in business you must remember these key words that deepen relationships: "please" and "thank you". Those daily acts of kindness connect you to the people who you have the privilege to work beside. And when you do connect to them, in a real and lasting way, the results always speak for themselves.

- **Robin Sharma**

From The Mastery Manual