



DECEMBER 2010

(For Private Circulation)



*"Lord give us eyes
that we may see,
And hearts that
we may know,
Lest, understanding not
Thy ways,
We miss Thee
here below."*

Wish you a Happy Christmas of HOPE and a PEACEFUL New Year.

Fr. Provincial and Curia Members

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

December

- 01-03 Palayamkottai: Visitation: St. Xavier's Institutions (cont.) & Alavanthankulam
- 04-05 Chennai: Dhyana Ashram : Finance Commission : GBM
- 05-07 Chennai: TNPCRI Meeting
- 08-09 Thoothukudi: Visitation: Xaveriana
10 Palayamkottai: Province Consult
- 11-12 Palayamkottai: St. Xavier's College: Higher Education Commission: GBM
- 13 Kanyakumari: Visitation: Thozhamai Illam
- 17 Chennai: Dhyana Ashram: Brothers' Commission: GBM
- 18 Chennai: Visitation: Satya Nilayam
- 28-30 Pune: JDV: Assistancy Ecclesiastical Faculties' Assembly

31 Pune: POSA's Consult

January 2011

- 2 Chennai: Get-together of Jesuits from Africa
- 08-09 Dindigul : Beschi: Meeting of Superiors, DoWs, Prov Coordinators and Consultors
- 15- 16 Chennai : Formation Commission : GBM

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * **Fr. General** has appointed **P. Yoshio Kajiyama** new Provincial of the Province of Japan.
- * **Fr. John Peter Bellamine's** new Email: bellarminesj@gmail.com
- Director** of AHAL, Kilpennathur has a new cell No. 9976975639
- * **AUSTRALIA:** "Where the Hell is God?"
This is the title of a book written by an Australian Jesuit, **Fr. Richard Leonard** after becoming

convinced that his struggle and reflection in dealing with his own family's suffering could help other people hold on to faith in God when tragedy hits their lives. The title of the book comes from a question that his mother, a daily Mass-goer, asked repeatedly in 1988 when her daughter was left a quadriplegic by a car accident. Interviewed in Rome, where he is teaching a Communications Course at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Fr. Leonard said that if he thought God was responsible for his sister's accident, then he would have to leave "the priesthood, the Jesuits and the Church. A God who would hurt a 28-year-old like that is not a God that I can believe in, and I don't want to serve that God," he said. And he continued: "God does not send people pain, tragedy and suffering. After 20 years of ministering among people who were hurting and my struggling to help them to find God in the midst of pain instead of walking away from faith, I decided to write a book to avoid this withdrawal."

✱ **For the Kind Information of all Work Directors:**

The First Year Theologians of Arul Kadal are planning for the Summer Camp, 2011. If you are in need of Scholastic/s, please contact them by the end of December.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

During a symposium on *Insight* held at LIBA on November 11 and 12, **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** inspired the audience with the much-needed, age-old wisdom: *Work with integrity and Succeed with integrity*. He drove home the message with a question: "What do you want to be remembered for?"

On Nov. 24th, LIBA in collaboration with others came together for Pan-India Business Plan Competition. This year a new category was introduced for Social Entrepreneurs who would like to make a positive change in society. Each category carried a prize of Rs. 1 lakh. On Nov. 24th Mumbai Business School honoured **Fr. Christie** with a Life Time Achievement Award. During the same function, LIBA itself was honoured with a few noteworthy awards.

Fr. Xavier Alphonse was a resource person at a conference organized by Symbiosis University, Pune.

Fr. Francis P Xavier conducted a course on 'The Jesuit Heritage' to the Tertians at Kandy. Sisters of Holy Angels Congregation also participated in the course.

Fr. Emmanuel conducted a three-day workshop on Enneagram to the Tertians. He also spent three days in a treatment camp organized at Kattupatti, Vellore helping alcoholics to understand the connection between their emotions, beliefs and their addictions.

A. Emmanuel

ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI

Fr. Raj Irudaya attended the All India Major Seminaries Rectors' Meet on the theme: "Ecological Concerns and Priestly Formation". He also conducted a seminar on "Mission of Jesus in the Gospel of John" in an Inter-Congregational Formation Centre at Bhopal. **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** delivered a lecture on *Evangelization and Social Justice- Post Vatican II Perspectives* to the Salesians during their Chennai

Province Assembly. He also spoke to the MC Brothers on the theme of "Discernment amidst Conflicts". Kudos to **Schs. Richard** and **Leo** for presenting a paper on *Internally Displaced People (IDP)* in the Chennai Inter-Theologate Seminar (CITS) conducted at Gurukul. *South Indian Inter RTC Seminar-2010* was organized by Arul Kadal on 27th and 28th Nov on *Jesuit Tertiary Education for Building Human Communities: Challenges and Opportunities*. Karnataka, Kerala and Madurai students of the theology participated and they presented papers; **Schs. Jesu Nesam, Jeyaseelan** and Fr. Raj Irudaya presented a paper on Tertiary Education for the Empowerment of the Poor and of Dalits.

M. F. Kennedy

DHYANA ASHRAM CHENNAI

Fr. Jerry Rosario gave five talks - twenty minutes each - on social transformation in RADIO VERITAS. He also gave lectures at the Province Chapter of MCJ at Shillong on 29 and 30 Oct. He spoke to the Jesuits at Mango, Jamshepur on "What it is to be a Jesuit in the globalized world". Also, he conducted a 3-day workshop to the Tertians at Shembaganur on the *magis* of GC 35.

Fr. A. J. Thamburaj addressed a two-day prayer convention in Pallipattu village near Nagai for the members of the Church of South India (CSI). Every day the villagers gave for one hour a cultural programme. It was incredible to see the dance and song items on *Neeve Nirantharam*, on the apostolate of St. Francis Xavier and on *Arul Kadal Neeve* based on Beschi's words. He preached a Retreat-cum-Seminar on Charisms at the National Seminar for the Sisters held in Hyderabad. In Varanasi he spoke in a three-day prayer-convention for *Christ Bhaktas*. There were about 10,000 villagers who enthusiastically participated in the convention. He preached on the themes of Salvation, the Three Temptations of Christ and the Holy Spirit as counsellor.

Fr. S. M. Selvaraj preached four Retreats to the Sisters of St. Anne in Secundrabad in which the entire Congregation had the *Abba Experience*. Another two retreats were preached to the priests of Sivagangai and Guntur Dioceses. **Fr. James Rodrigues** preached a retreat to Jesuits at Batticaloa in Sri Lanka and attended the 'Earth-Centered Healing Retreat' conducted by **Fr. Paulraj**.

Fr. X. Irudayaraj gave an eight-day retreat to 38 Sisters of St. Anne in Shembag. He conducted a prayer-seminar on methods of prayer for two days to 27 novices of three different Congregations. He gave a one-month retreat to Sisters in Dhyana Ashram.

S. Selvaraj

LOYOLA COLLEGE, Vettavalam

A three-day Staff Empowerment Programme was organized at Yelagiri recently. The presence of **Fr. M. Elias** throughout the programme was noteworthy.

Poondy Rajan

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

Fr. John Suresh, Director, CRDS paid a visit to Loyola Teacher Training Institute on 20, November. He spoke on *Teaching Methodology and Techniques*. Thanks to **Fr. Martin** for arranging such meaningful sessions for the students.

Hats off to **Fr. Bastin** and Co who organized a two-day intensive Leadership Training and Social Awareness camp for the LASAC and SCOUT students in Ongur parish. **Fr. Joe Mike** et al enlightened the

participants on socially relevant issues. A word of special thanks to **Frs. Gunasekaran** and **Martin**.

Sahayaraj Vijayan

LOYOLA TRAINING CENTRE, RANIPET

We organized the annual Cultural Week in the last days of October. The best performances were duly recognized during the Deepavali festival.

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) review team visited our campus on 11 Nov. They met the students, staff and the management and identified the strengths and concerns for future development of our Centre.

A two-day media awareness workshop was held on 18 and 19 Nov. A three-day intensive English training programme was organized for the hostellers from 26 to 29. Thanks to the initiatives of **Fr. Arul Oli** and **Sch. Sathyabalan**.

Vedanayagam

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

A four-day course on personality development given by **Fr. I.M. Joseph** made the pre-novices shed their inhibitions and become jovial through the exercises and personal guidance. The community day celebration, *Veem Blooms* – 2010 created an opportunity to each pre-novice to be himself, to exhibit his talents, to anchor his companionships, to chisel and groom his personality.

The pre-novices ventured to cultivate more than 22 varieties of vegetables in the garden.

Viji Bose

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

While the 1 year novices had their one-month retreat in Oct-Nov. the II year novices had their one-month pastoral experiment in various parishes: Anilady (Pondicherry); Mettur, Kunnamalai, Vellalpalayam and Pallipalayam (Salem); Thirumanur (Kumbakonam) and Mullaikudi (Tiruchi).

Fr. Arul Sivan preached a retreat for the clergy of Tiruchi Diocese. He conducted a 3-day session to the Provincial team of Pallottine Sisters, a 5-day session to Servite Sisters and organized a course on Discernment to the Holy Cross Sisters.

On 27 November 15 novices preached a one-day retreat to the 10th and 12th std. students of St. Mary's, Dindigul.

Fr. A. Arulanandam is taking classes on the II Vatican Council and **Fr. Paul Jesuraja** on Liturgy and Catechism to the novices.

A. Vino Selukas

JESUIT JUNIORATE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On 26 Nov. we had a grand celebration of the feast of St. John Berchmans. The juniors put up a cultural programme on the eve of the feast. The feast day Mass was presided over by the Provincial of Andhra.

We had a four-day course on Social Analysis by **Fr. Francis Guntipilly** (KAR). We had another course on Journalism by **Fr. Vincent Pereppadan**. It was indeed helpful to develop a critical view of the media.

J. Vimal

VIDYA JYOTI, DELHI

Fr. Arokiasamy participated in a consultation organized by FABC Office for Human Development in Thailand from 14 to 20 October and presented a paper

on *Living the Eucharist in Asia and Social Mission of the Church*. He also participated in a meeting of Seoul Forum G-20 in Korea from 31 October to 5 November and also presented a paper on "Theological Reflection and Poverty Reduction".

Fr Leonard Fernando has been co-opted as a professional journalist in the Governing Body of ISPCCK for the third consecutive term of 3 years during its annual meeting. On 26 Nov he participated in the National Christian Unity Forum (NCUF) in Delhi.

James Suresh

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

Deepavali was celebrated in a simple and meaningful manner in our school on 4 Nov. A special debate in which the XII std students participated highlighted the true spirit of Deepavali to the students.

Corruption Prevention Awareness was given to our students. **Mr. Maria Jeyapal**, one of our teaching staff gave an informative and motivating talk to students urging them to prevent corruption in their lives now and later.

On 15 Nov the Children's Day was celebrated. A XII std students was the chief guest. He delivered an excellent speech which was well received and highly appreciated by both the staff and the students.

A day-long retreat was arranged by **Fr. Leo Tagore**, our campus minister for VI, VII and VIII std Catholic students. Four of the CIC Sisters from Amaithiyaham guided the students to search and experience God in prayer and human relationships.

M. Selvam

ST. ARULANANDAR, ORIYUR

The Hostel Day 2010 was cheerfully celebrated on 10th Oct. Our students took the challenge of staging an English skit, Declamation on *The Second Vision of India*, etc. **Fr. Jerome**, the Director was applauded for his initiatives.

The Shrine development work is getting intensified. It has already a new look and the renovation is on. **Fr. Cyril Antony Samy** and **Bishop Susaimanickam** met Fr. General with **Fr. Lisbert D'Souza** in Rome. They explained to them the Britto Shrine project and its importance. Fr. General welcomed the initiatives taken by the Province and shared his experience in Asia about the culture of pilgrimage in all religions. Having visited Fr. General they went to Portugal where they met the President of the Portuguese Bishops' conference, the Rector of Fatima Shrine and the Jesuit Provincial of Portugal; they explained to them the project and requested funds. Fr. Cyril visited about ten countries, met a few Provincials, mission procurators, agencies, etc. He raised funds from some parishes.

Magesh

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

The CRI, Madurai Unit is active with **Fr. Vincent Amalraj** as its Secretary. He is called its *Guardian Angel*. **Veeramamunivar Kazhagam** had its annual seminar in our campus.

The Cathedral parish is vibrant with many activities: Youth group meetings, the choir, evening study centres, catechism and the Altar Boys' Association, besides the Parish Council.

Our community reached out to the 70 flood-affected tribal families, *Kattu Nayakkars*, at Sakkiyamangalam near Madurai and distributed rice, blankets and mats to them.

Bastian

LATI, MADURAI

'Madurai Youth comes out with an anti-abduction device; dedicates it in memory of Coimbatore siblings who were murdered' was the headline carried in THE HINDU dated 22 Nov. The Madurai youth is none other than Jesudas Seksan, a former student of Madurai Community College. Parents can locate where their children are through this device, fitted into the belt. If anyone tries to remove it, it will raise an alarm in the child's home. Jesudas says that if the government or any donor helps him, he could come out with a much-improved version of the device.

Fr. Stephen J. Muthu attended a meeting of Academic and Examination Boards of IGNOU in which he underlined the flexibility in the Community College(CC) System. He also addressed the National Meet of the CC on the Good Practices in the CC system. As a guest of honour, he addressed the 67th Annual GBM of the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI) at Secunderabad.

Br. Ignacy and **Fr. Wilfred** organized the celebration of Ecology Day. **Sch. George** spoke on sustained development. Fr. Wilfred directed a mime on ecological awakening and **Fr. Maria Louis** blessed the programme with a short prayer. Br. Ignacy attended the SKIP conference in Bangalore, that selected our ITI as the *Centre of Excellence* to train the other ITIs around LATI. He also addressed the Representatives of Minority ITIs in Chennai.

Fr Basil presented research papers at a conference in the University of Mumbai organized by Afro-Asian Philosophy Assn. and in a national seminar in New Delhi organized by IGNOU. He participated in a conference in Faridabad organized by the Association of Christian Philosophers of India. He spoke on Folk Epistemology in the Department of Folklore, M.K.U. Fr. Wilfred conducted a refreshment programme for the destitutes of Mother Teresa Home.

Wilfred

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

This year wells, lakes and ponds in and around the College campus are full. **Fr. A. Kingsley** attended a two-day programme in Bangalore in a Corporate HR Training Academy in view of training our MCA students in soft skills and effective communication. The NSS of AAC organized a seven-day camp in Sathankudi village, Thirumangalam Taluk from 17 to 23 Nov. on the theme *Youth for Environment*; 140 volunteers both boys and girls actively participated in the camp. They cleaned up the village primary school, temple and public paths. More than a hundred saplings were planted in the village. They also put up cultural programmes to create awareness on the empowerment of women, for saving the environment and carrying on an anti child-labour campaign.

A. Kingsley

ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The B. Ed students have completed their Intensive Teaching Practice in various schools in and around Tirunelveli.

On 29 Oct the Sacred Heart Hostel Day was celebrated. On 14 Nov the students and staff made generous contributions of usable materials for the senior citizens under the care of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

On 28 Nov the Alumni of SXHSS together with Govt. Medical College Hospital, Tirunelveli conducted a seminar on "Teenage Problems and Solutions". The Judge Joseph clinical lab (run by SXC Alumni

Association) organized a medical camp in collaboration with the Govt. Siddha Medical College on 30 Oct and a seminar on Diabetics on 13 Nov.

The FRRC in collaboration with Dravidian University, Kuppam organized a work camp for preparation of an Encyclopedia of South Indian Folklore.

From 25 to 27 Nov the Department of Viscom of SXC organized குழந்தைகள் குறும்புத் திருவிழா. More than 3000 students from the schools in and around Palayamkottai participated. The students enjoyed watching the short films. Kudos to **Fr. Xavier Antony** who organized this programme.

Francis Xavier

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

A team of 36 students and 5 teachers from Bartley Secondary School, Singapore, came here for an exposure programme. Under the auspices of SHEPHERD, the visitors stayed in Purasampatti for three days from 25 Oct and helped monetarily to complete the village community hall.

Fr John Britto, the Province EHST Convener says this about SAC-MEC Meet: "The South Asia Consultation of Jesuits on Migration and Displacement, Ecology, Community and Fundamentalism christened as SAC-MEC saw 120 Jesuits converging at Jamshedpur from October 24 to 27 in XLRI. 'Towards New Frontiers Together' was the theme. The meet was meticulously organized with input sessions, group discussions and preparation of the SAC-MEC statement. From our Province, **Br Thomas, Frs. M Amaladoss, Ignacimuthu, John Britto** and **Jerry** attended the Consultation.

JEHEASA (Jesuit Higher Educational Association in South Asia) is the youngest Secretariat under POSA. Formerly part of JEA, now it is a separate secretariat and presently Fr Albert Muthumalai is its Secretary. All the Heads of Higher Educational Institutes (Colleges, B.Ed. Colleges, Engineering Colleges, Business Schools, Philosophates and Theologates) gathered at XIMB, Bhubaneswar from Nov 5 to 7. The address of Fr General given in Mexico was taken up for discussion. From St. Joseph's College **Frs. Albert Muthumalai, Sebastian Anand** and **Pappuraj** attended the meeting.

Diwali was celebrated on 4 Nov in a fitting manner. Children's Day was celebrated in our school campus on 12 Nov. The 62nd Anniversary celebration of NCC was held on 15 November.

All the Catholic boys in our School (about 700) made a one-day retreat on 13 Nov.

Sebastian Anand

KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

Alboan, a Jesuit-based funding agency from Spain visited Kalangarai for an annual review. Alboan's support for our *Widows' Work* is gratefully acknowledged in the interaction with the staff team and the leaders of the widows' movement. They gave encouraging words of support to the movement to march forward demanding their due rights for human dignity.

Fr. Provincial has sent a review team comprising of **Frs. Jacob, Arockia Raj, Stephen Muthu** and **Michaelraj** to make a study and review the operations of Kalangarai with the specific purpose of giving clear directions for future development in Nagapattinam. This team met all of us and had a lengthy interaction. It also met the Bishop of Thanjavur and had a cordial interaction with him.

Fr. Felix, director of an organization called SAM based in Villupuram sent a group of twenty-three widows to Nagapattinam to have a one-day interaction with the Kalangarai team to know how we were involved in the empowerment of widows. This interaction helped us to analyze the problems of widows and to evolve new strategies for the future.

We had to close the Community College for a week on account of incessant rains and also because many students were affected with *Madras Eye*.

Fr. Paul Mike enlightened the MSW students of Loyola College, Chennai on widows' problems and later **Fr. A. Irudayaraj** spoke to them on *Special Economic Zones in India*.

A. Irudayaraj

IDEAS, MADURAI

VIDIYAL NGO conducted, with IDEAS' support, a special training for 55 Dalit women members of its *Dalit Pengal Viduthalai Iyakkam* on 30-31 Oct. at Devakottai on the theme "Dalit Women and Elections". As one of the supporting organizations of the 12th Madurai International Documentary and Short Film Festival 2010 to be held at the Madura College, Madurai from 7-11 Dec, IDEAS was chosen as one of the three sites for selecting around 100 short films, documentaries and animation films from within and outside India. It is newsworthy that **Frs. Stephen Martin and Michaelraj** served as two of the 12 jury members for the selection done at IDEAS from 07-09 November.

On 13 and 14 Nov **Fr Eugene** led a team of lay associates in orienting 28 men and women Dalit college students and trainers to help them prepare themselves for their higher education in future. On 16 and 17 Nov the Arunthathiyar Human Rights Forum (AHRF) made use of our facilities to train 27 of their members on the Right to Education. While the usual one-week "Media Education" is a tightly scheduled training of **Fr Stephen Martin** and his lay associates, this year on account of continuous monsoon downpour the Dalit movements and NGOs dropped their activities.

Aloysius Irudayam

AHAL, KILPENNATHUR

By their ceaseless efforts our Arrupe Home students and AHAL campus are trying to make Loyola Driving School the best in the vicinity of T.V Malai. It has become a welcoming home for the poor and for others.

A series of attempts were done to make students of this area be motivated. Educational camps were organized for both 10th and 12th std. in the months of Oct and Nov to prepare them for their final exams with qualified teachers. The people of Kilpennathur participated actively in movement activities. They joined a long march to Chennai pressing the Tamil Nadu government to construct *manimandapam* for Ondiveeran, the first freedom fighter against the British in South India.

Joining 27 parishioners mainly youths, **Fr. Bellarmine** took part in the *Drum beat hartal* on 15 Nov to press the State and Central governments to include in the IX Schedule the reservation for Arunthathiyars within the SC quota so as to ensure their constitutional status.

JRS Tamil Nadu organized a one-day leadership training programme on 24 Nov for 50 camp leaders and animators of Thiruvannamalai zone at AHAL centre.

Seven parish youths attended T.V. Malai Vicariate camp on 7 Nov. All women's groups along with the Parish Priest are involved at the diocesan level to create a people's fund. Ninety women have participated.

A collaborative venture with SAPI and Kodai Hills Unorganized Construction Workers' Welfare Association was initiated for people to have political identity by joining the Unorganized Workers' Movement on 27 Nov at Kilpennathur.

Wenish

ARIAMANGALAM

The school celebrated World Hand Cleaning Day when the staff and the senior students of the school not only washed the hands of the tiny tots but also their faces and their feet. They dressed them up as princes and princesses of the school! In October, **Mr. Benjamin** and **Mr. Asokan** distributed rosaries to nearly 300 families. Diwali was celebrated by sharing of sweets.

Felix Joseph

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

On 21 Nov SHC Community invited leaders of three major religions. There were short speeches on Deepavali, Ramzan and Christmas. The students of our hostel and Grihini Community College made the evening joyful and memorable through dances and skits.

Fr Kulandai is back from his month-long trip to Europe. He gave a few lectures in Namur University in Belgium on social issues in addition to visiting friends and benefactors of our Inigo Siruvar Illam. **Fr A. Leonard** gives classes periodically to the students of the American University of India in Ugartenagar.

Br William was hospitalized for more than a month in Batlagundu. He had two operations, one for stone in gallbladder and another for prostate enlargement. Brother was convalescing in St Joseph's Hospital in Dindigul and is now resting in Beschi Illam.

It was a great success for Kodai Malai Ambedkar Unorganized Labour Welfare Union when the Madurai Bench of the High Court ordered Dindigul District Collectorate to issue pattas to 40 landless tribal families of lower hills. Congratulations to PEAK Team and Fr Philomin Raj who toiled for this with patience and perseverance.

On 25 Nov we had a prayer service followed by a simple farewell function for the Tertians.

LAAS ILLAM

LAAS team conducted a two-day workshop on RTI and RTE on 13 and 14 Nov to 95 Sisters (FBS) who hold administrative responsibilities. On behalf of LAAS, advocates Tamil Nidhi and Murugan with their legal expertise on women's rights enlightened on 13 Nov 30 Vellore Sacred Heart Sisters who are in social work ministry.

Fr. Jayapathy and **Fr. Thomas Amirtham** along with **Ms Lucia** and **Mr. Ignacio** of ALBOAN, Spain visited LAAS centre on 17th evening. It was an occasion for LAAS team to present its services and challenges.

Fr. Philomin Raj gave a two-day orientation to 70 Sisters (SJT) at Mysore on "Rights-based approach in our Ministries". The Youth Commission in collaboration with the NGO *Deepam* had a day's conference on 13th for the unorganized youths. Fr. Philomin Raj and a team of resource persons motivated, challenged and enlightened the youths in many ways. On 27 an awareness programme was organized at Kayatharu in collaboration with the 'Aathi Thamilar Peravai' for about 120 youths. The support and enthusiasm of the villagers in organizing the programme was praiseworthy and the response of the youths was extremely good. On 29th and 30th a two-day interactive session was held in Pondicherry on the theme *The*

unorganized women and Self Help Groups in collaboration with the local groups associated with FIHM Sisters and around 200 women actively took part in them.

A. Santhanam

SUPAM MEET

The ordination to priesthood was really an experience of being created anew. The experience of each of us was one of satisfaction and joy. Full of fire and vigour we joyfully and gratefully immersed ourselves in the priestly ministry. We came together in Beschi Illam on 19 Nov to share our experiences of being priests. In the absence of Fr. Jerry, **Fr. Raj Irudaya** coordinated the meet. **Fr. Britto Peter** was full of appreciation for our initiatives to make our priestly life meaningful and directed us to newer dimensions of priestly ministry.

Plans for a meaningful celebration of Christmas were designed and the Supamites returned to their mission stations with lot of enthusiasm. The SUPAM meet was an occasion to gain clarity of perception and direction. It came to a close with the Eucharist presided over by **Fr. Joseph Ignacy**.

Paul Benedict

FR. VINCENT SEK HAR FROM NEW YORK

Like everybody else in the USA, we celebrated the Thanksgiving Day. The community honoured its members for their recent publications. At the parish, we had a bilingual Thanksgiving Mass followed by a common meal in the rectory, a welcome event in the recent years. Everyone liked it. The month of Nov was a bad time for a number of churches and schools, robbed one after another! Our parish school was one of them.

FR. MICHAEL JOHN – SRI LANKA

I am now in Trinco-Batticaloa diocese working at a Jesuit parish. There is plenty to do in the parish and around. I am also teaching in St Theresa Mahavidyalayam, for 10th and 12th grade students. On 2nd November there was a special Mass organized for the deceased in which more than 3,000 faithful from six parishes took part. I presided over the Eucharist and preached. It was a new experience for me and I was touched by the faith of the people. On 9 Nov I gave points for recollection to the priests and the Bishop of the diocese. Now along with the parishioners we are busy preparing to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. May your Christmas and New Year be blessed with peace, joy and prosperity.

NEW RELEASES

ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട... Fr. Mark Stephen, Vaigarai Pathippagam, pp.140, Rs.50.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil (PAT) 76/54, on 17 Nov.
Mrs. Sybil D'Cruze, 96, sister of Fr. Correya, on 9 Nov.
 Australia
Mrs. Uthiriya Mary, 81, mother of Fr. C. Amalraj, on 28 Nov. Ooty

An extract from *Renewing the Apostolic Body to repond better to Our Mission* (in the context of Spain) by Patxi Alvarez, S.J.

1. Leadership: Today we Jesuits are wondering how we will continue to direct our institutions when there are few Jesuits available, and sometimes none at all. We do not know if the apostolic works will remain aligned with the Society's mission. We would like them to remain so because we are confident of their potential, but we cannot be assured that, apart from their being juridically Jesuit, they continue to serve our mission.
2. Jesuit culture: A work is Jesuit not just by reason of its mission, but also by way of proceeding. We wonder whether the style that formerly was diffused by osmosis because of the presence of Jesuits will be maintained in the future. We will have to continue working on Ignatian identity.
3. Incorporation of lay people: Many steps have been taken in the area of incorporating lay people in the works. Today they represent more than 95 per cent of the personnel of the majority of our apostolic institutions. The variety of lay people is enormous: some are closely identified with Jesuits, others are very critical; some are believers, others are agnostics; some are reactionary, others are promoters of justice ... The challenge of offering them a formation which will help them develop their personal views and attitudes is urgent.
4. Involvement in justice: We need more works that clearly manifest our involvement in the promotion of justice. There are still many institutions that continue to operate so as to reinforce a social order that favours the more affluent. We need more institutional renewal.
5. Communities: There was a greater variety of community arrangements before GC 32 than exists now. The large communities persist but the small, inserted communities are disappearing. This is perhaps due to our advanced average age and our customs, but still, we urgently need a prophetic presence in poor neighbourhoods to put us in touch with other realities.

Courtesy: *Promotio Justitiae* #97 (2007/4); pp. 63-64

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