



# MNL



## Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

JUNE 2015

(For Private Circulation)



### MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

#### OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MINORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

Dear Brothers,

As we are just beginning the new academic year, I invite every member of the province to reflect seriously about one important aspect of our life in our communities and in the places of our ministries, namely, our relationship with minors and vulnerable adults. I have used elaborately the recent communication from our Superior General, Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, to highlight and emphasize this aspect of our life and ministry.

We are aware that the Society of Jesus is committed to safe and healthy environments in all our ministries. In order to ensure that those who are under our care and those who are working with us should feel safe and respected. Only in that conducive atmosphere “can we effectively communicate the message of God’s love for them and invite them to open their hearts to encounter the joy of the Gospel in a profoundly human way” (Fr General’s Letter of 18 May, 2015).

Holy Father, Pope Francis,

in his letter to the Presidents of the Episcopal Conferences and the Superiors of Institutes of Religious Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (February 2, 2015), encourages the Church at every level “to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure the protection of minors and vulnerable adults, and to respond to their needs with fairness and mercy.”

Fr. General states emphatically: “Sexual abuse is not the only behavior that warrants our attention. Such things as intimidation, corporal punishment, physical mistreatment, and psychological harassment have no place in any ministry associated with the Society of Jesus. We need to take decisive steps to eliminate any behaviors that hinder an experience of God’s love.” Hence, we need to ensure that all these aspects are carefully put into practice in all our ministry places and in our communities – parishes, educational institutions, associations, chaplaincies, personal apostolates, personal relationships, etc. We need to discuss at different levels how we should respond concretely to ensure healthy relationships with the minors and vulnerable adults. As Fr. General points out, “these efforts are a concrete and necessary realization

of our Ignatian value of *cura personalis*.” In other words, each Jesuit has the obligation to ensure this type of *cura personalis* in his relationship with people in general, and more particularly with minors and vulnerable adults. In fact, this should become the characteristic mark of every Jesuit in his relationship with people – minors and adults.

In the light of these guidelines from our Superior General and the Holy Father, I invite every member and every community to reflect seriously how we should relate with minors and vulnerable adults who are under our care and with those who are working with us. I request the Superiors and Team Leaders to study the content of the letter of Fr. General, in your respective communities, and come up with concrete plans to ensure the safety of and proper relationship with minors and vulnerable adults.

Fraternally,  
*Sebasti L. Raj. SJ*  
Provincial

## Provincial's Programme:



### JUNE

- 01-18 Visitation:  
MDU Men in Europe
- 21 First Vows –  
Beschi Illam, Dindigul (Forenoon)
- 21 Consult (Afternoon)
- 25 GBM: Communication Commission –  
Maduralaya
- 27 GBM: Social Action Commission –  
IDEAS, Madurai
- 28 GBM: TVET Commission –  
LTI, Madurai
- 30 GBM: Pastoral Commission –  
Maduralaya

### JULY

- 05 Consult
- 08 GBM: Youth Commission –  
Maduralaya
- 11 GBM: Secondary School Commission –  
Maduralaya
- 12-14 TNBC-TNPCRI Joint Meeting --  
Coimbatore
- 16-17 Visitation: Maduralaya, Dindigul
- 18 GBM: Higher Education Commission –  
St Joseph's, Trichy
- 19 GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission  
– Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 21 GBM: Formation Commission –  
Maduralaya
- 23 GBM: Finance Commission –  
Maduralaya
- 25 GBM-ISI, Bangalore
- 26 GBM: Dalit Commission –  
Maduralaya
- 31 Feast of St Ignatius

## Announcements



### Acting Provincial:

In the absence of Fr Provincial from the Province from 2 to 18 June, '15, Fr. Joe Antony, Socius, will be the Acting Provincial.

### Fr Kilbert Savarimuthu transcribed to Sri Lanka:

With approval of Fr. General, Fr. Kilbert Savarimuthu has been transcribed to the province of Sri Lanka. We wish him God's blessings for a fruitful ministry to the people Sri Lanka.

### New:

Fr Lazar Savarimuthu has a new e-mail id: [salamut88@gmail.com](mailto:salamut88@gmail.com)

### Left:

Anandaraj Yesu, a second year novice, left the novitiate on 21 May '15.

### Renewal programmes:

Navjivan Renewal Centre (NRC), Delhi, offers special programmes for Religious in Aug-Dec '15. For details contact the Director, Fr George Mlakuzhyil, SJ. Cell: 09958652549; 09968289942; E-mail: [directornrc@gmail.com](mailto:directornrc@gmail.com) or visit NRC Website: [www.nrcdelhi.in](http://www.nrcdelhi.in).

## Status List V (2015-16)

Fr Provincial has made the following appointments:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>
Br Antony Sinnamuthu	SJIS, Ooty	LTI, Madurai	Treasurer
Fr Arockiasamy Santiago	Loyola College, Chennai	SXC, P'Kottai	XIBA: Administrator & Staff
Fr Augustine John Peter	SXC, Palayamkottai	De Britto, Devakottai	Head Master
Fr Emmanuel Arockiam	Loyola College, Chennai	LTI, Madurai	Director: Counseling Services
Fr Gualbert John	De Britto, Devakottai	SXC, P'Kottai	Secretary, SXCE
Fr Gunasekaran Rajaiah	LIS, Ranipettai	St. Mary's, Dindigul	Minister
Br Irudayam Antony	LHSS, Kuppayanallur	Carmel, Nagercoil	Minister
Fr Joseph Ignaci G.	Tertianship	Maduralaya, Dindigul	Minister and Treasurer
Fr Leo Anand	St. Mary's, Madurai	SJIS, Ooty	Minister and Treasurer
Fr Theresunathan Soosai	St. Michael's Farm, Palamalai	LIS, Ranipettai	Minister & Production Centre
Fr Viji Bose	Supam	SJC, Trichy	Coord.: Voc. Promotion & APP

Fr. Provincial has made the following transfers/assignments:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>
Fr Albert William M.	Loyola College, Chennai	Sabbatical	Medical Treatment & Research
Br Amalraj Michael	St. Mary's, Dindigul	SJC, Trichy	Farm
Sch Anto Arputha Raja P.	Satya Nilayam, Chennai	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Regency (JRS)
Sch Doni Raja F.	St. Mary's, Madurai	St. Mary's, Dindigul	LASAC
Sch Franklyn Rex	Novitiate	LIS, Ranipettai	Regency
Fr Ignatius Puthiadam	Kottar Diocese	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Writing Ministry
Fr Jeyaraj Elankeswaran	Kohima	SJC, Trichy	School Staff
Fr Lourdusamy Antoni.	SXC, Palayamkottai	LTI, Madurai	Chaplain: De La Salle Brothers
Sch Mag Bay Lawrence A.	Loyola College, Vettavalam	LTI, Madurai	Regency (Counseling Services)
Fr Michael Doss Lourdes	Gonzaga College, Krishnagiri	LIS, Ranipettai	Staff
Fr Raja Rathinam	Kohima	Loyola Coll., Vettavalam	Minister and Staff
Fr Wilfred Sahayam	Carmel, Nagercoil	Diocese of Kuzhithurai	Pastoral Ministry
Fr Xavier Antony	SXC, Palayamkottai	SJC, Trichy	College Staff



## Events



### GOOD, OLD FRENCH TRADITIONS

The First Year Novices here at **BESCHI ILLAM** underwent a course on 'Healing the Inner Child' given by Fr Antonysamy on 27 April to 1 May. The II year Novices returned from their home visit on 30 April. On 1 May we celebrated the Workers' Day with our co-workers and their families and the novices organized games, competitions and prizes for the children. Besides, every co-worker got a gift worth Rs 150. On 10-16 May the first year novices went for their 'ashram experiment' to the Dhyana Vanam, Kombai near Vellodu to be guided Fr Korkoniyus Moses. The novitiate community went on a tour to Trichy where they also attended the viva-voce of Fr. E.A. Francis at SJC. It was a novel and informative experience for the novices to participate in a public viva. The community had its annual evaluation on 03 May moderated by Fr Tagore, the Superior. The participation of the young and old members of the community was exceptionally good. Views and suggestions were plentiful and candidly shared. Our community still keeps up some of the good old French traditions of the Province! We are having our Quinzaine or two weeks of special holidays starting from 14 May. Br Savarimuthu is showing off his culinary innovations and making the community happy. On 9 May we had the 40<sup>th</sup> day memorial Mass for Fr Donatus Jeyaraj here. The initiative was taken by his relatives and we co-operated to make it meaningful. The Provincial was the main

celebrant and Fr Xavier Irudayaraj in his homily touched on some of his inimitable human qualities with interesting examples. A good number of Jesuits from different communities were present along with his relatives and friends. An agape followed the prayers and blessing at the beautifully decorated grave soon after the Mass.

- **Anthony David**

### BIRTHING OUTFITS AND PARTIES

We at **IDEAS-LAAS** are overjoyed to continue to see the fruits of our labour. In the years past, our Dalits trained here have been floating organizations or parties to be the social and political voice of the community in Tamil Nadu. The latest to emerge are two outfits that aim to represent Arunthathiyars at state level. One is the Thamil Puligal Movement which had its conference in Madurai on 10 May, attended by Frs. Paul Mike and Philominraj. The other is a state level political party of the Arunthathiyars, first of its kind in Tamil Nadu, - Aadhi Thamizhar Katchi. Frs. Paul Mike, Aloy, Stephen Joe, Manuel Savariar, and Br Arockiam attended its inaugural launch on 17 May, 2015 at Coimbatore, The participants braved light and heavy showers to make the community's voice heard loud and clear.

Out of six para legal training programmes the third one was conducted by the LAAS-IDEAS team of Advocates, Frs. Santhanam, Jeyaseelan and Philomin at the Divine Word Centre, Vaadipatti on 21-23 May. The trainees emerge as para-legals who go into the world to provide legal aid to the needy and the disadvantaged. Fr Jeyaseelan joined his other companions for G70 Meet (1970 Novitiate batch) in Ooty (See p. 6). - **Thomas B. Jeyaseelan**

### READY TO CELEBRATE

I have begun my priestly ministry in the Archdiocese of Manaus - Amazon in **BRAZIL**. I am teaching the Gospel of John to the lay people who study at our Loyola Pastoral Centre. I give week-end retreats besides celebrating Mass with different parish communities. We have initiated an orientation program to guide the youth to make the Spiritual Exercises in daily life. The new Provincial of Brazil, Fr Renato, SJ, has asked me to continue my ministry of Ignatian Spirituality in a Jesuit school at South Brazil from the coming semester.

The whole continent of Latin-America is getting ready to celebrate the beatification of Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980) of El Salvador on 23 May. May the spirit of Bl. Romero propel us in our Mission of Justice and Faith!

- **Cyril Suresh SJ**

### FEELING ENRICHED

Assistancy's annual programme, 'Roots & Wings' was organized this year at **DHYANA ASHRAM**, Chennai by Fr Devadass Muthiah on behalf of JIGSA. It included a deep study of the fundamental sources of the Society for almost 20 days. 16 young Jesuits from 8 provinces, including Bangladesh, attended the programme. It started on 7 April and ended on 4 May followed by an 8-day retreat preached by A. J. Thamburaj. The resource persons were Frs. P C Chacko, M. Alasonaya, Anthony Samy, Tom Panikkulam, M Amaladoss and Jossie D'Mello. The participants had time for reflection, prayer and

# Jubilee - 2015

With banners, flags and smiling faces everywhere Beschi Illam looked poised for the Jubilee Day on Friday, 29 May. With about 300 Jesuits gathered for the occasion, the Jubilee Mass began at 10.30 am. Fr Provincial, himself a Golden Jubilarian this year, was the Chief Celebrant, and 4 other Jubilarians - Frs Aloysius Irudayam, Gaspar Leonard, John Gualbert and Ignatius Viagappa - were his co-celebrants. Br Natarajan sat in the front with a gleam in his eyes and a smile on his lips.



Fr Rex Pai, a Diamond Jubilarian, gave a brief, inspiring introduction to the Mass. Fr Gualbert read the Gospel reading. Fr Aloy preached an impressive homily, highlighting a Jesuit's 'fascinating vocation' which impels us to discover our mission by being close to the people and our duty toward magis for God's greater glory. Narrating the touching story behind the world-famous painting of 'Praying Hands', he said for us the praying hands were those of our Brothers and domestic workers. Fr Leonard sang the Preface.

Led by the PCF, Fr Britto Vincent, an enthusiastic group of Scholastics sang with energy and enthusiasm appropriate hymns, all written and composed by Jesuits.



Immediately after the Mass Fr Joe Antony, Socius, listed the changes introduced this year in the way the Jubilee day is celebrated. Giving up the elaborate felicitation function in the refectory, a brief, but meaningful felicitation function is held in the chapel itself. Instead of the usual and useless 'ponnadais' and mementoes, this year we are giving the Jubilarians clothes they asked for and books. Instead of others giving felicitation speeches,

years of service. On behalf of the Jubilarians Fr V. Ignatius revealed that their group had never come together so far to celebrate the Eucharist and thanked everyone for this joyous occasion. Fr Sebasti L. Raj, shared what he felt as a Jubilarian and then as the Provincial who presides over this function every year.

Fr Joe Antony thanked those who had worked hard to make it a truly joyous occasion -



this year we will listen to a sharing from the Jubilarians themselves, he said.

While the audience applauded, Fr Provincial first gave away the gifts to the Diamond Jubilarians. Then different individuals read the sharing of the five Golden Jubilarians on their five important contributions in these 50

Frs Tagore, Lawrence Benedict, John Wilson, Britto Vincent, Babu Vincent, Theresunathan, Br Savarimuthu and the Scholastics, especially the novices. The function concluded at 12.40 pm, with a lively song sung by the novices. The finale was the delicious dinner served by Br Savarimuthu and his team of workers. - M.A.J.A.

(continued from p.4)

personal study. Although Chennai is very hot and humid during the summer, most participants enjoyed the quietness, greenery and the ambience of the campus and left feeling enriched.

The sudden death of Fr D. Jeyaraj was a great loss to our community, since we treasured his presence, sharing and guidance. May he continue to be with us and help us through his prayers.

Fr Xavier Irudayaraj directed a long retreat for Gonelian students of theology at Mount St. Joseph, Bangalore, which, they felt, strengthened their vocation. Jerry keeps travelling to animate priests and religious on consecrated life.

- **Xavier Irudayaraj**

### **RALLY AND PUBLIC MEETING**

On 11 April we at **PAATHAI CENTRE, VALLAM** began the summer training camp for the Cultural Team in Karumbakkam parish with 52 student- participants since we faced a severe water shortage in the campus. The IACM cultural team members trained the students during the camp. On the birth anniversary of Dr Ambedkar, the students showcased their skills at the cultural night which was organised in Reddipalayam Parish.

Coaching camps for the 12<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> std were held here from 20 April till 09 May with the collaboration of DHRC and the IACM cadres.

On 23 April, we went on a rally from DHRC to the Old Bus Stand in Chengalpet, demanding a ban on production and usage of plastic bags. Nearly 65 of our ESC students actively participated. On 7 May, we organized a rally and a public meeting demanding a "Compulsory, Uniform and Free

Education for all in the mother tongue till 10th std." On 9-10 May Fr Arockia Dass was the Resource Person for a seminar on "Religious Life today" for CTC Sisters.

Around 280 ESC students from five civil districts of northern Tamil Nadu namely Kancheepuram, Thiruvallur, Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram and Cuddalore actively participated in the Summer Camp -15. IACM cadres, DHRC staff, Jesuit Scholastics, Gonzaga Sisters and other lay volunteers worked selflessly for the success of the Camp. - **Regis**

### **FULL OF YOUTHFUL VIGOUR**

The campus of **ST. MARY'S, MADURAI** was full of youthful vigour, as we hosted the LASAC Summer Camp on 30 April - 05 May. There were 224 students from 24 schools for this training programme. Of these a good number were from our schools, as our Jesuit school men had done a good job of motivating their students. The camp aimed at making the students think critically, analyse our social problems and find solutions to them. Prayers in the morning, creative writing, newspaper reading, games, debates and short movies were of great help to achieve these aims. Twenty schools presented programmes at the cultural festival. After many years, our school, St Joseph's College Higher Secondary School, Trichy, received the first prize. The whole programme was conducted by Sch Tony under the direction of Fr Albert Joseph.

Our Parish is very active during May with Marian devotions including regular Rosary processions. Fr G. Packiaraj preached a retreat to the Rosarians in Bangalore. Our School Alumni Association organized a get-together of 1964-65 batchmates on 02 May. The Jubilee Celebration magazine was released by Fr Arockiasamy, Rector. The first copy was received by Fr Albert Joseph, Director, the Alumni Association. Sixty five of our alumni have paid for a Life

Membership.

- **G. Packiaraj**

### **G 70 MEET IN OOTY**

As they have been doing for quite a few years now, members of **G -70** (the novitiate batch that joined the Society in 1970) met for their annual meeting at St Joseph Industrial School, Ooty on 15, 16 May. As usual ex Jesuits and their spouses too had been invited. Those who could attend were Arulanandam Savarimuthu, Anandanathan, X.J. Freddie, A. Gnanapragasam, Jeyakumar, T. B. Jeyaseelan, Joe Antony, L. Joseph, Michaeldoss, Michael Raj, G. Pushparaj, Rosario Joseph and Thomas Arulappan. We missed Arul Jeevan, Chandran, Jerry Rosario and Stan D. Paul.



The sharing began on 15 with a Eucharist celebrated by Jeyaseelan and all took turns to talk of their consolations and desolations during the year. Everyone received not merely empathy but also some very good advice and suggestions. Those two days we must have laughed more than we did the whole year, remembering the good, old days. In the evening Richard drove us to some breathtakingly beautiful places in the Ooty valley. Mari Valan joined us on 16 and the sharing continued. Joe Antony offered the concluding Eucharist. We agreed that G 70 meet next year could be hosted by Rosario in Bangalore. Freddie and the members of the community in Ooty went out of their way to make sure we had a wonderful time. - **M.A.J.A**

# PAALAM - 2015

## *Scholastics Meet, Shembaganur*

The Scholastics summer gathering, PAALAM - 15, began on 12 May with a continuous heavy downpour at Shembaganur. As the universal Church celebrates the year of Consecrated Life, we chose the theme "Arpana unarvil...azhathavar vazhiyil..." (With a sense of commitment in the footsteps of the One who called us). On 14 May for the first time all the scholastics had the exposure visit to Kodai Hills and Perumalmai estates. Fr Britto Vincent, the PCF, celebrated the Holy Eucharist at La Sallete Church. On 17, scholastics shared the rich experiences they had in the summer exposure programmes at 26 different places in Tamil Nadu on 28 April -12 May. This year the tradition of Summer Theatre Programme was reintroduced in the form of Street Theatre journey into eight villages in collaboration with the team of JMAADD, Kuppayanallur in order to make people understand alcoholism is a disease and accept an alcoholic as a patient.

On 18 and 19, we had a sharing by eminent personalities from different walks of life on Consecrated Life. Sr. Conrad, OSM, who is a medical doctor, shared how she could face various struggles in life through God-centredness and People-orientedness. Prof. Alex Parimalam of Department of Visual Communication, Loyola



College, an ex-Jesuit, shared with us how he still feels connected to the Society of Jesus and how the values of freedom with responsibility and self confidence which he received in the Society have helped him live as an honest and confident person. Mr. Thamizhselvan, President of Tamilnadu Progressive Writers and Artistes' Association, insisted on the need for people of all faiths, particularly minorities, and the secular forces to launch a struggle



against Hindutva alliance and its strategies like saffronization of even folk religious practices, as there is a political vacuum to counter these forces. The special features of the meet are the frank and inspiring sharing by three of our scholastics and Fr Paul Mike on their personal journey in Consecrated Life. Presentation of interviews with Fr General and

several other eminent Jesuits within and outside the Province, conducted and video-recorded by our Scholastics within and outside the country, made us reflect on various elements and challenges of consecrated life.

In a session for appreciating the achievers, many scholastics genuinely acknowledged and appreciated their fellow companions for their achievements in academics and creative expressions. This particular act paved the way for building ourselves up with union of minds and hearts and becoming bridges to one another. The meet came to an end with a motherly sharing by Frs. Provincial and PCF with appreciations of and

expectations on the future pillars of the Society - the Scholastics. The organizing team is indebted to Fr Provincial and the Province administration, Frs. Danis Ponniah and Paul Mike who were present with us for two days, Fr PCF,

and the Summer Meet Advisors, namely, Frs Arockia Dass and Stephen Lourdu Pragasam for their support, encouragement and valuable guidance. In a very special way we thank Sacred Heart College Community and the PEAK team for warmly welcoming us, being very hospitable to us and for attending to all our needs.

- Sarathy, SJ



## SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

What has been happening in our world can easily depress us. The power of darkness and death can overwhelm us...

Our hope for healing consists in the movement of life and spirit that is circulating in groups of human beings beneath the surface of governments, mainstream media and corporate existence.

We live by faith, not by sight. Millions of people all over the earth are crying out for peace, justice and a sane environment. Millions more are crying out in their hearts. The earth itself groans. The very stones cry out.

The capacity for healing on our planet and within ourselves is awesome. In nature, in history, in our hearts healing is at work. We are ourselves wounded healers. We do the work of healing even as we feel the pain. We are always in need of encouragement to keep going. Victory is never assured. It takes a poet like Pablo Neruda to say, "We are going to win. You don't believe it, but we will."

As we move forward in faith and hope, change takes place within us. We become believers. We recognize the tragedy. Yet we live and love. Poet Wendell Berry counsels us to plant sequoias and "practice resurrection."

- Bill Cane  
(in *Circles of Hope*)

## Memories

### APOSTOLIC SCHOOL, MADURAI

In December 1918 a new section comes to life: the candidates to the priesthood. Such boys as gave some hope of a vocation and had been kept among the orphans were given separate accommodation under the care of Fr Turlan. The Apostolic School, as the new unit was called, occupied the Sappara Kottagai, built with odds and ends from an old chatram going back to the time of Fr Trincal. The Apostolic School has given a good many recruits to Seminaries and Religious Orders. The first among the Tamil old boys of St Mary's, Fr Maria Soosai from Sarugani was ordained a priest on December 8, 1923, and three Malayalees had been ordained in Travancore. At the time of writing (1943) 216 candidates have been admitted into the Apsotolic School to test their vocation. Out of this number 33 are priests in the three dioceses of Trichinopoly (19), Madura (13) and Tuticorin (1). Seventeen entered the noviciate of the Society at Shembag, two the Carmelites, 1 the Jaffna Rosarians and 30 more are preparing themselves in various seminaries - 10 in St Paul's, Trichy, 6 in St Peter's, Madura and 4 in St Joseph's, Trichy.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1943)

## Just for....



After the Sunday Mass two parishioners were comparing the sermons of the Parish Priest and the Assistant Parish Priest.

"I prefer the Assistant," said the first.

"Why is that?"

"Well, he says 'In conclusion' and concludes, but the Parish Priest says 'Lastly' and lasts."