



JULY 2017



(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial



My sincere gratitude

(His homily at the Mass on 18 June '17 when he took over as the new MDU Provincial)

Dear Friends in the Lord,

I. Thanks to Fr Sebast L. Raj

First and foremost, on behalf of all the members of the Province, let me express my sincere gratitude to Fr Sebast L. Raj for all that he has been to our Province especially in the last six years as the 13th Provincial of our Province. The province is fully aware of all the great contributions he has made to take the province to newer heights. To mention a few:

- Creation of new structures, major renovation works and modifications of the existing buildings with lots of facilities and needed amenities for greater apostolic effectiveness.
- The new facility created at Beschi Illam, namely, the infirmary block aimed at good health-care for the sickly and the elderly Jesuits in a professional way, with so much of good ambience needed for them is certainly one of his commendable achievements and it deserves the appreciation of all of us.
- A number of new initiatives in Chennai Mission area during his tenure.
- Implementation of a number of very useful schemes for the well-being of our co-workers and students who are being formed by us in all of our institutions.
- His professional approach to the management of our estates and farms.
- Formulation of policies such as Local and Province Grievance Cells.

Dear Friends, these are just a few among many of his achievements. As a mark of our gratitude to him and in appreciation for all his achievements and various contributions to our province in the last six years as Provincial, let us put our hands together. On behalf of all the members of our Province let me wish him well and assure him of our prayers for his good health and peaceful and joyful religious life and mission.

II. Gratitude to you all and to the Society

Since 27 May, the day of the announcement of my appointment as Provincial of our Province, I have been receiving congratulatory greetings from several people,

especially Jesuits. I would like to thank you all for your greetings and wishes. I thank you all in a special way for your assurance of prayerful support as I begin the new mission.

I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude to the Society for the tremendous trust and confidence she has placed in me.

I joined the Society on 1 July 1983. 34 years have passed by since my entrance into the Society. Looking back on these bygone years, I feel that I have been loved and very well cared for by our dear Mother Society. At this historic moment, I feel greatly indebted to the Society for her great care, love and concern for me. I look back with a profound sense of gratitude on those formative years which shaped me into what I am today and gratefully bring before me at this altar all those who travelled along with me, accompanied me and guided me. In a special way I joyfully remember Fr A. Victor and Fr I. Arul, my vocation promoters, Fr Donatus Jeyaraj and Fr Michael Alosanaya, my Novice Masters, Fr James Rodrigues, Fr M. Devadoss and Fr Sebastian Susai, my vice-provincials for formation and Fr Michael Jeyaraj, Fr Aloysius Irudayam, Fr Donatus Jeyaraj, Fr Francis P. Xavier, Fr M. Devadoss and Fr Sebastia L. Raj, my Provincials. I thank them immensely for their personal accompaniment, love and care. With a profound sense of gratitude I remember my parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends who supported me and who continue to do so in my journey as a Jesuit.

With this deep sense of gratitude, I delved deep into myself to find out what would be my desire and my vision for the Province. Thus, I have the following things to share with you about my desire and vision of the Province.

Danis Ponniah, SJ
Provincial

(To be continued)

Provincial's Programme



JULY 2017

01	CV: DACA, Madurai
03	CV: Xaveriana, Thoothukudi
04-07	CV: St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai
10-13	CV: Loyola College, Chennai
14	CV: Loyola Academy, Vadampakkam
15	CV: Vallam
16-17	CV: Loyola, Kuppayanallur
18	CV: AHAL, Kilpennathur
19	CV: JESIM, Tindivanam
20-21	CV: Loyola College, Vettavalam
22-24	CV: SJC & Clive House, Trichy
26	Consult
27	CV: Loyola College, Mettala
28	CV: Harur
29	CV: Ranipet

AUGUST 2017

01	Contact Visit (CV): Arrupe Illam, Mettupalayam
02	CV: Maakkampalayam
03	CV: SJIS, Ooty
04-05	TNPCR, Tindivanam
07	CV: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
08	CV: Satya Nilayam, Chennai
11	CV: Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari (Forenoon) CV: Carmel, Nagercoil (Afternoon)
12	CV: SICJ, Trivandrum
15-17	CV: SHC, Shembaganur and Kodai Hills
21	CV: De Britto, Devakottai
22	CV: St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
25	Province Consult
26	Ordinations: SJC, Trichy

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

JULY 2017

02	Meeting of Christian Writers, Chennai
03	Meeting of Jesuits in Social Centres in Chennai Mission
08	Community Orientation, Kuppayanallur
10-13	LCC, Chennai
14	LAV, Vadampakkam
15	PAATHAI, Vallam
16-17	Kuppayanallur
18	AHAL, Kilpennathur
19	JESIM, Tindivanam
20-21	LCV, Vettavalam
24	Celebration of Feast of St Ignatius at Mission Office 4 pm
26	Province Consult
27	LCM, Mettala
28	Harur
29	LIS, Ranipet

AUGUST 2017

01	Mettupalayam
02	Maakkampalayam
03-04	Ooty
07	Dhyana Ashram
08-12	Vijayawada
18	Mission Consult
20	Inauguration of 175 th Year of St Mary's Parish, Madurai
21-24	Classes on Social Analysis, St Anne's, Madhavaram
25	Province Consult
26	Ordinations, Trichy

The Jubilee Day

The annual Province celebration to honour and felicitate the Golden and the Diamond Jubilarians of the Province took place this year on 30 May '17 at Beschi, Dindigul. Beschi wore a festive look with festoons and a flex banner that congratulated the Jubilarians.

The Jubilee Mass began at 10.00 am at the new, beautiful Rene Hall. The out-going Provincial, Fr Sebastia L. Raj, the Provincial-elect, Fr Danis Ponniah, and the heroes of the day - the golden Jubilarians - Frs Alphonse William, Francis Peter and Ignacimuthu were the concelebrants. The other three Golden Jubilarians this year were Brothers Arockiasamy S., Augustine and Raja J. They sat on the stage along with the Diamond Jubilarians - Frs Casimir Raj, Ignatius S., Irudayaraj M., James Bharataputra, Savarimuthu S.P., Selvaraj, S.M., Viaguladasan, Xavier Rajan and Br Xavier M. It was a joy to see that all those who have completed 50 years as Jesuit priests were there - Frs Chelladurai, Aelred D'Silva, Felix Joseph, Maria Jeyaraj, J. Maliyekal and James Rodrigues. Fr Theruvil Mathai, who completes 60 years as a Jesuit priest, could not make it to Beschi.

Fr Ignacimuthu gave the introduction at the beginning



and Fr Francis Peter preached a well-prepared and much-appreciated homily. After the Mass there was a brief felicitation ceremony. Fr M.A. Joe Antony, Socius, spelt out some of the achievements, contributions or traits of the Golden Jubilarians and Diamond Jubilarians as Jesuits and Jesuit priests and asked the Scholastics, who were there in their full strength, to guess their names. They mostly succeeded. While Fr Sebastia Raj gave them a memento, Fr Danis honoured them with a 'vennaadai' (white towel). The Golden Jubilarians, in addition, got a congratulatory card signed by Fr General.

Fr Danis released a CD of the hymns composed by Fr Ignatius Hirudayam and produced by Fr Dhanaraj.

Fr Joe thanked the Beschi officials, the choir led by Fr Joe Xavier P., PCF, the PDDM Sisters who had beautifully decorated the altar and Br Savarimuthu.

Since the Mass and the felicitations were over by 12 noon, there was enough time for individuals or communities to greet the Jubilarians and have photographs taken. It was over with a delicious dinner, prepared by Br Savarimuthu and his team.

(For other Jubilee photographs, see p.4)





They met, they celebrated...

Celebrations, Functions, Courses...

AAC, Karumathur community began the new academic year with a 2-day community orientation programme rowing into the deep in the light of GC 36. It ended with fun games, personal sharing and an outing to Suruly falls. In search of water sources in the campus, we have dug five bore wells - three in the campus and two in Kannanur farm - which, thank God, promise us a good supply of water. On the first death anniversary of Fr Y. Raju, Fr Amal, Rector, went to his home town to celebrate the Eucharist. Students of the department of Physical Education exhibited their Yoga skills on the International Yoga Day on 21 June.

We were happy to welcome Fr Provincial who came here for the contact visit on 23 June. A one-day orientation programme for the teaching Staff on “Reforms in Teaching, Learning, Evaluation and Institution Ranking”, was held on 15 June.

The **Arul Kadal** Scholastics did a refresher-course on ‘Tamil Functional Grammar’ at SXC, Palayamkottai, organized by Fr Vincent Britto in collaboration with FRRC. The classes of Prof. Manickam from St John’s College were much appreciated. From 6 to 12 June, the first year theologians had their Pre-theology Programme at Thozhamai Illam, ably animated by Fr I M Joseph. Meanwhile, the second year theologians attended innovative sessions on “Preaching Retreats and Ignatian Spirituality”, conducted by Frs Thamburaj and Jeyabalan (AND).

On the inaugural day, Fr Baptist from Vellore Diocese delivered a talk on “The Feminist Perspectives in Today’s Context”. On 01 & 04 June 2017, Fr. Maria Arul Raja was the resource person for the two-day Orientation Programme for the entire community of Professors and Seminarians of the Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamalee. He also preached a 5-day retreat for 40 Salesians of Trichy Province at the Retreat Centre, Yercaud on 08 to 12 May. Deacons have successfully completed their Comprehensive Exams.

On 05 June the **Beschi Illam** community welcomed Fr Anto (Joseph Antony Samy), the new superior, while joyfully remembering all the marvelous deeds God had done to the Community through the





Beschi



Beschi: First Vows



IDCR & Blink: IRAP



IDCR & Blink: IRAP



Loyola: Iftar

leadership rendered by Fr Leo Tagore, during the past three years. Fr Chinnadurai celebrated his 94th birthday on 13 June. After the community Mass, he cut the birthday cake. On 14 June, what launched the Community Orientation was the valuable sharing of two of our veterans, Frs John Lourdu and Vitalis Diaz. Then the community discussed in smaller groups on ways and means to build a happy community and shared their suggestions. It ended with the Eucharist and an agape.

This year our province is blessed with 22 first year novices. Eight of them have gone in pairs to novitiates of four provinces - Calcutta, Darjeeling, Goa and Kohima. Beschi has 14 of them. They entered the first probation on 13 June. Fr Dhanaraj guided the vows retreat of our novices on 12-29 June. On 21, 3 of our second-year novices Jaya Pradap, Earnest Stalin and Santhosh Kumar Selvam made their First Commitment in the Society of Jesus. The hymns sung at the Mass had been composed by the novices themselves. These were released as a home-made CD and an eco-friendly magazine, *NovMag '17*, with their writings and drawings. The novices planted saplings in the Novitiate garden. On 24 June they left for Trivandrum for their Juniorate.

At the Mass on 23 June, feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fr Selva, editor, *Thoothan*, thanked all who were working for the magazine and Apostleship of Prayer. On 24 June, the first and the second-year novices concluded their triduum and began their weekend ministry in 12 parishes of the Dindigul Diocese. Fr Stephen Selvanathan gave the orientation course to the novices on 26 and Fr Anto presided over the Holy Spirit Mass on 27.

IDCR, Loyola, Chennai just completed its Interreligious Awareness and Practice (IRAP) package programme with the help of BLINK, the students' organization in IDCR. The students, drawn from various city colleges, including a Jesuit Sch. Justin Grosnick from Chicago, learnt about the various religious traditions, and travelled to their places of worship to observe and pray. At the end of the programme they happily shared how it has led to a new learning, openness and respect for people of other faiths.

IDCR assisted in the historic event of an 'Iftar' held at Loyola College, organized by the Loyola Campus Ministry. Prominent Hindu, Muslim, Christian, and Jain leaders were honoured after a short sharing

on the significance of 'fast' by the Prince of Arcot Mr. Muhammed Asif Ali and a Muslim student, Ms. Shabana.

In April, Fr Emma, Director, **JESCO**, conducted a Diaconate Retreat at the Bishop's House, Dindigul, for all the seminarians belonging to the Madurai Archdiocese. On 24-28 May Emma and Richard conducted a five-day workshop at JESCO on Trauma Counseling for the Sri Lankan students studying in the Jesuit Colleges in our Province. In June, Emma offered Faculty Orientation Programs at Our Lady's Nursery, Chennai and at two schools at Periyakulam. He conducted a three-day program at Loyola College, Mettala to boost the self-confidence of the faculty so that they would communicate effectively in English.

He conducted a Community Orientation on 'Union of Minds and Hearts' at Jesuit Nivas, Bengaluru. He taught a course on Christian Leadership to 26 Deacons at St. Paul's Seminary. He conducted a half-day seminar for 80 Catholic parents in Chennai on 'Effective Parenting.'

On 24 June, International Widows' Day, **Kalanganrai**, Nagapattinam, along with Vidhavai Pengal Vazhvurimai Sangam, organized a grand rally followed by a convention on the theme "Converting Our Pain into Strength". Dr. Manimegalai, Director and HoD of Women's Studies from Bharathidasan University, Trichy, Mrs Kalaiselvi, Vice President, All India Democratic Women Association, Mr. Thulasi K Balasubramanian, Founder, Global Green Growth Group and Fr Paul Mike, Director, IDEAS were the special speakers. The convention highlighted 11 important demands of widows to the Union and State governments such as a special Act and a separate ministry to safeguard the rights of widows, to increase the monthly pension of widows from Rs 1000 to 3000, to enforce a complete liquor ban in the State and to give preference to widows in government and private firms. More than 750 widows from Nagapattinam and neighbouring places participated.

The **LENS** team went to Makkampalyam parish to study the life of Oorali Tribes and to make a documentary film on them. Fr A.Irudayaraj initiated an ethnographic study on the same tribe. The LENS team conducted a seminar-cum-consultation on "Politics of Beef-eating and Media Perception". 45 participants took part and shared their views.

On 07 June **Loyola Academy**, Vadampakkam



Announcements

New Editor for *Paathaigal*

Fr Provincial has appointed Fr Michael Pugazhendhi, the Editor of *Paathaigal*.

Congrats, Fr Vara!

Our hearty congratulations to Fr Arul M. Varaprasadam, Reunion, France on the joyful occasion of his completing 75 years as a Jesuit! He entered the novitiate on 13 June 1942.

New phone numbers

Province Treasurer's office's new cell No.: 7373195333. **Sch. Swaminathan Krishnamurti:** 96774-94538. New landline phone numbers of **LTI, Madurai:** Superior: (0452) 2362601. Minister: 2362602. Reception: 2362603. Hostel: 2360026.



thanked the outgoing Correspondent, Fr K.A. Augustine and welcomed the new Correspondent, Fr Leo A Tagore, and Fr Sahaya Vijayan, the new Campus Treasurer. Fr Tagore took over as the new Team Leader during a community Mass in the evening. We had the community orientation for this year at Paathai Centre, Vallam, on 15 June. We enjoyed the warm hospitality of Fr Yesumarian and his community.

On 19 June Philip, a German student-volunteer, arrived to serve here as an intern at Loyola Academy. He will be with us till August. The staff animation program this year was conducted on 24 June by Fr John Peter, Parish Priest, Sammanasoor, Thanjavur diocese. He led them into a search for a collective vision and identity as teachers of LAV.

On 30 June we had the investiture ceremony for the academic year, when the class representatives and the house captains got their badges. Mr G. Asokan, the Inspector of Police, Manimangalam, was the Chief Guest. Colourful cultural events marked the occasion. Fr Robinson planned and executed the program with the co-operation of the staff. Sch Vimal was his able assistant.

Antony Inico, our missionary in **Paraguay**, writes: "I learnt Spanish till December 2016 in Cristo Rey Community, Asunción, capital of Paraguay. In January 2017 I was assigned as an animator in the Pastoral Department of St. Javier's School. This Department focusses on faith formation of the students, organizing seminars, conferences, retreats, camps, preparing them for sacraments, spiritual guidance to staff, directing spiritual exercises for staff etc., It organizes such programmes for all students from the primary sections right upto higher secondary sections. In the evenings I offer my services to the Jesuit parish. The initial difficulties are all gone and now I have got used to this country and its culture.

On 07 June, the community of **St Mary's, Dindigul** bid a fond farewell to Fr. Joe Mike and Fr. Bastin and welcomed Fr. John Pragasam and Fr Vincent Amalraj. On 17, we had a programme to welcome the freshers in the Hostel.

CORRESPONDENTS:

Albin, Emma, Inigo, Irudayaraj, Jeyabhaskar, Manickam, Melvin, Richard, Rufus, Singarayar, Tagore, Viju, Vimal.

They have done it!

Something new, something good...

A 7-day English coaching programme, given to the first year students of **AAC**, Karumathur, by MIST (Madurai Institute of Soft Skill Trainers), enabled the students to pick up the language very fast. At the valedictory function a student-participant shared that the 7-day programme has ended his 17 years of fear of dealing with the English language.

After a long time, **JESCO**, Madurai succeeded in realizing its dream of training our teachers to be barefoot counsellors. Although the school men have talked repeatedly about the acute need for trained counsellors to guide today's students, although Fr Provincial and the Province Co-ordinator kept reminding them to respond, nothing happened till this June, when the Headmasters/Correspondents of our Schools - except St Francis Xavier's, Thoothukudi and St Mary's, Madurai - sent a few of their teachers to CIS, Beschi, Dindigul for a basic training programme in counselling, called 'Effective Helping Skills' organised by JESCO on 26-30 June. Frs Emma and Richard were the resource persons. On the penultimate day, our former Provincial, Fr. Sebasti L. Raj inspired the participants by talking about the vision of JESCO and positive psychology to work towards the wellbeing of everyone. On the last day of the workshop, our Provincial, Fr. Danis Ponniah gave away the certificates and spoke about the need for counseling services and training. After addressing the participants regarding what could be done for training our teachers to become counselors, Fr. Joe Antony, the Socius, launched the new website of JESCO, which you can view at: www.jesco.org

The **Jesuit Higher Education Commission**, Madurai Province conducted the Induction Programme for the new Lecturers of six Arts and Science Colleges run by the Jesuits in Tamilnadu.

12-14 June: 60 participants from Arulanandar College, Karumathur, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, Loyola College, Mettala, & St. Joseph's College, Trichy at Arulanandar College, Karumathur.

19-21 June: 67 participants from Loyola College, Chennai, Loyola College, Vettavalam and Loyola College of Education.



JESCO: Training teachers



JESCO: Training teachers



JESCO: Training teachers



HE Commission:
Training Lecturers



Day for thanks and welcome

It was providential that the day happened to be the Feastday of the Body and Blood of Christ. The Thanksgiving Mass began at 10.30 am on Sunday, 18 June at the Rene Hall, Beschi Illam. Fr Sebastia L. Raj, the Chief Celebrant, thanked all those who helped him during

the six years of his administration and welcomed the Provincial-elect, Fr Danis Ponniah and wished him God's blessings. He read the official letter of appointment from Fr General which was received with enthusiastic applause. From then on Fr Danis, the new Provincial took his place and presided over the Eucharist. Fr Leo N. Fernando, Rector, St Joseph's and Fr Paul Mike, Director, IDEAS read the first two readings and Fr Joe Antony, Socius, read the Gospel reading.

Fr Danis centered his much-appreciated homily on GC 36.

(See p.1.) Fr Jebamalai Raja, Chennai Mission Superior, sang the Preface.

Fr M.A. Joe Antony thanked the Beschi officials, the choir led by Fr Joe Xavier P., PCF, the PDDM Sisters who had beautifully decorated the altar and Br Savarimuthu. The entire audience joined the choir in singing 'Take and Receive..' Soon after the Mass everyone eagerly responded to the call from the dinner tables prepared by Br Savarimuthu: 'Take and eat.'



LTI

Topics dealt with: Teacher as a Leader: Mr. Anto Vincent; Teacher as a Communicator: Prof. Jayakar Chellaraj; The Life of Ignatius, His spirituality, Insights & Characteristics of Jesuit Education: Fr. S. Xavier Alphonse; Competence in Jesuit Education: Fr. Joe Arun.

The participants, who appreciated the programme, suggested various training programmes during the academic Year. We thank Arulanandar College, Karumathur and Loyola College, Chennai, for hosting the two Induction Programmes.

For the fifth consecutive year 11 companies came to **LTI**, Madurai for the Campus Interview in June. All the second year students were selected for job placement. On Graduation Day on 20 June, thanks to the tie-up programme with the Hyundai Motors Ltd, along with distribution of certificates, appointment orders from dealers of Hyundai were given to all the students of Motor Mechanic Vehicle section.

On 05 June **St Mary's, Dindigul**, got another building called Xavier Britto Block. It has been named after an illustrious alumnus, Mr Xavier Britto, the major donor for the new building. The building was blessed and inaugurated on 05 June at an impressive function with Fr Provincial, Mr Xavier Britto and other dignitaries on the stage. The ever-active Alumni Association, guided by its Director, Fr Stephen L. Pragasam, did a great job raising funds for the new building and organizing effectively the inaugural function.



St Mary's, Dindigul



St Mary's, Dindigul

JRS exits Sri Lanka, after serving for three decades - It hands over its mission to the province

JRS, after completing a journey of nearly 30 years in Sri Lanka, as the emergency phase is almost over, moved out from the island on 29 June '17. JRS started its operations in 1987, and became more directly involved since 1995, in the



aftermath of the displacement of about 500,000 persons from the Jaffna peninsula. When the tsunami hit Sri Lanka in December 2004, in addition to the services rendered to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and returnees, JRS began relief and rehabilitation programs to assist the victims. The tsunami relief and rehabilitation operations concluded in 2009, and since then JRS has been fully engaged in serving IDPs and returnees in 6 provinces in the North and East (Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Jaffna, Kilinochi, Mannar and Mullaitivu) through programs in education (formal and technical), emergency assistance, social service and community development, advocacy and protection, and livelihoods. The decision of JRS to withdraw was taken in 2013, and the exit strategy process



was started in view of the Jesuit Province of Sri Lanka taking over the remaining JRS programmes. Given the magnitude and potential implications, JRS South Asia set up a committee to review this decision. After listening to the people, staff and the stakeholders, the Review Committee endorsed the decision and recommended that it was the right time to hand over the mission of JRS to the Province. In January 2017, a transition team was put in place with the specific role of paving the way for the smooth transfer of remaining JRS works.

Throughout its journey in Sri Lanka, JRS has stood by the forcibly displaced people. The committed service of JRS has left a deep imprint in the hearts of thousands of people. Although a number of volunteer organizations have served the people during the post-war and post-tsunami context, JRS stood out, thanks to its accompaniment, service and advocacy for the rights of the people. During the last phase of its journey in Sri Lanka, JRS was conducting pre-schools in 118 villages in the North and East, tailoring training, coaching classes and higher education courses, in partnership with Jesuit Worldwide

Learning (JWL), at Vavuniya and Mannar. JRS started a similar course in Puthukudiyiruppu (Mullaitivu) in February 2016. The pre-school project was taken over by the Province in January 2017 and is presently managed by the Jesuit Reconciliation



Solidarity-Sri Lanka (JRSS), with its operational base in Vavuniya. The higher education project will be conducted with the support of JWL, under the banner of Loyola Campus, in five more sites (in addition to Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu) with its central office in Mannar, from July 2017.

The official hand over by JRS to the Sri Lanka Jesuit Province took place on 29 June 2017 at the Province Curia in the presence of Frs Tom Smolich (International JRS Director), Dexter Gray (Provincial of Sri Lanka), and Stan Fernandes (Regional Director-South Asia). As the last Country Director of JRS in Sri Lanka, I wish to pay a grateful tribute to every Jesuit, religious and lay person who contributed to the JRS mission in Sri Lanka over the past three decades. - **Alex Yagoo**

FR MIRANDA ALPHONSO JOHN, SJ

1929 - 2017

Fr. Miranda, as he was affectionately called, passed away in the early hours of 05 June 2017 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul. He was 87.

Fr. Miranda was born on 03 Nov 1929 in a traditional Catholic family in Mangalore as the eldest son of Mr. Francis Xavier Miranda and Mrs Blanche Mary Miranda. He was the eldest son and had two younger brothers, Mr. Robert Miranda and Mr. Sylvan G. Miranda.

He had his early education in his native city of Mangalore and after his graduation in English he entered the novitiate at Shembaganur on 29. June 1950 at the age of 21. He was already a graduate in English, while most of his companions were not.

In the novitiate he was given a firm and solid foundation in spirituality under the able guidance of Fr de Rotone, his Novice Master and Fr Dominic Diaz, Socius to the Novice Master. In the three-year course in Philosophy in Shembaganur he distinguished himself as a scholar under the erudite Professors like Frs. Walter Utarid and Emilio Ugarte. In his theological studies at St. Mary's College, Kurseong he had eminent professors like Fr. J. Dupuis, Fr. Prudentus De Letter and the famous scripture scholar, Fr Volchaert. He was ordained a priest on 19 March 1964.

Soon after he was appointed as the English teacher in Campion High School, Tiruchi in 1965 where he taught English to the Anglo-Indian boys and also was the General Prefect in the Hostel. After a year, he went over to St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi to be a lecturer in English. From there he was called to be an English Professor in the newly started Andhra Loyola college, Vijayawada where he distinguished himself.

After two years in Vijayawada he went over to Loyola Public School in Guntur to be an English lecturer from 1969 to 1973. From Guntur he came back to St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi to become the Head of English Department.

After his retirement in St Joseph's College,

Tiruchi he was appointed Chaplain of the Presentation Convent, Kodaikanal, residing in La Providence Kodaikanal. After nine years of Chaplaincy in PCK he became the house historian of Loyola College, Chennai which he continued for 18 long years when he served as spiritual director of various Congregations of Sisters. From Chennai he came to Beschi Illam, Dindigul to take his well-earned rest and for treatment for his many age-related ailments like sciatica and angina pectoris.

His last days in Beschi Illam which he spent in peace and tranquility came to a sudden halt when he had a fall in his room and hit his forehead on the sharp pointed edge of his table and became unconscious.

He was rushed to the ICU of St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul. But Fr. Miranda never recovered from his coma which lasted for about four weeks till he breathed

his last on 5 June. On the following day at 10.30 the funeral Mass began, presided over by Fr. Sebastia L.Raj, Provincial. In his introduction he recounted gratefully the services rendered by Fr Miranda in the various institutions both in the Madurai Province and the Andhra Province.

Towards the end of the Mass, Mr. Sathya, a student and close associate of Fr Miranda, eulogized his love for the poor and needy. Sr Anne Xavier of the Holy Cross Congregation, Chennai spoke of the charitable contributions of Fr Miranda to the marginalized. At the close of the Mass Fr Anto, Superior, Beschi, thanked the ICM sisters of St. Joseph's Hospital for their loving and tender care during his last days and the nursing care of Sr. Sahayam and co-workers in Beschi.

The prayer of commendation in the chapel was recited by Fr Ilanko Xavier, Novice Master, and the final committal at the Beschi cemetery was done by Fr. Michael Alosanai, after which the mortal remains of Fr. Miranda were interred in to the grave. May his soul rest in Peace!
- **Mampra C. Xavier, SJ**



Abide with the Lord

Fr Victor Surin, SJ (RAN), 83/61, on 27 June '17 in Mandar.

Fr Jack Kenealy, SJ (PAT), 90/72, on 02 July '17 at Chicago.

Mr Joseph Puthiadam, 91, older brother of Fr Ignatius Puthiadam, on 12 June at Palai, Kerala.



Memories

Presses & Books

Already in 1543, St. Francis Xavier worked in Manapad for four months with some interpreters at translating the common prayers. The formulas now in use, drawn up by Fr. De Nobili, are in learned polysyllables. The English Hail Mary has 53 syllables; the Tamil 120.

The same Saint urged Fr Henriquez to compose grammars and lexicons. In 1578, Fr. John de Faria, SJ, cast the first Tamil type in Punnakayal. The *Flos Sanctorum*, a catechism, a manual for confessions, and other works were printed in that town or at Cochin.

Probably at Cochin with the press set up there in St. Mary's College by Brother John Gonsalvez with wooden block types, not movable metal types (New Review, 10.35) in 1577. The Tamil books turned out were a Catechism and a Prayer Book compiled by Father H. Henriquez, other Tamil works by the same author, a Dictionary, Lives of Saints, a Grammar, a Confessionary and others, were printed there also before 1600. The first press at Goa, and probably in India, was set up by the Jesuits in 1557 for a Portuguese Catechism. In 1577 *Christia Vanakanam* was printed in Malayalam at Cochin. We know of forty volumes printed by it down to 1670.

There was also a press at Goa, and since 1599, one at Vaipicotta, "where," says Trubner, "Sanskrit, Tamil and Malayalam were studied with great success by the Jesuits, and several important works printed."

- **Joseph C. Houpert, SJ**
in *A South Indian Mission*

Just for...



The parish priest received a card from a parishioner, who was very upset after a recent divorce. In big, bold letters it said: 'Not all men are fools. Some are bachelors.'

Secrets

for Well-being and Peace



Resolving tensions

God wants to be wrestled with. As Rabbi Heschel points out, ever since the days when Abraham argued with God over the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Jacob wrestled with the angel, those close to God have also occasionally engaged in similar arguments.

The refusal to accept the harshness of God's ways in the name of his love is an authentic form of prayer. Indeed the prophets and saints were not always in the habit of simply saying, "Thy will be done." They often fought, challenged, squirmed, and begged as a way of saying, "Thy will be changed!" I suspect that they did sometimes annul divine plans. God wants to be struggled with, especially if we have been living in God's house for a while.

Why? Why would God want this? How can wrestling be a form of prayer? Wrestling can be a form of prayer precisely because it can be a form of love. People who live together in love for a long time must resolve many tensions. There is constant wrestling, much anger, and occasional bitterness. But the struggling together, if persevered in, always leads to a new depth in love.

- **Ronald Rolheiser**
in *Spirituality for a Restless Culture*