



APRIL 2012

(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial

Resurrection, Renewal, Re-creation

Dear Brothers,

We are in the Holy Week. Within a few days, we will be commemorating the resurrection of our Lord, Leader and Saviour. We are aware that he came down to this earth, emptied himself, underwent severe mental agony and tremendous physical pain, became a victim of unimaginable insults and suffered humiliation of the lowest order. He carried the cross until he collapsed. All along, however, he knew about his ultimate victory — his resurrection. Thus, the resurrection was the result of all that he underwent before his resurrection. He paid a price for his resurrection. Through this price and through his resurrection he renewed and re-created the entire world and every human being.

We are privileged to be the beneficiaries of the resurrection, renewal and re-creation of our Lord Jesus Christ. As we commemorate this historic event, each one of us is invited to move towards this resurrection, by re-creating ourselves through personal renewal of our life – in our faith, commitment, outlook and attitude. Obviously, resurrection will not and cannot be experienced without experiencing crucifixion, suffering, sacrifice and even betrayals and humiliations. In other words, before we can be united with the risen Lord, we need to empty ourselves from our own personal selfishness, desire for comfort, position, status, recognition, etc. We need to make sacrifices and undergo sufferings, giving up what we like and taking up what we dislike, all for the greater glory of God.

This is the time of transfers and new appointments. Some of us may desire to be transferred but that may not happen. Some of us may like to continue in the same post and same position, but that may not take place. Some of us may aspire for certain posts and positions but someone else may be called upon to shoulder such responsibilities. While the normal tendency in each one of us is to seek what we like, our commitment and our desire to imitate Christ in our life implies that we are prepared to do what we may not like and accept willingly even those things which we dislike. These are the real moments of cross in our life. We are challenged to carry these crosses in our daily life. We are invited to persevere in such acts of suffering and sacrifice. At the same time, we are assured of the resurrection provided we are ready to do what Christ did before his resurrection.

As the transfer list is being published in this issue of the newsletter and another list in the subsequent one, I invite each one to accept these transfers and new appointments in the right spirit — in the true spirit of faith and Ignatian indifference. In this entire exercise of transfers and appointments, the Consultors and myself have considered different candidates on the basis of their personal qualities, strengths and shortcomings and the actual needs of the communities and their respective missions and ministries. We have also taken into account the requirements of *cura personalis* and *cura apostolica*. As a result of these transfers and appointments, there will be a reshuffling of most of the communities. Let us use this occasion to re-create ourselves and renew ourselves, in the true spirit of resurrection. Let this re-created and renewed life at the personal level and community level enable us to face the new financial year and the forthcoming new academic year in the right spirit and with faith-inspired dynamism, which will bring about a visible change in the entire province in the way we live and the manner in which we carry out our ministries.

Fraternally,

Sebasti L. Raj. SJ

Provincial

Appointments

Appointments by Fr. General

Fr. M.A. Joe Antony Socius-cum-Admonitor to the Provincial with effect from May 25, 2012

Fr. Jayapathy Francis A.M., Fr. Paul Michael Raj C., Fr. Danis Ponniah Consultors of the Province, with effect from May 25, 2012, replacing Frs. Britto Peter [PCF], Britto Vincent and Joseph Xavier A. [The Chennai Mission Superior continues as an ex-officio Consultor, while the new PCF will not be a Consultor].

Appointments by Fr. Provincial, with the approval of Fr. General

Fr. Selvanayagam Diraviam Province Treasurer with effect from May 25, 2012

Fr. Marianathan Swamikannu Superior of St. Mary's, Dindigul

Fr. Maria Singarayar Superior of LTI, Madurai

Fr. Soosai Raj A. Superior of St. Joseph's Industrial School, Ooty

Appointments by Fr. Provincial

Fr. Raj Irudaya PCF with effect from May 28, 2012 (*Resides at Arul Kadal and continues as its the Superior*)

Fr. Francis Sales Acting Superior, Oriyur

Fr. L.V. Kumar Revisor of the Province Communities

Fr. Albert Muthumalai Principal: St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi

Fr. Joseph Arockiam Principal: St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai

Fr. Das R. Jesu Michael Principal: Loyola College, Vettavalam

Fr. Albert William Secretary: Loyola College, Chennai

Fr. John Bosco B. Secretary: St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi

Fr. Peter Xavier Sengole Director: LIBA

Fr. Christie P. Maria Joseph Director: Province Development Office

Fr. Mariadoss S. Campus Treasurer: St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi

Fr. Thomas Amirtham Campus Treasurer: Loyola College, Chennai

Fr. Kulandaisamy Antony Team Leader/Director: KARISAL

Fr. Michael Raj L. Team Leader/Director: LAAS

Fr. Marianathan Chinnasamy Team Leader/Director: DACA

Fr. Paul C. Jesuraja Team Leader/Director: Thozhamai Illam

Transfer List II

Name	From	To	Ministry/Designation
Fr. Albert Joseph S.	Xaveriana	St. Mary's, Madurai	SE Coordinator
Fr. Alphonse Manickam	St Xavier's, Palayamkottai		Sabbatical
Fr. Ambrose Arockiasamy	Beschi Illam	Alavanthankulam	PP
Fr. Anbarasan Savariraj A	Shembaganur	PEAK	Acting Director
Fr. Andrew Francis	Berchmans Illam	St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai	Staff
Br. Arockiasamy Pitchaimuthu	St Xavier's, Palayamkottai	Shembaganur	Tertianship
Fr. Arul Oli	Tertianship	St. Joseph's, Tiruchi	PP & PhD Studies
Fr. Arul Sivan	Thozhamai Illam	Shembaganur	Tertian Instructor
Fr. Babu Vincent	Supam	DACA	Staff /Treasurer
Fr. Baskar Antony	VJ, Delhi	Arul Kadal	Staff
Fr. Devasagayam Manickam	DACA	St. Mary's, Dindigul	Director: Amuthu
Fr. Dominic Savio M	Beschi Illam	Kalangarai	Staff/Treasurer
Fr. Eugene Sebastine Rosario	ISI, Bangalore	Vettavalam	Staff
Fr. Fernandes Jesuadimai	Manalur	LTI, Madurai	Spiritual Ministry
Fr. Francis M Peter	Loyola, Chennai	XLRI, Jamshedpur	Staff
Fr. Francis Xavier Lazar	Carmel	St. Joseph's, Tiruchi	HM
Fr. Frederick Xavier Joseph	LTI	St. Mary's, Madurai	Minister

Fr. Gerlin Amaladoss	Tertianship	AHAL	PP/Social Ministry
Fr. Ignacy Arockiam	Supam	Ranipet	Technical School
Fr. Ignacy Gnanapragasam	Pondicherry	Beschi Illam	
Fr. Ignatius Puthiadam	Trivandrum	Arul Kadal	
Fr. Ignatius Sebastian	Vilangudi	Ayyampalayam	
Fr. Irudaya Raj A	Kalangarai	Salem or Chennai	Doctoral Studies
Fr. Irudaya Valanarasu	KARISAL, Alangulam	LAV, Vadamelpakkam	Staff
Br. Irudayam Antony	KARISAL, Alangulam	Kuppayanallur	TTI
Fr. James Suresh Kumar	Supam	Shembaganur	PEAK
Fr. Jesudasan Ignatius	Arul Kadal	St Mary's, Madurai	
Fr. Joe Arun C	Loyola, Chennai	St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai	Staff
Fr. John Wilson	Supam	Beschi Illam	Socius (Novitiate)
Fr. Joseph Ignaci G	Udhagamandalam	St Joseph's, Tiruchi	AICUF State Advisor
Fr. Joseph Xavier A	LAAS	ISI, Delhi	
Fr. Joseph Xavier P	Tertianship	Xaveriana	Staff
Fr. Joseph Xavier V	Loyola, Chennai	Loyola, Chennai	Minister & Guest Master
Br. Kulandairaj Antony	St. Joseph's, Tiruchi	St Mary's, Madurai	HM
Fr. Loyola Antony Savari A	Ranipet	St. Mary's, Madurai	Staff
Fr. Manuel Savariar	Supam	KARISAL, Alangulam	Staff and Treasurer
Fr. Maria Arul Raja	Arul Kadal	USA	Sabbatical
Fr. Maria Packiam	Supam	St. Joseph's, Tiruchi	Asst. PP & Research
Fr. Martin George	Kuppayanallur	De Britto, Devakottai	Staff
Fr. Packiaraj Gnanarethinam	De Britto	Beschi Illam	Minister & Treasurer
Fr. Patrick Ravichandran	Vadamelpakkam	Uthagamandalam	Staff and Treasurer
Fr. Paul Benedict S	Kuppayanallur	Xaveriana	Staff
Fr. Sahayaraj J. Stanley	Arul Kadal	Innsbruck, Austria	Doctoral Studies
Fr. Sahaya Raj Thangasamy	IDEAS	St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai	Staff
Fr. Santiago Sebastian	AHAL	St. Joseph's, Tiruchi	Studies (MCA)
Fr. Sebastian Anand	St. Joseph's, Tiruchi	St. Xavier's, Jaipur	Principal
Fr. Sekhar B. Vincent	AAC, Karumathur	Loyola, Chennai	Staff (IDCR)
Fr. Selvanayagam Diraviam	St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai	Loyola, Chennai	Staff
Fr. Stephen J. Muthu	LTI (Superior & Director)	LTI	Director: Com. College
Br. Stephen Raj S.	St. Mary's, Madurai	St Mary's, Madurai	School Office
Fr. Stephen Selvanathan A	St. Joseph's, Tiruchi	Afghanistan	Staff
Br. Thomas Arulappan	Loyola, Chennai	Arul Kadal	Minister & Treasurer
Fr. Vazhapilly Francis	Thozhamai Illam	Carmel, Nagercoil	Spiritual Ministry
Fr. Vedanayagam Ignatius	Ranipet	DACA	Spiritual Ministry
Fr. Viaguladasan Manickam	Loyola, Chennai	Dhyana Ashram	<i>Andrada Arul Vakku</i>
Fr. Vincent Amalraj M	St. Mary's, Madurai	Carmel, Nagercoil	HM
Fr. Victor Maria Joseph	Thozhamai Illam	DNC, Pune	Spiritual Father
Fr. Victor Roch	Supam	Beschi Illam	Asst. Voc. Promoter
Fr. Wilson Arockiasamy	Oriyur (HM & Superior)	Oriyur	HM

Theology

Sch. Alex Yagu	Afghanistan	Arul Kadal
Sch. Antony Inico	St Joseph's, Tiruchi	Arul Kadal
Sch. Francis Xavier A.	St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai	Arul Kadal
Sch. Poondy Rajan	Vettavalam	Arul Kadal
Sch. Richard Hiruthayaraj	Bangalore	London, UK
Sch. Victor Desoza A.	Loyola, Chennai	Arul Kadal
Sch. Vincent Irudhayaraj	St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai	Arul Kadal

N.B.:

1. All the new appointments and transfers are to be effected on or before June 1, 2012.
2. Transfer List III will be published towards the end of April or early May.

Fr. Provincial's Programme

April

- 04-08 Visitation: Beschi
 09-10 Visit to Salem Diocese and meeting with the Bishop of Salem
 11-12 Visitation: Beschi
 15-16 Consult
 25-30 Rome for Colloquium and Visitation of our men there

May

- 01-12 Rome for Colloquium
 13-15 Paris: Meeting the Provincial of France and Visiting ICAM Campus in Lille
 15-16 Nurnberg and Munchen: Meeting the Mission Procurator and German Provincial
 17-19 Madrid: Visitation of Fr. Justine Emmanuel and meeting the Provincials of Spain and Castilla
 19-20 Return Journey
 25 Consult (*send off to the outgoing Socius, Consultors and Province Treasurer and the induction of the new ones*)
 27-28 Formation Meet at SHC, Shembaganur
 29 Jubilarians' Day at Beschi

▣ **Acting Provincial**

During my absence from the Province from April 25 to May 20, 2012, **Fr. Arulanandam Arockiam, Socius**, will be the **Acting Provincial**.

▣ **Guidelines for Accepting Civil Positions**

In the present context of high politicization of all civil positions and authority, it is a known fact that most of these positions are controlled by political powers and different influences. Moreover, even after the appointment, one can hardly function freely as per rules and according to one's conscience, due to various factors. Besides, the spirit of the Society of Jesus is that no one should aspire for civil or ecclesiastical position. In these circumstances, it is not proper for Jesuits to seek any civil position, e.g., Vice Chancellor, Directorship or Chairmanship of any Board or Commission, etc.

Further, in case, any civil position is offered purely on the basis of merit, the Provincial, after due consultations, may or may not allow a person to accept such an offer. No individual Jesuit can accept such an offer on his own.

Membership in a Committee or Commission or Syndicate of a government or semi-government body is slightly different, as that is usually a consultative or a professional role, without the final authority to take decisions. Still, a Jesuit is not permitted to canvass for such a position. Moreover, membership on any of these bodies requires the prior permission of the Provincial.

▣ **Bifurcation of the Posts of HM and Correspondent**

From the forthcoming academic year (2012-13), the posts of Head Master and Correspondent will be bifurcated and each will be held by different individuals in all our schools. However, the implementation of this policy decision may be done in stages, if there is any need.

▣ **Qualities Required for Administrative Posts**

While looking for suitable candidates for any important administrative post, the Province Administration has applied the following criteria, as these are the qualities the Society of Jesus expects from any person holding responsible administrative or leadership position or responsibility:

1. Managerial and administrative skills in general
2. Clarity of thought and ideas
3. Decisiveness in action
4. Ability to combine firmness with reasonable flexibility
5. Effectiveness in communication
6. Proficiency in English
7. Ability to promote/build team spirit and cooperation
8. Openness to new ideas/suggestions from others
9. Objectivity in assessment and action
10. Financial transparency and accountability
11. Knowledge about the various rules and regulations
12. Ability to withstand unhealthy influences and pressures
13. Administrative performance in the past
14. Creative and future-oriented vision and plans
15. Willingness to be accountable to the Superior and/or Community
16. Respect for Jesuit/ Christian values and principles
17. Willingness to promote lay collaboration
18. Capacity to promote lay collaboration

▣ **Fr General has appointed:**

Fr Johan Verschueren, Provincial of N. Belgium and Netherlands.

Fr. Jose Vadassery, Provincial of Patna

▣ **Please Note:**

Fr. Antonysamy Antony: antonysamy.fr@gmail.com

Fr. Francis Jayapathy: fjthysj@gmail.com

Fr. Jerome Kulandaisamy: kjeromesj@gmail.com

☐ Common Retreats

The Province is organizing common retreats for the province men, as desired by the members. The dates, the venues and the preachers have been announced already. Fr. Provincial strongly recommends that as many as possible join anyone of these common retreats. The Superiors are requested to encourage their respective community members to participate in these common retreats. The details are given once again for your ready reference:

Dates	Venue	Preacher
May 01 (p.m.) – 09 (noon)	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Fr. Joe Pulickal
May 08 (p.m.) – 16 (noon)	SHC, Shembaganur	Fr. Paul Vaz
Oct. 20 (p.m.) – 28 (noon)	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	N.N.
Oct. 20 (p.m.) – 28 (noon)	Thozhamai Illam, K.Kumari	N.N.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

On the occasion of our Maxi Day (Annual Day) the performance of the pre-novices delighted the hearts of the audience from various religious congregations and diocesan priests. **Fr. Britto Peter**, the PCF was the Chief Guest and he released the students' annual magazine, DARK HORSES.

We went on a pilgrimage to Vailankanni. We thanked the Lord for His gifts and graces throughout the year. We gratefully remember the hospitality of Kalangarai community. Their sharing about their mission positively inspired the pre-novices.

We joined the parishioners in the Lenten pilgrimage to Elakuruchi.

Prabu Francis

JESUIT JUNIORATE, TRIVANDRUM

After much preparation, we wrote the ADF proficiency test in English on 15 March. The four-day course on 'Psycho-Spiritual Integration', given by **Fr Sunny Thomas**, was a great help to make an inward journey and discover ourselves. For the first time we celebrated Ugadi, the Telugu New Year Day along with our companions from Andhra. We were privileged to attend the 49th College Day at Loyola, Sreekariyam. The function was enjoyable.

A. Jose Antony

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

On 3rd March, the much-awaited Pune Inter-college conference on "Peace: Dreams, Dialogue and Dynamics" was held and around 200 students from 10 colleges took part in the same and it was mainly for the students and by the students. **Fr. Robin S. Seelan** was the convener of the conference and many marvelled at the meticulous planning put in by Fr. Robin and his energetic team of volunteers to make the conference an unforgettable milestone in the annals of JDV.

Schs. Berchmans, Stalin and Regis presented papers in the conference on various themes related to

peace and we appreciate the excellent job done by our men in bringing out their best.

We bade an affectionate adieu to Fr. Robin S. Seelan and our dear second year brothers. Their presence enriched our life and certainly we will miss them a lot. We, the first year philosophers had our end semester exams in the second week of March, while our second year brothers prepared themselves for their comprehensive exams.

On 18th March, we commemorated the first death anniversary of **Mr. Savarimuthu**, the beloved father of **Sch. Regis** and prayed for the repose of the departed soul.

G. S. Thayriam

LOYOLA ACADEMY VADAMELPAKKAM

The academic year came to an end on 17th of March. As ours is a CBSE school, our academic year is from April to March. We begin the next academic year on 2nd April 2012.

We had two days of training on CCE (Comprehensive Continuous Evaluation) for our teachers on 18th and 19th. **Ms. Jothy**, an experienced English teacher and a member of the resource team of Ratna Sagar Publishers brought out the philosophy behind CCE on the first day and made clear the practical details on the second day. It was a very useful and enriching training.

Our teachers had meticulous and detailed planning from 20th to 29th for the next academic year.

S.M. John Kennedy

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

Our community made a Lenten pilgrimage to a shrine in Chetpet. We prayed for our institutions and the Province.

On 9th, our Primary School in Ongur celebrated its 77th Annual Day in a grand manner with the theme "விடுவிக்க விடுதலைதர". On the same day, the last parents' meeting for this academic year was held in our school. Most of the parents expressed their gratitude to the staff and the management for having

taken great care to educate their children. The staff and students went on a trip to Chennai.

News from LTTI:

Fr. Philomin Raj took classes on “Children’s rights and Women’s rights”. The II year trainees went on a trip to the Planetarium, Egmore Museum and Mahabalipuram. **Miss. Bama** oriented the trainees on “The role of Women Teachers in the growing Villages”. **Sr. Alphonsa Anandhi** trained the II year students to attend their Commission effectively. **Sr. Regi’s** orientation towards life and challenges was marvellous. **Fr. Martin George** is trying his best to get all the seats filled this year. Aspiring women candidates to become teachers can be sent to our institution.

Joseph Arockiasamy

ST. JOHN DE BRITTO SHRINE ORIYUR

On 29th Feb, St. Arulanandaiyar Primary School Day was celebrated in a grand manner. **Fr. Wilson** presided over the function. **Fr. Darwin** gave away the prizes to the children. On 4th March, fasting and prayer services were held in our parish. They were arranged to help the people in preparation for Lent. **Fr. Maria Louis** from Tiruchi led them in prayer. **Fr. Jones Martin**, the PP of Nagarikathan organized zonal Catechism Convention in his parish. Eighty children from our parish took part in the convention and benefited a lot. On 5 March, a special prayer service was conducted for all the XII Std students of our school. **Frs. Wilson, Xavier, Nedungatt** and **Darwin** led them in prayer and blessed them to write their exams well. On 17th inst., Axis Bank was inaugurated on campus. On the same day people along with Fr. Darwin went on a pilgrimage to Puliur. Three Novices of our Province from Guntur have come here for their mission experience and they stay at different substations.

Amirtharaj

ST. MARY’S MADURAI

As part of the Lenten Spiritual Programme, the Community had a two-day in-depth sharing with vigour and enthusiasm to understand, accept and appreciate one another. **Fr. Jebamalai Raja** played a vital role in this effort.

On the primary school’s Annual Sports Day thousands of children took part in a colourful parade. Also, the 158th Annual Day of the Primary school was held with great joy and exultation. **Fr. P.S. Arul** paid great tributes to the Staff for the full-fledged formation of the students.

In the parish, retreats and seminars were organized for children, youths and elders. At the various substations of the parish, penitential services were held to help the parishioners to make a good confession and celebrate Easter. Penitential pilgrimages, Eye Camp and the Way of the Cross helped to prepare ourselves for Easter.

Five of our community members went to Katchatheevu Island to participate in the festival of

St. Antony of Padua. Fr. Jebamalai Raja gave an inspiring sermon during the Mass.

Felix Joseph

XAVERIANA, THOOTHUKUDI

The catechism teachers of St. Xavier’s and the teachers of St. Thomas Matriculation went on a pilgrimage to Oriyur in two groupes. **Frs. Sales** and **Joe Xavier** led one group while **Fr. Albert Joseph** led the other. The Provincial addressed our staff during his Visitation. Fr. Sales arranged a one-day retreat for the diocesan CRI members.

Fr. Yagoo released his new book “இப்படிக்கு லெவே” on 21 March, the Leveil Day. The King Institute of Classical Acupuncture of the Open International University for Complementary Medicine at Colombo, Sri Lanka, has awarded “Doctor of Medicine” to our teacher **Mr. Sagayaraj**. **Fr Joe Xavier** has resumed his duty as Asst H.M. in the school after his Tertianship at Goa.

Xavier Rajan

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

The Boys Hostel Day was held on 3 March with the display of hip breaking dances and thematic skits. The colourful display of varied talents and folk wisdom exhibited by the hostel girls captivated the gathering on the night of 4 March.

The Association Day and the Valediction of the Students’ Council was held on 17 March.

The 42nd College Day was celebrated with pomp and pride on 23 March. To a fine blend of folk, western and Indian classical dances the audience gave a thunderous applause.

There were two National Seminars, UGC-sponsored, and organized by the Dept of Jainology, University of Madras and the Dept of Philosophy, Annamalai University in which **Fr. Vincent Sekhar** gave talks on Karma and Rebirth from the Christian perspective and Women as depicted in the ancient Hindu religio-philosophical texts. Both the talks added credits to his scholarship.

Frs. Kingsley and **Rufus** were with the students of JIM, Tiruchi on 10 March during their one-day spiritual journey assisting and guiding them towards holistic formation. They also led the Lenten retreats for the youth of St Mary’s Cathedral, Madurai and St Joseph’s Church, Kovilpatty respectively on 11th and 25th of March.

Rufus

LOYOLA COLLEGE CHENNAI

Congrats to **Sch. A Victor Desoza** who received an award for Algorithmic Graph Theory and a gold medal in M.Sc. Mathematics! **Fr. Ignacimuthu** was the chief guest for the Graduation Day at Christ College, Kilacherry, and for the national conference at DMI College, Chennai.

LICET and Loyola College celebrated their College Days on March 17th and 20th, respectively. LICET

students got the first prize in Physics and the first and second prizes in Chemistry in the State Level Seminar organized by Sai Ram Engineering College.

Emmanuel

LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

On 2nd and 3rd of March Staff Empowerment Programme was organized for the teaching staff in Kodaikanal.

Mrs. Nirmala Kotravai, from Chennai was the chief guest for International Women's Day celebrations. The 3rd College Day was celebrated on 31st February. The Bishop of Vellore presided over the function and gave away the prizes.

Poondy Rajan

ST. JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The College has gone in for the third cycle of accreditation. The NAAC appointed Peer Team visited our college from 12 to 14 March. It is a kind of inspection to validate the Self-Study Report submitted by the college. Though the actual credit may be known only after the report is placed before the Executive Committee of NAAC, we are sure to come out with flying colours.

The Centenary Tournaments of basketball, ball badminton and volleyball were conducted from 5th March. **Fr Arockiasamy Xavier**, the Coordinator of Sports saw to the meticulous arrangements and successful conduct of the tournaments.

All the hostels wore a festive look on 2nd and 3rd March as all of them celebrated the hostel days. **Ceylon Manohar**, an alumnus of SH Hostel regaled the audience with his robust voice in singing some of his renowned songs.

The College Day was celebrated on 17th March. Justice Rajendran of Madras High Court, an alumnus of both our school and college gave the College Day address and distributed the prizes. **Schs. Antony Inico** and **Rajasekaran** bagged four medals for academic excellence in Commerce and Chemistry. Congratulations.

Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier presented a research paper in a national seminar on "Regional Identity and Nation Building in India" organized by the Department of History, Kakatya University, Warangal on 14th and 15th March. Congratulations to him on having published his book "From Charity to Justice" by Lambert Publication, Germany.

Congratulations to **Fr Albert Muthumalai** on having bagged a major project from the Department of Science and Technology to the tune of Rs 10 lakhs.

The staff, friends and well-wishers have instituted endowments to the tune of Rs 245000 in honour of Fr Sebastian Anand, the retiring Principal. The retiring staff, teaching and non-teaching were feted on 26th March.

The Controller's office is fully automated. We have a data base of the professors from different colleges

in Tamil Nadu together with their expertise and their year of retirement. This is used to choose the professors for setting semester examination question papers. We have bar-coded the semester exam application form and the fee chalan. As soon as the student pays, the information is sent to the parent through SMS. Also the student's eligibility to appear for the exams as well as his marks are sent to the parents. We have two touch screens to know their marks. There are also two display touch screens wherein the information regarding the exams is displayed.

With the support of Alumni Training Centre, 18 sign boards have been installed in the campus at a cost of Rs 3.50 lakhs. **Mr Therasunathan**, Deputy Director, Field Publicity, GoI distributed certificates to 80 students trained by the Alumni Training Centre in different courses like Fashion Designing, Handicraft and Embroidery, Beautician, DTP, etc.

Fr. Mariadoss was invited to address on "Issues and Challenges of Single Women in India – Strategies and Solutions" in the UGC-Sponsored two-day National Consultative Workshop (16th and 17th March-2012) organized by the Department of Women's studies, Bharathidasan University.

Sebastian Anand

ST. XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The NAAC Peer Team's visit to reaccredit the college for the 3rd Cycle was held on Feb 29th, March 1st and 2nd, 2012. The Peer Team was very much impressed by the developments in the college in the last five years, especially in research publications, student promotion, extension activities, cleanliness and eco-friendliness in the campus cohesiveness of the entire College Community, etc. As a result St. Xavier's College has been re-accredited with 'A' grade with a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.50. This is the highest in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University region.

During the visitation of Fr. Provincial meetings of the governing Bodies of SXC and SXCE were held on 15th March. Fr. Provincial appreciated the members of the Governing Body of SXC, the staff and the principal for the excellent results from NAAC. He also pointed out that the staff were very cohesive, the campus eco-friendly and clean.

The 89th College Day was celebrated on 22nd March. The highlights of the celebration were the felicitations offered to 7 teaching staff including Fr. Alphonse Manickam, the Principal who retire at the end of the academic year and one non-teaching staff who retired voluntarily. The staff of the Economics Department in collaboration with other faculty members of the college, have instituted an Endowment of Rs. one lakh in honour of **Fr. Alphonse Manickam**.

On 26th March, AICTE Expert Committee visited the college and recommended to AICTE to grant approval to start MBA in 2012-13. The Manonmaniam Sundaranar University has already given its approval for the same.

SXCE:

The St. Xavier's College of Education organized from I to 3 March a three day community camp for the B.Ed students at a remote village called Kadambankulam through which it prepares them to struggle through any kind of difficult situation and to always reach out to poor students in need.

The College organized a State level Inter-Collegiate Volleyball tournament on the 26th March, which attracted around 13 B.Ed Colleges from all over Tamil Nadu. It paved the way for many other joint ventures among the B. Ed Colleges.

The College celebrated the International Women's Day on the 8th March when the women students revealed their capacities and capabilities through various activities.

SXHSS:

The St. Xavier's Hr. Sec. School, in collaboration with the Alumni Association organized a 'Dental Camp' for the students on the 17th March.

The School Alumni Association conducted a felicitation programme for **Mr. Xavier Roach** and **Mr. Savarimuthu** for securing the best Physical Education teacher award and Jeeva Jothi award respectively. They have indeed brought honour to our institution and have inspired their colleagues as well.

We had Fr. Provincial's visitation from 12th to 17th March. The whole community was inspired and impressed by Fr. Provincial's hard work, clarity of thought and the spiritual depth of his talk and exhortation. He met the staff of the three institutions and the domestic employees and spent half a day in visiting our farms.

On the 18th March the Cathedral Parish organized the 'Way of the Cross' in our College campus for the parishioners followed by the Holy Eucharist presided over by our Bishop.

On the 20th March Mother Teresa Women's Hostel celebrated its first hostel day. **Dr. Agnes** gave an inspiring speech on 'Growing as a woman'. Congrats to **Sr. Santa SAT**, the director of the hostel for her effective leadership in all the activities of the hostel.

Fr. Alphonse Manickam has been honoured with "Life Time Achievement Award" and a citation for his contribution to Higher Education.

Magesh

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

ICRDCE organised a Workshop for the Centre for Rural Health and Social Education, Yellagiri Hills on 9th March, 2012. It also organised a Refresher course in Life Skills for 112 teachers from 56 Community Colleges all over India for two days. This NGO that has been in existence for 30 years has decided to start 8 Community Colleges in three districts of Tamil Nadu with courses in Rural Health, Sustainable Agriculture and Native and Siddha Medicine.

Xavier Alphonse

IDEAS MADURAI

Renewed in body and spirit, **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** returned to IDEAS with good impressions about the Local Superiors' Meeting held for the first time at Chengleput on March 10 and 11. Kudos to the Vallam Jesuit Community and the Volunteers Team; the arrangements were excellent and the hospitality was cordial. On 23 March **Fr. Sahayaraj** preached a one-day retreat to 70 teaching and non-teaching staff of De Britto School, Devakottai. On 31 March he enlightened 35 Holy Cross Sisters in Tiruchi with a one-day course on *Social Analysis*.

Congrats to **Fr. Michaelraj** for his new audio CD production 'வாழ்வாகிட வழியாகிட' with e melodious hymns sung during the Ordination Mass at St Mary's, Madurai, in 8 Oct 2011! Stressing the importance of forming media clubs among students, **Fr Stephen Martin** conducted two orientation programmes to 40 lay teachers from 10 schools run by the Servite Sisters on March 16th at Sivagangai and on 24th at Papanasam. Launching media clubs in these schools in the new academic year will be a pioneering effort to promote the culture of media education among students and teachers. **Fr Aloysius Irudayam** was away in Bangalore from 17 to 20 March to finalise with the Human Rights Education Core Team of MITHRA and TNP-CRI the human rights education the manuscript of the text book for VIII std.

Three NGOs made good use of the campus in March: Arogya Agam conducted a capacity building training on 11 and 12 March for a group of 34 participants comprising its animators, Arunthathiyar youths from Theni district and the cadres of Arunthathiyar Makkal Munnetra Iyakkam; one AMMAN Network (Dalit NGO) Vikas Adhayan Kendra from Mumbai conducted a workshop titled *Dalit Emancipatory Politics Today* on 17 and 18 March for 36 participants; ten Board members of NILAM Trust had their official meeting on 19 March.

Aloysius Irudayam

KALANGARAI NAGAPATTINAM

To mark the occasion of International Women's Day, around 450 members of the Movement for the Livelihood of Widows and the Deserted Women gathered at Nagapattinam for a one-day convention. They took out a rally from the main bus terminus to the meeting hall covering important busy streets with placards in their hands demanding their due rights from the government and self-respect and dignity from the larger society. The widows enacted a street play which depicted their struggles in their day-today life.

On invitation from the Women Studies Department of Bharathidasan University, Tiruchi **Fr. Paul Mike** and **Sr. Flora** along with **Mrs. Tamil Selvi**, a widow, presented a paper and took part in the panel discussion on the challenges faced by single women in our society, with specific reference to widows and deserted women. As a follow-up, the academicians volunteered to organize a State level consultation to reflect further on the plight of widows and deserted women.

A one-day intensive coaching camp for about 60 students the X std of our evening study centres was organised at Tharangambadi. Apart from getting enlightened on the subjects, they gained confidence to face the forthcoming exam. **Sch. Jaya Prakash** was behind the effort.

Kalanganarai team is getting ready with a new Social Animation Centre-cum-Jesuit residence close to East Coast Road (ECR). Almost 50% of the work is over. We request your valuable prayers for the successful completion of the project.

A. Irudayaraj

PAATHAI CENTRE VALLAM

An orientation programme was conducted for the forthcoming summer camp (2012) for the animators. The visit of the superiors of our Province to Paathai centre on 10th March brought grace to the Paathai community. During the fellowship meal with the superiors, we felicitated our **Bishop A. Neethinathan** celebrating the Silver Jubilee of his priestly ordination and the 10th anniversary of his Episcopal ordination.

As a preparation for the Holy Week, we as a community made 'Padayatra' to *Malai Mazhai Madha*, Achrapakkam on 22nd March.

A training programme for the teachers of Evening Study centres and movement cadres and leaders was organised on 31st March and **Fr. L. Yesumarian** motivated them to contribute their best for the educational development of the Dalits and the marginalized.

Robinson

TN/JRS

BPRM team from USA visited Cuddalore and Vilupuram districts on 6 March to take stock of the ongoing projects. The interaction with camp counsellors and people on the service of JRS through CRS made them happy. BPRM project directors very much appreciated the organizations for their committed and qualitative service to children. With JRS field staff, CRS organized a consultative workshop for two days at LIFE Centre, Dindigul about the next phase of the current programme. The humanitarian gesture of CRI-Dindigul to those affected by *Thane* cyclone was highly commended. They distributed uniforms to children and also helped in constructing the Arrupe Study Centre. The 23rd batch of Mullaikudi Grihini students with a hope towards better future had their formal inauguration on 17 March. **Brs. Raja** and **Abraham** motivated them to see their future hopefully by overcoming present problems. **Fr. Louie's** visit to five camps in Sivagangai district gave new impetus to both students and the staff to work unstintingly in order to realize the dream of JRS.

There was a fire mishap in Okkur camp. JRS-team rushed to the spot and gave relief materials besides consoling the members especially the school children. We motivated the children to appear for the exams even though the accident demoralized them.

Raja

DHYANA ASHRAM

A number of programmes were conducted at Dhyana Ashram (DA) during the past few months and some of them are worth reporting: DABEX-2012, (DA Book Expo), a book fair jointly organized by DA and Vaigarai from Feb 01 to 09, was a grand success. **Fr. S. Selvaraj** put into it a lot of work.

DA's new venture "மாலை மொட்டுக்கள்" (Evening Study Programme) under the guidance of **Fr. Ephrem** had its First Annual Day on 18th Feb, presided over by **Fr. Rajam**, the Superior of Mylapore FBS house.

DA organised two laity seminars with the collaboration of Arul Kadal on Feb 11 and March three-week on "Widowhood of Mary" by **Fr Alangaram** and "Christian Commitment" by **Fr Kulanidai OFM (Cap)** of Madras University and **Fr. Maria Arulraja**.

DA's workshop on "Credo Today" had only a few lay-takers but it was a schedule with a difference and depth, according to its resource person **Fr Thamburaj**. Earlier, he had a 3 week sojourn to La Reunion for his much appreciated art exhibition and spiritual ministries, thanks to **Fr. Varaprasadam's** initiative. The DA community celebrated the 70 years in the SJ of Fr Vara with a special Eucharist and felicitation on Feb 7th.

The recent past saw **Fr Xavier Irudayaraj** accomplishing two important programmes of DA on "Faith Formation in Today's Context" for laity and "Contemporary Spirituality" for religious formees. This year 2012 **Fr. S. M. Selvaraj** is already at his third Long Retreat. **Fr. James Rodrigues** is becoming popular in neighbourhood parishes with his well-prepared sermons in English.

Fr. Jerry was the chief guest on the Annual Day of St Patrician College at Adyar. DHANAM had 6 blood and body donation camps across Tamil Nadu during this lenten season. DA itself had one of them on 16 March and 42 persons donated blood. **Br. Sathanandam** has begun renovating the buildings.

Jerry

SHC, SHEMBAGANUR

On 11th March, 2012 Women's Day was celebrated by PEAK in Kodaikanal. On this empowering day **Mrs. Premalatha**, the registrar of Mother Teresa University gave a speech which stimulated 320 young women gathered there.

On 15th of March SHC Community members went for a one-day picnic to Black Thunder in Mettupallayam, which made the community more cheerful and alive.

Fr. Vinny amidst his tight schedule managed to find time to preach a one-month retreat to two deacons belonging to Sacred Heart Betharram Fathers of Bangalore.

In the beginning of this month PEAK organized seminars for women held in both Deepagam centre at Gundupatty and SHC. The meeting of Ignatian Family (IGFA) held at SHC, united the Sisters from various

congregations to participate actively. **Fr. Jerry** set the tone of the programme.

About 30 seminarians from Poonamallee are doing a month-long retreat at SHC. **Fr. S.M.Selvaraj** is the preacher, assisted by **Fr. Jeganathan**.

On 26th **Fr. Kulandaisamy** gave a motivating talk on the lifestyle of Tribals to the students in Mother Teresa University.

Manickam

1971 BATCHMATES

Fifteen of us, the 1971 batch novitiate companions met on 10 and 11 March in Vijayawada for sharing our journey together as companions of Jesus. Three of them are married. **Frs. A. Francis Xavier, Philominraj, Prakash Rao, Brs. Maria Singam and Xavier Amal** are working in Andhra. The rest are in our Province. It is indeed a great privilege and achievement that we are able to come together once in two years for the past 25 years. We shared about our successes and failures. Our lay colleagues did acknowledge gratefully the role of Jesuit formation in shaping their family and professional life. **Fr. Sebastian Anand** and **Fr. A. Francis Xavier** being the last ones in our batch to retire this year, the issue of 'life after retirement' came up as an important topic of discussion. We remembered prayerfully **Fr. Felix Abraham** and **Br. Alangaram**. We recalled fondly the joyous moments we spent in the company of **Frs. M.S. Savariraj** and **Dominic Diaz**, who shaped us in the early stages of our formation. The two days spent together were refreshing and renewing! We appreciate and thank the Andhra Loyola Community for their wonderful hospitality.

John Pragasam

NEW RELEASES

இப்படிக்கு லெவே (தந்தை லெவேயின் மடல்கள்) Fr. Y. S. Yagoo, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp. 112, Rs.50

எல்லாரும் ஒன்றாய் இருப்பார்களாக! Fr. Ilanko Xavier, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp. 40, Rs.5/-

"*But I Say to You...*" Fr. R J Raja, A Retreat with the Gospel according to Matthew, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp. 72; Rs. 50/-

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Peter Doherty (HAZ) 78/55, on 28 Mar.

Mr. Antony Xavier (34), nephew of Fr. K. A. Augustine on 10 Mar.

Mrs. Thresammal (87) mother of Fr. Ignatius Amalraj on 18 Mar.

Mrs. Pitchai Arockiamary (55) sister-in-law of Fr. S. Augustine on 26 Mar.

FR. V.S. MANICKAM, SJ.

01.06.1944 – 30.03.2012

The earthly life of Fr. V.S. Manickam, a great Scientist, a noble Soul and a good Jesuit began at an unexpected moment some sixty eight years ago at Kamalapuram, near Dindigul. And his end also came suddenly at an unexpected moment in the early hours of Friday morning on 30th March, 2012 at St.Mary's, Madurai.



The previous day he was very active during lunch and supper, had his chat with others about his writings in Tamil literature, particularly Thirukkural. He might have gone to bed rather early in the night.

But the following day morning his absence for the usual coffee at 5 am and then for the Mass at 5.45 am in our domestic chapel was noticed. After the Mass, Br. Benjamin, our infirmarian went to the room of Fr. V.S. Manickam. To his surprise, he saw Fr. Manickam clean shaven and hair combed but with his head resting on the cot. He must have breathed his last as he was preparing to come for the Holy Mass!

Since his body was rather warm, nobody could say exactly when his end came. So a nearby physician was summoned to know the exact condition of Fr. Manickam. And it was confirmed that Fr. Manickam had died of massive heart attack.

Quick preparations were made to arrange for his funeral on the evening of the same day. Meantime the Archbishop came to pay his respects to the mortal remains of Fr. Manickam and in the evening Fr. Provincial celebrated the funeral Mass. A good many people from his village and Palayamkottai came to pay homage to him. **Fr. Britto Vincent**, the Rector of SXC, Palayamkottai where Fr. Manickam spent most of his life (nearly 27 years) highlighted his intellectual and spiritual qualities. He was joined by a professor of the same college and the elder brother of Fr. Manickam who expressed his gratitude on behalf of his family.

The deep Christian faith and the intellectual work of Fr. V.S. Manickam will be a source of inspiration to the younger generations!

Bastian

r

Jesuit News Across the World

Jesuits in Syria need help. The situation in Syria, especially in Homs, continues to be very difficult. Our Jesuit Fathers remain in the City, and are working to bring humanitarian aid to the families that find themselves in difficulty because of the widespread violence. At present, there is need of repairing our house damaged by the bombing of the past weeks, but as Fr Victor Assouad, the Provincial, writes: "Just now I feel the most urgent and necessary task is to help those families who are suffering in the present state of the country - those who are homeless, families without the bare necessities of life, lacking all medicines and care." Any house or community, or work, or anyone that is ready to help, can send their monetary help to the Treasurer General at the General's Curia at Rome specifying: "Near East Province, Humanitarian Aid in Syria."

FRANCE: Jesuits in 'six clicks'

The website of the French Jesuits has managed to define what it means to be a Jesuit in 'six clicks'. The website highlights six phrases, each of which can be 'clicked' to throw light on aspects of the Jesuit vocation. The 'six clicks' are all traditional Jesuit phrases. They are: *to go to different places* as the Gospel demands; *to help souls*, especially through giving the Spiritual Exercises; *to make outreach to children and the poor* a focus of Jesuit work; *to have a right sense of the Church* which will help resolve the tension between receiving missions from the Pope and working at the boundaries of the Church; *the tie of obedience* that holds together the wide range of places and ways of working asked of Jesuits; and *friends in the Lord*, the friendship founded on a common calling which expresses itself in the sharing food, in reflection on the movements of the heart, and in prayer and tasks together. The website is designed for people interested in knowing more about Jesuit life. The text is in French. www.jesuites.com/2012/01/six-clicks

INDIA: Lost Sanskrit Grammar Found

Toon Van Hal, a Belgian scholar and professor, found in the *Convento di San Silvestro*, a Carmelite monastery in Montecompatri, not far from Rome, the *Grammatica Grandonica*, a lost Sanskrit grammar manuscript. It was written three centuries ago by Fr Johann Ernst Hanxleden, the Jesuit missionary in India who was popularly known as Arnos Pathiri (priest). It is considered one of the earliest missionary grammars in Sanskrit, and had been lost for over two centuries. Christopher Vielle, a Luxembourg scholar who is conducting a study on Pathiri's manuscripts, said *Grammatica Grandonica* bore a considerable influence on *Sidharubam*, the first Sanskrit grammar ever printed in Europe (1790). Born at Ostercappeln, near Osnabrück in Hanover, Germany, the Jesuit missionary arrived in India on December 13, 1700. He built the *St Francis Xavier Church*, Velur, near Thrissur, Kerala, in 1712, and he spent most of his remaining years there. In 1995, the Kerala government declared the church and associated building as protected monuments. Pathiri is

remembered for his efforts to integrate the culture of the East with the West. He tried to assimilate the essence of Indian culture and literature with that of the West. Proficient in German, Sanskrit, Malayalam, Latin, Syriac, Portuguese and Tamil, Pathiri compiled Malayalam-Portuguese and Sanskrit-Portuguese dictionaries. He was known as a grammarian, lexicographer and philologist.

IRELAND: Photo Album of Titanic

To mark the centenary of the sinking of the Titanic (15 April 1912), a book of remarkable photographs of the ship, taken by a Jesuit priest, is being re-released to commemorate the tragic event. As the story goes, Jesuit Fr Frank Browne boarded the Titanic in Southampton, England. Several days later, he was ordered off the boat in Cobh, County Cork in Ireland, by his Jesuit Provincial. While on board, he took numerous photographs of the ship. An American couple offered to pay his fare to America, but unbeknownst to Fr Browne, when his superior ordered that he return to Dublin, his life was saved. Years later, in a Jesuit community basement, another Jesuit stumbled across more than 40,000 negatives belonging to the late Fr Browne. What was included in these negatives? This invaluable collection of photographs and mementos featured unique images of the Titanic, before it departed on its first and final voyage. When the value of the discovery was realized, a collection of the images was published in 1997 as *Father Browne's Titanic Album*. As the 100th anniversary of the boat's sinking approaches in April, many of the photographs in the book have been digitally re-mastered and new photographs have been added for the centenary edition of the book.

UNITED KINGDOM: Film About Mgr Romero

At the end of March, the Lauriston Jesuit Centre in Edinburgh played host to a screening of a new film about Archbishop Oscar Romero, to coincide with the anniversary of his murder. The film was introduced by Julian Filochowski, the Director of the Romero Trust. *Monseñor: The Last Journey of Oscar Romero* is an 87 minute documentary on Oscar Romero. He was Archbishop of San Salvador and assassinated on 24 March 1980, while celebrating Mass. His murder took place one day after a sermon in which he had called on Salvadoran soldiers, as Christians, to obey God's higher order and to stop carrying out the government's repression and violations of basic human rights. It is believed that Romero's assassins were members of a death squad led by former Major Roberto D'Aubuisson. Julian Filochowski, who knew Archbishop Romero personally, says the aim of the film is, as far as possible, to have Romero tell his own story by using his own words. "There are delightful interviews with priests and lay activists, human rights lawyers, politicians and former guerrillas - some who worked closely with him and others simply inspired by his evangelical courage and commitment," says Julian. See: www.lauriston.org.uk

USA: Exploring Pop Culture

Young Jesuits from North America have begun a new blog *The Jesuit Post* focusing on the issues of the day, particularly as they are reflected in pop culture. *The Jesuit Post* publishes the reflections of American Jesuits, many of whom are involved in university studies. They bring a liveliness of touch and a close familiarity with popular culture to the reflections on their past experience. They also show a commendable respect for older Jesuits who are welcomed to the pages. The breadth of interest displayed by the writers can be seen in the titles of some of the recent contributions to the blog. As the topics suggest, the blog is both serious and light-hearted in its reflection. The writers do not take themselves too seriously, but they are serious in trying to find God in unexpected places. Visit: <http://www.facebook.com/TheJesuitPost>

Education's Impact. Four Jesuit alumni are having a remarkably significant impact on the European Union. Mario Monti has made such an impression as Italy's Prime Minister that he is being compared to Cincinnatus, the saviour of ancient Rome. This is partly due to the support of Mario Draghi, president of the European Central Bank, and Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council. Meanwhile Mariano Rajoy feels strong enough as Prime Minister of Spain to defy the bureaucrats in Brussels on the issue of the budget deficit. We could hardly imagine a stronger endorsement of Jesuit education than we are witnessing. For all their regional differences, Jesuit schools can still produce what Quintillian defined as *vir bonus dicendi peritus*: good people who can communicate well. It all began with a pragmatic decision: in 1548, the citizens of Messina in Italy begged the local Jesuits to extend their teaching beyond the Jesuit trainees, and to include other boys of the city. Ignatius shrewdly sent some of his brightest to staff a new school. The enterprise never looked back: Jesuit schools multiplied. They were free schools, sponsored either by rich patrons or by a municipality. So, they provided a unique setting where the sons of plumbers sat beside the offspring of dukes. Within fifty years they had systematized the curriculum into the *Ratio Studiorum*. Again for pragmatic reasons, this has been adapted to meet the changing circumstances of time and place, but not before we had won a treasured blessing from Francis Bacon in *The Advancement of Learning*: "For education, consult the schools of the Jesuits. Nothing hitherto in practice surpasses this." (*Irish Jesuit News*).

AFRICA: Social Centers on the Move

A seminar on project management was inaugurated on January 26 in Nairobi for the delegates of Jesuit social centre in Africa. This seminar was the first in a series of six that will be held during 2012. They are organized by JASC Network (Jesuit African Social Centers Network), a specialized structure animated by JESAM (Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar), which coordinates social action. JASC aims to encourage joint initiatives among Jesuit social centre in the continent, and to facilitate the exchange of experiences and mutual enrichment. For 2012, JASC

has planned two formation courses in management, and another two in research, analysis and production. The courses will be held in the French and English languages in four African cities (Nairobi, Abidjan, Kinshasa and Lusaka). In response to the invitation of the general assembly of the social apostolate in Africa, JASC plans to organize training courses specializing on the processes of elections, and on how to prevent electoral conflicts and violence. Finally, in the light of the fifty years of independence of many African countries, the final seminar will address the question of how to make Jesuit social centre in Africa structures of action and social transformation.

ENGLAND: Student to Play for London Olympics

Fourteen-year-old Harry Castle, a pupil at Mount St. Mary's College, a Jesuit school in Derbyshire, is due to perform at the 2012 Olympics opening ceremony on 27 July in London after being invited to join the 46 violinists of the prestigious National Youth Orchestra (NYO) of Great Britain. The National Youth Orchestra members are all aged between 13 and 19 years old and are selected by auditions which take place in the autumn each year. Harry has been a member of the Orchestra for the last three years. He has two Grade 8 distinctions in piano and violin, a Grade 6 distinction in singing and last summer achieved an A grade in GCSE music. In 2011 he composed a programmatic piece for the college Jazz Band which performed it at the National Festival of Music of Birmingham for which he received a special award. Lucy Kitchener, Director of Music at Mount St. Mary's College, said: "The NYO is, by far, the superior orchestra for young people in this country and is incredibly difficult to get in. Harry has worked really hard for many years to achieve this standard. We are very proud of him."

INDIA: Students as Agents of Cultural Traditions

St Xavier's Collegiate School in Kolkata has set up a club to help students to immerse themselves in the culture and traditions of West Bengal. According to Father Sebastian James SJ, the school's vice principal, one of its aims is to train them to be agents of cultural traditions. "Most people think there is no scope for nurturing cultural traditions in Church-run English schools and we wanted to break this myth," said Fr James. The school's most famous alumnus is Rabindranath Tagore, the 1913 Nobel Prize winner for Literature. The students and teachers recently paid tribute to him by bringing out an album entitled Xavier's to Tagore: Muktapushpa (Gemflower), which contains ten songs and six of Tagore's most famous poems. "We wanted to give something back to our celebrated alumnus on the 150th anniversary of his birth, by singing some of the songs he had written," Fr James said. "Exactly 100 years ago, in his autobiography Jivan Smitri, Tagore reminisced on his days at the school. So it is fitting that the present students should honour the poet with this album. It is part of a larger project to help students cherish their culture and literature, through music, art, recital, poetry and one act plays." The album, released on February 2, is being marketed by one of Kolkata's leading audio production and marketing firms.