



DECEMBER 2011

(For Private Circulation)

*The Provincial and the members
of the Curia wish you all the
readers of MNL
Divine Child's blessing
at Christmas and every day of
the coming year.*



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God is with us (*Emmanuel*) — Let Me Commit Myself to Him

Dear Brothers,

During the past six months, we have been continuously reminded about the God of history, how God is walking with us. Rather, we have been reflecting on how we are being led by God in our life and in our mission of service to His people. During this Season of Advent, we are preparing ourselves enthusiastically for Christmas, when we will commemorate how God become man to be one among us – *Emmanuel* – to be with us, to save us and to show us the way.

During the past six months or so, we have also discovered ourselves — our inner attitudes and dispositions, our strengths and shortcomings, our relationships both among ourselves and with outsiders, the level of our transparency and accountability in all matters, etc. Thanks to the various reflections, sharing, contacts and meetings, we have become aware of

where we are as individuals, as communities and as a Province.

We feel happy and proud of our several achievements. We are grateful to our forefathers for their wonderful achievements. We feel grateful to God for all the resources He has bestowed on us, both human and material. We are happy about the variety of our ministries for the benefit of our people, particularly the marginalized and the poor. We are happy to send our men to different countries as missionaries and also to different common houses of the Assistency to render their services there. All these make us feel proud of our Province and we are indeed privileged to belong to a Province, which is so much blessed by the God of history.

Our continuous reflections have also made us aware of the shadows or shortcomings in our life, at the personal level, at the community level, at the level of our ministries and at the level of the Province as a whole. We have become aware of the importance of

spiritual life and the need for deeper spiritual experiences, which can be realized only through personal convictions, efforts and practices. We have realized that the communities need to provide the adequate ambience for our spiritual growth and deeper spiritual experiences. We are aware of the shortcomings in our relationships with our own companions and also in our relationships with outsiders. We have initiated some steps to improve ourselves in this area. We are fully aware of the importance of transparency and accountability in our life. Steps are being taken to promote and ensure greater transparency and accountability at all levels. The Provincial administration and the Local Superiors are fully engaged in eliminating the various shadows and shortcomings and in bringing about an atmosphere of deep commitment to our religious life, spiritual renewal, improved relationship among ourselves and with outsiders, transparency and accountability in all aspects of our life.

These are the ways to move closer to God, to become one with Him, to respond effectively to the God of history, who came down to become one with us. Further, it is the most appropriate moment for each one of us to ask a personal question: "How close am I with Him?" It is also the opportune moment to examine oneself sincerely about the level of one's commitment to His call to be an apostle through the Society of Jesus. The Advent Season is a privileged moment of grace to receive Him into our hearts and merge ourselves into Him through our total commitment, total surrender and total dedication to serve Him, and to work for His people.

Fraternally,

Sebasti L. Raj SJ

Provincial

Provincial's Programme

December

01-02	GBM: Finance Commission — Beschi
06-08	Visitation: St Mary's, Dindigul
10-11	GBM: Formation Commission — Beschi
12-14	Visitation: Arul Kadal
15-16	Visitation: Dhyana Ashram
17	GBM: Brothers Commission — Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
18-19	Visitation: Ranipet
20-21	Visitation: Berchmans Illam
23	Consult
27-30	Province Congregation — Beschi

January

04	Budget Training Session (Colleges) – Beschi
05	Budget Training Session (Schools) – Beschi
06	Budget Training Session (Others) – Beschi
07-08	GBM: Social Action Commission – Beschi

09-14	Visitation: St. Joseph's, Trichy
15-17	Visitation: De Britto, Devakottai
18-20	Visitation: Oriyur
21	GBM: TVET Commission – Madurai
22	Meeting of the Coordinators of Commissions – Madurai
23-25	Visitation: St Mary's, Madurai
27-30	TNPCRI – Trichy
31	Consult

Province Congregation

The Delegates to the Province Congregation are expected to reach Beschi Illam latest by 7.30 p.m. on December 27, 2011. The inaugural session begins at 8.30 p.m.

Budget Training Sessions for Office-Bearers

In order to help the Communities and Institutions to prepare the Budgets professionally, the Province is organizing one-day training sessions in three different groups in January 2012. The College-men will have this session on January 4, the School-men will have this session on January 5 and all the others will have the session on January 6. **The following are the participants: Local Superiors/Team Leaders, Directors of Work, Secretaries/Correspondents and Campus/House Treasurers.** The session will commence at 9.00 a.m. and conclude at 6.00 p.m. **The Provincial expects the full participation of all concerned.**

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

□ **Fr General has appointed:**

Fr. Anthony da Silva (GOA), Secretary of the new Secretariat for the Collaboration with others at the General Curia in Rome.

Fr. Agustinus Sugiyo Pitoyo, Regional Superior of the Dependent Region of Thailand.

Fr. Vicente Palotti Zorzo, Provincial of Southern Brazil.

□ **The Secretary of the Society has appointed:**

Fr. Roy Sebastian (NEP), assistant to the director of the Communication and Public Relations Office at the General Curia in Rome.

□ **Sch. John Peter** who underwent two operations in the brain is now resting in Beschi.

Fr. Chacko Valiaveetil had a stroke and he is hospitalized. He is improving now.

□ **Fr. Babu Vincentraj** has shifted his SUPAM ministry place from Narasingapuram to Mosawadi in Vellor Diocese. His new address is: St. Joseph's Mission Church, Mosawadi (PO), Peranamallur (Via), Vandavasi (TK), Thiruvanamalai (Dt), - 604 503, Contact No.: 9841512088 (PP).

Fr. Paul Benedict S.: cell: 9786349597

Br. Bruno: cell: 9655040270

- The Meeting of **Jesuits in Science and Technology Forum** will be held on 18th and 19th February 2012. For details contact Fr. Ignacimuthu at: imthusj@gmail.com

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

Fr. Xavier Antony conducted a two-day course for the pre-novices on 'Body Language' to become aware of themselves and improve their gestures. The Community Day Celebration, '**Vee Magis – XI**' began with splendour. **Sch. Prabu Francis** gave a one-day retreat to the students of X and XII Stds of St. Mary's School, Dindigul.

Thirumanur parish village leaders had a meeting with **Fr. Arockiaraj** to plan for the pastoral visit of the Bishop, the celebration of the feast of St. John de Britto and to create a parish council.

Prabu Francis

BESCHI ILLAM

Fr. Provincial visited us on 5 October. He inspired us and set us at a deeper spiritual level.

On 1 and 2 Nov, a meeting of Jesuits of the 59-70 age-group was held in Beschi.

A 5-day course on 'Spirituality of Tamils' was conducted in CIS by **Fr. Dhanaraj** from 9th Nov.

The I year novices completed their one-month Spiritual Exercises on Nov 12 fruitfully under the guidance of **Fr. Ilanko Xavier**, the novice master. The II year novices went for pastoral experience to Sathyamangalam in Pondicherry diocese; to Kilpennathur, Ranipet and Sipcot in Vellore diocese.

A Triduum was given by **Fr. Paulraj** for the II year novices; it helped them to personalize their pastoral experiences.

Anto Arputha Raja

VIDYANIKETAN JUNIORATE, TRIVANDRUM

11.11.11 was a significant day for us Juniors. On that day we paid a short visit to the place of martyrdom of Devasagayam Pillai in Aralvo Mozhi near Nagercoil. After that we went to Kanyakumari and joined the long queues to visit the Vivekananda Memorial and Thiruvalluvar Statue. The confluence of cultures from different parts of the country was amazing. In the evening we experienced the kind hospitality of the Jesuit Community in Thozhamai Illam.

After preaching retreats in Tuticorin **Fr. P. Joseph Xavier** on his way back to the tertianship in Goa halted here for a day. He celebrated Mass and shared the word of God. We had well-prepared novena prayers before the feast of our patron St. John Berchmans which we celebrated with much spiritual renewal. The Provincials of the South were with us to listen to us, inspire us and encourage us. The cultural programme on that occasion was enjoyable with songs, instrumental music, a folk dance and a skit.

S. Jeyaraj

DNC, PUNE

We began our second semester in the beginning of this month and started smoothly to sail into the systematic study of Philosophy. **Fr. Britto Peter**, our PCF visited us and his presence indeed gave joy to all of us. His words of inspiration and encouragement moved us to reflect further on the importance of being very well committed and dedicated in our Jesuit life.

Fr. Vincent Wilson of Kottar diocese and **Ms. Ranjini** taught us folk dances and it was truly a time to learn the folk arts as well as to cherish the rich tradition of the folk. The scholastics took active part with much enthusiasm.

On 26th November, we celebrated Balmela for the poor children. This mela brought the poor children to the limelight through their splendid performance. More than 2000 children took part in the megamela. The scholastics did a commendable job and the fruit was seen in the smiles on the faces of the poor children.

Sch. Stalin had an arthroscopic surgery in his left knee and at present he is taking rest in the house. Kindly remember him in your prayers that he may recover soon.

G. S. Thayriam

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

On 23rd November, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India [ICAI], Tamil Nadu Chapter, organized a one-day awareness programme on the theme: 'One Village, One CA [Chartered Accountant]'. The morning session was meant for students. Over 3000 students studying in X, XI and XII stds, drawn from 43 Hr Sec schools in and around Nagercoil took part in the programme which was inaugurated by the District Collector, **Ms. Madhumathi**. The afternoon session was meant for teachers; around 180 teachers were present. November 24th was the concluding day of the 50th Camp conducted by JMAADD [Jesuit Ministry to Alcohol and Drug Dependents]. There was a good attendance and participation from among the 1500 individuals who had attended the camps held in different parts of Tamil Nadu. Quite a few came with their families. Fr. Provincial presided over the Thanksgiving Mass in the evening. What was really moving was the "witness" given not only by those who attended the camps but also by the members of their families. **Fr. Francis Jayapathy**, the Founder of this programme, and his team of collaborators deserve the gratitude of all those who have benefited from these camps.

Paul C. Jesuraja

LOYOLA ACADEMY, VADAMELPAKKAM

We, the staff, students and parents were immensely saddened by the demise of **Fr. Albert Diedrich**, our founder and patron on 1st November in Germany. He had been suffering from terminal cancer for some years. We had a prayer service in our school. His contributions and support to LAV will for ever be remembered.

The first-ever visitation by our Provincial to our team was on the 8th. Fr. Provincial laid the foundation stone for the Jesuit residence here on that day which is to be named after **Fr. Trincal**.

Our regents, working in Chennai Mission, had their monthly recollection here on 13 Nov.

Our teachers conducted a number of games and staged many cultural items on Children's Day. **Mr. Vedagiri**, our newly elected Panchayat president was the chief guest for that day's celebrations.

Fr. Patrick Ravichandran has joined our team this month. Diocesan priests from Chengalpattu vicariate had a one-day recollection and monthly meeting at our place on the 16th. **Fr. Mark Stephen** gave them a recollection by sharing his views and experiences in parish administration through active lay collaboration. We told them about our venture for the bright but poor and dalit students through LAV and solicited their cooperation for the selection of prospective students from their parishes to our school for next academic year.

Our teachers had a one-day training programme conducted by **Fr. Kennedy** on 26th on 'Enhancing the self-esteem of the students for making teaching and learning easy and fast'. We have decided to implement this self-esteem project in our school for VI and III standard students.

John Kennedy

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

Staff orientation was organized on 12.11.11. Children's Day was celebrated in a grand manner. The newly-elected Municipal Chairpersons and councillors of Devakottai some of whom are our old students were invited and honoured.

Fr. G. Packiaraj, preached a retreat to the clergy of the Archdiocese of Bhubaneswar. Our KHO-KHO team has qualified to participate at the State level. The Hostel Day was celebrated on Nov 26.

John Paul

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

During his visitation Fr. Provincial interacted with the staff and the co-workers.

The seven houses which were built with the support of **Fr. Ceyrac** Foundation were blessed by **Fr. R Gunasekaran** in Ongur parish. On 13th **Fr. Paul Benedict** gave a recollection to the regents of the North Zone in Vadampakkam.

In athletics, our school stands out in the district. More than six first prizes and seven second prizes were won by our students. On 6th, **Dina Malar** organized "ஜெயித்துக் காட்டுவோம்" programme for the 10th std students in Uthiramerur. Two of our students were honoured each with a copy of Kalam's "Agni Siragukal" for their confidence in coming on to the stage among the students of 30 other schools. Congrats to all of them!

Joseph Arockiasamy

XAVERIANA, THOOTHUKUDI

Our new priest, Ignacy Arockiasamy, made a brief visit to Tuticorin and during his Mass recollected how each one of us in the Community has been associated with him in one or the other stage of his formation. He gave a well-appreciated talk to our students on priestly vocation. He also gave a talk on Communicative Skills to the students of St Thomas Matriculation School. Another new Jesuit priest, **Fr. Mourlin** of Calcutta Province, is an alumnus of our school. Our students were happy to hear from the 'old boy'. The Community was happy to host a Tuticorin-style breakfast to the tertians from Shembag on 28 Oct.

Ten of our school staff attended a State level seminar on Action Research at SXCE, Palayamkottai on 27 Oct. **Fr. Albert Joseph**, the Superior, inaugurated the newly built Caussanel Science Laboratory on 28 Oct. The thin attendance at our students' retreat gave us an opportunity to reflect over remedial measures. **Br. Arockiasamy** is happy that we have a new sump which will solve our water problems.

Xavier Rajan

ST. JOHN DE BRITTO SHRINE, ORIYUR

On Nov 4 **Frs. Wilson, Cyril** and **George** went to meet the District Collector with regard to the development of the Shrine. He promised to provide us with water, road, etc.

The staff orientation programme was held on Nov 12. Fr. Wilson inaugurated the Inigo Dayscholars' Study Centre on Nov 14 to train primarily the underachievers. **Fr. David Kulandaisamy** was in our community from 5 June 2009 to 11 March 2011 till he left for Beschi, Dindigul. He served the community and people as Minister and Assistant Parish Priest. Three members from our community attended his funeral in Beschi on 22nd November. We pray for the repose of his soul.

Amirtharaj

ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

Our primary school was honoured with 'The Best Primary School Award' in Dindigul district by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Our hearty congratulations to all the staff and students! The hockey team of our School won the trophy in the State level Arrupe Centenary Tournament conducted by St. Xavier's HSS, Palayamkottai. The School campus ministry team organized a one-day retreat for the 10th and 12th standard students on 19th and 20th November respectively.

A State level cultural competition was conducted by the Tamil Literary Association (Veeramamunivar Kavinkalai kazhagam) of our School. Many schools participated in the competition. Dindigul Legislative Assembly Member **Ms. Bala Bharathi** graced the occasion and distributed the prizes.

In collaboration with Madurai Aravind Eye Hospital, our School Alumni Sssociation conducted a free eye check-up camp for our students and staff.

Maria Singarayar

ST. MARY'S MADURAI

Fourteen preachers from different Congregations and our staff conducted a retreat to our students under the leadership of **Fr. Arockiasamy** who directed the retreat preachers to make the retreat faith-oriented and on a social basis.

The celebration of the birth anniversary of our Jesuit Poet, Beschi, was presided over by **Fr. A. Joseph**, a scholar in Thembavani, enthused in our students a love and taste for Beschi's poems. In the competitions conducted on Thembavani, prizes were distributed to the winners belonging to various schools in the city.

On the Children's Day a humourous debate on 'Media: a bane or a boon' was conducted along with cultural items on the theme of the youth today.

Fr. Arockiasamy was the election commissioner who conducted with tact and discretion the parish council election of our parish. The parish elected the delegates from all 44 Basic Christian Communities. The election of the office-bearers was conducted democratically and smoothly.

St. Mary's community was happy to host the Madurai Zonal meeting. **Fr. A. Joseph** was the main celebrant of the Mass and Fr. Jebamalai Raja in his homily brought out the relevance of faith that does justice in today's context basing himself on **Fr. Arrupe's** deep vision and the 35th GC. There were 104 Jesuits who took part in it enthusiastically.

Felix Joseph

ANANDA COLLEGE, DEVAKOTTAI

Both teaching and non-teaching staff went on a tour to Top Slip near Pollachi. We spent some time in Arivu Thirukoil of Maharishi at Aliyar dam.

G. Pushparaj

AAC, KARUMATHUR

A two-day IQAC seminar cum workshop for the staff of our College was held on 18 and 19 Nov. **Fr. Rufus** spoke on, "Communicative skills and classroom management." The Transparency Day was held on 22 Nov for all the first year students who were given an opportunity to discuss the semester evaluation of their answer scripts with the concerned staff. The innovative idea was very much appreciated by both the staff and the students. The members of ARISE had a one-day seminar on AIDS awareness on 28 Nov given by various doctors and experts. **Fr. Vincent Sekhar** gave a day-long session at Asirvad, Bangalore on the understanding of religions in society and the practice of interreligious dialogue. He was also invited by the Vatican based Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue to present a paper on the Avenues for Jain-Christian Dialogue in Delhi. The President, a Cardinal from Rome, the Nuncio, and a few other Bishops were

among the participants, who gave a good appraisal on his talk. **Fr. Basil** gave a course on Symbolic Logic in Carmelite Philosophy College, Faridabad from 23 Oct to 5 Nov and he also gave another course on Phenomenology in the Capuchin Philosophical College, Kotagiri from 14 to 18 Nov. **Fr. Leonard** delivered a talk as the chairman of the All India Economic Conference, on 19 and 20 November at Coimbatore. **Fr. Rufus** conducted a life orientation programme for the differently abled children of St. Anne's Home, Anayarkulam, on 26 November enabling them to steer towards a greater horizon.

Godwin Rufus

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

Br. K. Arockiasamy after treatment at Madurai for occasional giddiness is back in the Community hale and healthy. The scholastics and student priests went to Sirumalai to make their triduum guided by **Fr. Dhanaraj**.

Thanks to HCL Info Systems Limited, the sponsored School Computer Centre was inaugurated on 14th November 2011 by **Fr. John Britto**, the Rector. The Centre has 100 computers donated by the alumnus of the school, **Shri S. Shiv Nadar**, Chairman of HCL.

M. Jeyaraman, I B.A. History, represented India, in the athletic meet held in Sri Lanka and won a gold medal.

Sebastian Anand

ST. XAVIER'S INSTITUTIONS, PALAYAMKOTTAI

On 5, November the Jesuits of Palayamkottai, Alavanthankulam, Nagercoil, Tuticorin, Kanyakumari and Karisal came together for the first Zonal Meet. The entire day was a day of collective celebration and reflection.

Fr. Xavier Antony came out with a creative idea by editing a book titled 'அம்மா பக்கங்கள்.' This book contains a collection of poems and anecdotes about one's own mother as narrated by the students of Magdalene Jose Hr. Sec. School, Tirunelveli. Needless to say that this inventional act was much lauded by many. The book was officially released by the Hon'ble Mayor of Tirunelveli **Mrs. Vijila Sathyanand** on 11 November.

On the same day, we had with us **Fr. Samuel Jeyaseelan** to defend his Doctoral Thesis on "Pebbling and Related Concepts in Graphs", in the Department of Mathematics. Both his research and defense were highly meritorious.

Justice Joseph Laboratory of the Alumni Association of the College conducted an Awareness Seminar on Diabetes and introduced the HbA1c test on 13 November. Noted diabetologists **Dr. Premachandran** and **Dr. Ajith** delivered guest lectures on the occasion.

Congratulations to **Fr. Anbu, Schs. Francis Xavier** and **Vincent** for successfully organizing an educational tour to Kolkata for 120 hostel students

and 5 staff. Their meticulous planning and execution made all in the group enjoy the trip.

On 17, November the Dept. of Folklore and FRRC jointly arranged for special lectures on the topic "Visual Anthropology – Food Culture." Two eminent scholars from Germany were the resource persons. Whilst **Ms. Anne Briesen** spoke on 'Visual Anthropology from the perspective of a T.V. Journalist', **Prof. Detlef Briesen** from Justus – Liebig University, **Giessen** shared his thoughts on 'Lifestyle and Diet Culture.' **Fr. Vincent Britto**, the Rector and Folklore professor presided over the function.

The Alumni Association of our school, in collaboration with 'SMART' conducted the Fifth year **Fr. Arrupe** Inter-school State level Hockey Tournament for three days. St. Mary's, Dindigul team emerged as winners and they were awarded by the Mayor.

On 25, 26 and 27, around 5000 students from various schools in the city paid a visit to our campus to view the movies shown in the 'Short Film Festival', organized by the Dept. of Visual Communication. It was positively reported by media for one main reason that the festival provided these children with a chance to appreciate the short films and learn lessons for their lives from the same. Kudos to Fr. Xavier Antony and team for this wonderful job.

On the feast day of St. John Berchmans, the 26th of November, the community went on a pilgrimage to a church dedicated to the Saint in Velayuthapuram. This was arranged as part of our preparations before the feast of our Patron St. Francis Xavier. There was also an exhortation given to the community by **Fr. Xavier Rajan** from Tuticorin, on 28 Nov.

Sahayaraj Vijayan

DACA, MADURAI

On October 29th, DACA convened a meeting for 36 key leaders of unorganized conservancy workers. The unique feature of the meeting was that it should emerge as a movement in Madurai exclusively for those who were working at private places. With the support of parents, the Evening Study Centres at 85 villages are going on well. In the recent quarterly examination, 45% of the students have scored top ranks in their classes in primary and high schools.

Silambam is usually performed by men. But in DACA 15 girl students are being trained by a well-trained staff. They will finish the training in the next three months.

DACA has been running a shelter for 49 homeless urban poor since November 2010 at Sellur with the approval of the Madurai Corporation. As a token of appreciation the Commissioner of Madurai Corporation has sanctioned Rs. one lakh. Kudos to **Fr. Antonyraj**.

In the recently held local body elections, with the support of our SHGs in 3 districts 12 Dalit Panchayat leaders and 10 Ward members have been elected.

Fr. Rajarathinam presented a paper on 'Dalits in Higher Education- a Challenge' at a State Level Conference at Tindivanam.

On behalf of AMUTHU a one-day motivational camp was organized for the X, XI and XII std students at Oddanchatram on 30th October. **Mr. S Palanichamy**, the newly elected Panchayat president of Athappanpatti, presided over the evening function and he was honoured on behalf of AMUTHU. Nearly 45 students, 15 parents and well-wishers participated in the programme and encouraged the students. The students who scored more than 350 marks in 10th std exam were given cash prizes.

Rajarathinam

IDEAS, MADURAI

It was heartening to see 110 trainees utilizing the institute's human and material resources. On 12 and 13 Nov **Fr. Michaelraj** organized training on behalf of JMPSA for 54 Dalit candidates to prepare them for the panchayat elections. **Fr. Stephen Martin** organized a media education camp from 20 to 27 for 24 participants representing various organizations, and this was followed by a review session for his team of six media education trainers. On 18th, the Women's Unit of Ideas had an interaction session with four participants. An Arunthathiyar group of 21 members utilized the campus on 27th to plan on the sub-reservation issue.

On 2 Nov., **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** was invited to address the MBA students of St. Joseph's College of Business Administration, Bangalore. Prior to writing the study report, **Fr. Aloysius** and **Fr. Eugene** had an interaction session on 9 Nov. at Kilpennathur with 20 Puthirai Vannars selected from the Thurambar Liberation Movement. The purpose was to elicit some information from them on the consolidated data gathered from 7415 Puthirai Vannar families in Cuddalore, Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram districts on various aspects of their livelihood.

After conducting a one-day programme on *Effective Leadership* for 42 Madurai Province Gonzaga Congregation Superiors on 7 Nov. at Vadipatty, **Fr. Sahayaraj** directed an Ignatian retreat from 7 to 13 at the same venue for the Madurai Provincial Team of the same Congregation. It was a healing and energising experience for the Team members. SAPI TN Coordinator **Mr. Baskaran**, along with JMPSA Coordinator Fr. Michaelraj, conducted an overall evaluation and planning meeting on 27 Nov. at TTS, Madurai, for those candidates from peoples' movements and organizations who had contested in the recent panchayat elections. The JMPSA Commission meeting was held at LAAS centre, Madurai on 19 Nov. in preparation for the General Body Meeting to be held on 07- 08 Jan., 2012.

Aloysius Irudayam

LATI, MADURAI

Planning and hard work of **Br. Ignacy** and ITI Staff resulted in 95% of the ITI students coming out successfully in the National Board Exams.

In collaboration with the Rotary Club, the Community College conducted a personality development programme for two hundred students from the Corporation Schools. It has launched a three-month training programme for girls on Computer and Communication skills sponsored by SKIP. **Fr. Stephen J. Muthu** is appointed a member of the editorial committee for the Manual for Community Colleges.

J. Boniface

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, UDHAMANDALAM

Sch. John Peter who was discharged from Ramakrishna Hospital, Coimbatore on 18 Nov. At present in Beschi. We gratefully remember and thank Fr. Provincial, Fr. PCF and all others for their support and prayers. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Fr. Amalraj preached recollections to the priests in Sathyamangalam and Ooty vicariates.

Our heartfelt thanks to **Fr. Jayapathy** and his team who conducted deaddiction workshops in different places in Ooty Diocese and a one-day programme from 26 to 30 November in different places. They also conducted a one-day seminar to the students of St. Joseph's H. S. School and St. Theresa's High School in Ooty. We congratulate them and continue to pray that their work may reach many people.

Vasanth

PAATHAI CENTRE, VALLAM

The canonical visitation of the new Provincial, along with the seasonal monsoon has brought showers of blessings to Paathai Centre. His stay from November 7 to 9 has really enriched us to carry on our mission to the marginalized with the spirit of Magis.

Paathai Centre is happy to have a new doctoral scholar **Fr. Yesumarian**. On the eve of 12th November, the Academy of Ecumenical Indian Theology and Church Administration conferred the title of "Doctor of Divinity" (Honoris Causa) on Fr. L. Yesumarian for his distinguished service to the Church and society. **Dr. K. M. Shyamprasad**, the Chancellor of the Institute, while conferring the degree highly appreciated his selfless service to the poor and the marginalized. Accepting this award, Fr. Yesumarian shared that this award was a recognition of his sweat and struggle in working for the dignity of the Dalits. Congrats to Rev. Dr. L. Yesumarian.

On 20th November, we conducted an evaluation of the Local Panchayat Election. **Fr. L. Yesumarian** and **Fr. Arockia Dass** organized the programme. Around 75 people participated in it and shared what they faced in the Election. Their active participation made them realize their responsibility and commitment for a better society.

Robinson

DHYANA ASHRAM, CHENNAI

Fr. S. M. Selvaraj gave the Spiritual Exercises (for 15 days) to the Theologians of Poona and Chennai of O.M.I. **Fr. Thamburaj** attended the JIGSA meeting in Darjeeling. The members of the Commission came out with fresh ideas on Ignatian Spirituality Programmes and how to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Restoration of the Society. He animated the Superiors of the Ajmeer Sisters in Bombay for 5 days.

In Hyderabad he gave an Ignatian cum Charismatic retreat to the Holy Spirit Fathers. This year too Fr. Thamburaj held an exhibition of religious stamps and coins for three days in November. A large number of people including 2,500 school students visited this exhibition. He had invited four eminent philatelists of the city to participate in this. One of the exciting items was a 2000 year old silver shekel coin, similar to the one, perhaps Jesus paid his tax with. There was another interesting item, a display of coins on Pope John Paul II released by the Vatican City.

S. Selvaraj

SH COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

After the revival of Loyola Institute of Spiritual training, the Holy Family Sisters of Spoleto had their 8 days' retreat directed by **Fr. Vinny Joseph**, our Superior.

Fr. Edward Jeganathan gave a 30-day retreat to the Brothers of Saint Michael from Coimbatore.

The Children's Day was celebrated in our Inigo Siruvar illam on the 15th November. The staff entertained the children with variety of cultural events to make the children very cheerful and happy.

PEAK team organized an ecology course separately for both the Community College students and their parents for three days. All the participants had a beautiful exposure to the beauty of nature and the richness of the earth.

The Jesuits from SHC Community were specially invited to celebrate Mass during the centenary celebrations of the Sacred Heart Church, Munjikal. The Solemn High mass on the last day was concelebrated by more than 30 priests.

As the saying goes, 'All beautiful things come to an end', the tertians' programme also came to a successful finish. On 26th they began their Triduum in order to thank God immensely and profoundly who had accompanied them for the past six months. They organized a wonderful farewell dinner which was attended by the Jesuits of Kodaikanal. On the 30th they started leaving for their respective destinations with rich experiences. Kindly keep them in your valuable prayers.

Manickam

REPORT FROM THE COORDINATOR OF HIGHER EDUCATION

The ten directors of Higher Educational institutions of our Province attended **JHEASA** GBM at St Xavier's College, Mumbai on 13 and 14 of November.

Fr. Thomas Alexander is elected as convener to organize a programme for teachers of 13 Colleges of Education in the Assistancy. Similarly **Fr. P. Christie** is elected as convener for the 11 Institutions of Management in India and overseas.

The GBM of Higher Education of our Province was held at St. Joseph's College Tiruchi on 19 and 20 Nov. We reflected on "Access and Quality in Higher Education in the light of 12th plan period."

Fr. Provincial highlighted the enormous task ahead of our higher educational ministries.

SUPAM MEET

On 6 and 7 November, the SUPAM Meet was held at St. Mary's, Madurai. **Fr. Britto Peter**, the PCF appreciated the eight newly ordained priests for their spiritual preparation and participation during the pre- and post-ordination programmes. He also highlighted the deeper involvement in our SUPAM ministries and applauded our continual contribution to the people of God.

Fr. Paulraj, the Vocation Promoter enlightened us with many creative methods of promoting vocations in our SUPAM ministry places and in our respective dioceses.

Fr. Jerry helped us in sharing our pastoral experiences. The sharing was highly enriching and motivating one another to accelerate constructive contribution in their mission field. He also congratulated us for the commendable production of the book "வழிபட... வாழ்ந்திட".

James Suresh

SOCIAL WATCH-TAMIL NADU

Fr. John Kumar, who took over in June 2011 as Director, has been busy travelling to Delhi, Hyderabad, etc participating in consultations related to the 12th Five Year Plan at the national level. He has been appointed by the Tamil Nadu State Planning Commission a member of the working group on "Welfare and Empowerment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes" in the State during the 12th Five Year Plan.

The United Nations Women (UNW) - South Asia has chosen Social Watch-Tamil Nadu as one of the two organizations in the country to take up an 18-month long research on "Tracking State Budget with Intersectionality Framework for an evolution of Gender Responsive Budget for Dalit Women in Tamil Nadu". **Fr. Manuel Alphonse** is the Managing Director of the Research Project.

Manuel Alphonse

JMAADD, NAGERCOIL

JMAADD completed the 50th treatment camp for alcoholics and their families on 24 Nov. Celebrate we did, in typical AA fashion: *Iraivanil, thozhamayil, sevayil* was the organizing motif. Beginning at 9.30 a.m, with a word of welcome from **Fr. Jayapathy**, the participants had a meditation led by **Mr. L. M. John**. For nearly an hour, 15 participants took turns to share their experience. The accounts centered on what they had received from JMAADD and what they would like JMAADD to do in the future.

The public function which followed was chaired by **Mr. Charles Kalaimani**. A report of the activities was presented by Fr. Jayapathy, the founder-director. It was punctuated with presentation of mementoes to the staff and collaborators of JMAADD. Seven booklets were released on the occasion.

The crowning event of the celebration was the Eucharist presided over by the Provincial. The liturgy was aptly choreographed by the clients of JMAADD themselves. There was witness to the new life in Spirit, dedication of lives and thanksgiving. A fine sermon, wherein he nonchalantly opened unsavoury pages of his own life, was preached by **Fr. M. Martin**. Fr. Provincial gave a warm and highly appreciative valediction at the close of the Mass. The grand finale was a professional performance of the play *thottapudi sami* by the Nigazh drama troupe.

Many participants came from the districts of south India. The entire cost of the celebration was met by contributions mostly from the participants themselves and some from well-wishers.

F. Jayapathy

JRS

Together with children, the leaders of 112 camps paid rich tributes to Fr. Arrupe on 14 Nov Birthday of the Father. In some camps in Nellai Zone, the refugee students presented a cultural programme and gave sweets to mentally challenged children which was lauded by civic authorities. "A noble gesture of good will despite suffering and humiliation"

To equip Grihini girls of Mullaikudi in communicative skills, an intensive course on "Spoken English" was organized and handled by **Brs. Raja SJ**, and **Joseph CSSR**.

Fr. Louie accompanied **Mr. Maxwell J. Hamilton** and **Ms. Anjana Chatterjee**, political/economic affairs, UNHCR to different camps to take stock of the camp situation and advocate their cause at international form. CRS- team facilitated by **Ms. Dominic**, Deputy Director-CRS-USA, made an annual monitoring cum evaluation of JRS-CRS partnership in Tamil Nadu. They expressed satisfaction over our performance in rebuilding a refugee community.

Fr. Stephen Martin organized a course on media education at IDEAS between 20 and 27 Nov. A JRS regent attended the course.

Raja

FR. K. A. AUGUSTINE WRITES FROM GUYANA

Greetings from **K. A. Augustine**: I am fine as also our Madurai Province guys here. I have got into the rhythm of Guyana Region. Loneliness that was frightening me in the beginning has become my companion now and slowly I begin to like the loneliness and enjoy the solitude. My mission work centre is located where the people of Indian origin mostly live. Hence the celebrations like Deepavali and Pooja are in practice. On 28th November, 2011 is the general election here. The political scenario of this country has a lot of similarities with India. It is interesting to note how the political parties are vying with each other and their promises to the people in their high sounding election manifesto, etc.. Laptop to every family by the ruling party and a free distribution of T-shirts, hats, umbrellas, etc. are in full swing.

I wish you all a Very Happy Xmas and A Prosperous, Fruitful New Year. I also wish and pray that the Province Congregation be a grand success in every aspect.

FROM ROME

Renewal of Province Structures

On 27th September Father General has sent a letter to all Major Superiors, accompanying a document entitled *The Renewal of Province Structures in the Service of Universal Mission*, “important document for study, prayerful reflection, and implementation by all Regions, Provinces, and Conferences. This document fulfils one of the mandates of the 35th General Congregation and is aimed at ‘better serving our universal mission.’ (cf. Decree 5, n. 26). After examining the internal and external challenges facing the Society today, the Congregation called us to re-imagine the ways we have organized ourselves for the sake of our Jesuit life and mission. With all the changes we are experiencing, how can we rethink our structures so that we can better serve the Church and the world? This entire process requires the Ignatian indifference or spiritual freedom which allows us to go beyond personal interests, ideologies, or disordered attachments, so that we can see and embrace God’s will. At the same time, this process calls us to deepen our Jesuit identity. St. Ignatius and his first companions came from different countries and cultures, and they deeply felt the impact of diversity and historical conflicts.”

Committee for the Mission

With a letter of 13 October Father General announces the formation of what “lacking an adequate name”, calls Committee for the Mission (CM). “It will consist of three Central

Secretaries (Gerald Blaszcak, in charge of the Service of Faith; Patxi Álvarez de los Mozos, in charge of the Promotion of Justice and Ecology; Anthony da Silva, in charge of the Collaboration with Others) and by three General Counsellors, Fathers Marcos

Recolons, who will represent the Americas, Antoine Kerhuel, who will represent Europe and Africa, Daniel Huang, who will represent Asia.” The goal of the Committee “will simply be to expand the capacity of the General for reflection in the terms in which the Society defined itself in the last General Congregations and submit proposals and suggestions for the Mission to be identified with the help of the General Council.” As a way of working “I can anticipate the following: 1. The topics and the convocation will be fixed by Father General; 2. The General will chair the sessions, even if he could ask others to lead the discussion; 3. Proposals and suggestions will be addressed to the General; 4. He will present these proposals to the General Council to discern and manage them according to the importance they have for the mission and service to the Society; 5. Decisions will be made after consultation with the General Council.” The Committee will begin to work on 1st November.

The Bicentenary of the Death of Saint Joseph Pignatelli.

Saint Joseph Pignatelli died in Rome on the 15th November 1811. He was the Jesuit who lived most intensely and personally the drama of the suppression of the Society of Jesus, the years of exile, and the life in hiding. To recall the bicentenary of his death, Father General wrote a letter on 15th November to the whole Society. He asked Jesuits “to pay respect to the memory of this faithful Jesuit, who lived in the midst of a disconcerting part of the history of the Society of Jesus during the second half of the eighteenth century. His exemplary life was publically recognized by Pius XI who beatified him in 1933, and by Pius XII who canonized him in 1954.” After recalling some details of the life of Pignatelli, Father General enumerates some aspects “of his richly human and religious personality which continue to be of unquestionable value for our Society today and in the future.” First, there is the profoundly interior life “which he cultivated by means of an intense life of prayer.” Then, there is the common sense and the great intellectual sensitivity of the man. He maintained an unbroken love for the Church and the Society in spite of the difficulties and suffering of the day, especially after the Society’s suppression on July 21, 1773.

Trusting in God’s Providence, Pignatelli undertook the mission of keeping the dispersed Society united and tightly bound to the Holy Father, as St. Ignatius had intended. Father General’s letter stresses that, in spite of many activities and the great number and variety of his concerns, he “never neglected those in need. Joseph Pignatelli searched out the poor and helped them with generous alms. He also visited those in prisons and hospitals to the point of becoming known as *the father of the poor.*” Father General closes the letter by foreshadowing 2014, the anniversary of the restoration of the Society. This anniversary year will provide “a privileged occasion to study and know more fully the historical period of the suppression and restoration of the Society. At the same time we have to take advantage of such a commemoration as an opportunity for the Society’s spiritual renewal for

greater and better service to the Church, with renewed vigor and zeal.”

From the Curia

From November 22 to 28 the four members of the International Council for the Apostleship of Prayer (AP) will be in our Curia in Rome to deliver their report to Father General. Two years ago, he had asked this group to work towards reinvigorating the AP. The Holy Father has entrusted the AP to the Society, and values it as a significant apostolic instrument. This meeting will be an important moment in the worldwide process of renewal. For the last four days of the meeting, members of the International Eucharistic Youth Movement Council will join the group. They ask us all to join them in our prayers!

From the Provinces

AUSTRALIA: Interview with Peter Steele

Australian Jesuit poet and scholar Father Peter Steele has spoken about his life's journey and his battle with cancer in a poignant interview on *ABC Radio National's Encounter Program*. In the interview with journalist Margaret Coffey, Father Steele talked about how he came to terms with his illness, and the very near prospect of death. "I've written about all sorts of things in my various writings, one of the great subjects has always been mortality. Our mortality, as I firmly believe, is a condition . . . let's call it a room, which precedes and leads into a capacious and entirely blessed and secure immortality, one of whose names is heaven. I believe in that very, very strongly. And I probably believe that more strongly than almost anything else," said Fr Steele. In the interview, he also talked about his first encounter with the Jesuits, how he fell in love with the teachings of Ignatius as a scholastic, and how it has shaped his life as a Jesuit. He said the one thing that priesthood has in common with poetry is that each of them, in an essential way, has to do with celebration. "The word Eucharist itself means saying thank you. I think that God can never be thanked enough for being God and for sending his Son Jesus to be both God and a human being." The full interview can be heard or read here: <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/encounter/stories/2011/3327559.htm>

CHILE: Mensaje turns 60

The magazine *Mensaje* celebrated its 60 years of existence with a concelebrated Mass in the Church of Saint Ignatius. At the celebration, it renewed its commitment to help Catholics to be adult in their faith. The magazine was founded by Father Alberto Hurtado in 1951. It was his desire to offer Christians ethical and cultural tools which would help them in their discernment to humanize the world. Many readers and friends of the magazine - Jesuits, diocesan priests, and religious - took part in the celebrations. The archbishop of Santiago, the Apostolic Nuncio and the Provincial recalled the commitment of the magazine, from its earliest days, to offer a Christian orientation to the

challenges of the modern world. It was Father Hurtado's dream that the magazine would reflect on Chile and the local Church from the perspectives of the Gospel, faithfully reading the signs of the times. The Provincial of Chile, Father Eugenio Valenzuela, remembered that *Mensaje* "was one of the last big dreams of Father Hurtado. With his extraordinary vision, enthusiasm and trust in God, he was able to bring it into being". He thanked all those who had helped make the magazine an instrument for reflection, an instrument which has helped develop a Church more faithful to the Gospel and a country more just and equitable. At the end of his presentation he declared: "*Mensaje*, looks to the future with humility and constancy. Looking ahead, the magazine, like its founder, wants to denounce injustice in our society. *Mensaje* will continue to propose concrete ways for a more democratic country, for a more equitable sharing of goods, and for a more practical caring for the poor and those who are excluded in any way."

PHILIPPINES: National Scientist Award to Father Nebres

President Benigno Aquino III conferred the *National Scientist* award and the title of Academic to Jesuit Father Bienvenido Nebres, 71, for his outstanding achievements and accomplishments as a mathematician and educator, and for his contributions to education and social reform. The President said that Nebres helped establish the *Ateneo Center for Educational Development* (ACED). This Center, he noted, focuses on improving education in public schools. ACED now works with local government in over 400 public schools in Quezon City, Parañaque, Valenzuela, Nueva Ecija, La Union and in many other parts of the country. The President noted that Nebres was now chairman of the *Synergeia Foundation*, an organization which works with public schools in over 200 municipalities. Some of these are in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. He is the 37th *National Scientist* of the country, and one of the only 15 awardees still alive.

GUATEMALA: In favor of Fe y Alegría

"Into your hands I commit my future and that of my fourteen thousands fellow signatories . . . ". With these words a young student delivered to the President of the Congress of the Republic more than eighteen thousands signatures. These had been collected by representatives of the Movement of Popular Education and Social Promotion, *Fe y Alegría*. The signatories support a bill which would legally enshrine government financial support for free quality education to thousands of young people who live in those rural and marginal areas where the Movement is present. The signatories come from communities in seven Guatemalan regions, where there are fifty educational centers of *Fe y Alegría*. Serious social problems mark many of these areas: unemployment, poverty, malnutrition and high rates of violence. As a result of any annual agreement between the Ministry of Education and the *Fe y Alegría* Foundation, the government has guaranteed teachers' salaries for the

past thirty five years. The signatures support legislation which will enshrine this financial support.

POLAND: Scientific Conference on Father Possevino

An international scientific conference on the “Life and the work of Father Antonio Possevino SJ” was held at the Jesuit Academy, *Ignatianum*, in Krakow on 21-22 October 2011. Nearly thirty scientists from Poland and other countries (Belarus, Spain, Lithuania, Italy) presented the results of their research on the activities of Father Antonio Possevino. Possevino (1533-1611) was a Jesuit theologian, writer, and eminent papal diplomat. He lived in Piedmont, and in France during the Religious Wars (1563-1572). Pope Gregory XIII sent him to Sweden (1577-1578 and 1579-1580) to try and persuade King John III to convert to Catholicism. In 1581, he was sent to Poland to bring about the end of the war between the Polish king, Stefan Batory, and the Russian Tsar, Ivan IV the Terrible. As a result of his effective diplomacy, peace was established in 1582. He also worked hard at the court in Moscow for the union between the Orthodox Church and Rome.

POLAND: The Year of Piotr Skarga

The Polish Parliament has nominated 2012 as the Year of Father Piotr Skarga SJ. The Commission for Culture and Media proposed the resolution, and the MEP’s adopted it virtually unanimously. This initiative, to make 2012 the Year of Fr. Piotr Skarga, came from members of *Platforma Obywatelska*, the party currently in power. They wish to highlight the important role that Skarga had in Polish history. He was “a leading representative of the Polish Counter-Reformation, and a philanthropist. He had the courage to name the crucial issues which faced the Poland of his day. He called for changes and reforms to government: these sustained the Republic of Poland.” 2012 celebrates the 400th anniversary of Father Skarga’s death (1536-1612). As a Jesuit and theologian, he was the preacher of King Sigismund III Vasa, the rector of the Jesuit College in Vilnius, and first rector of Vilnius University. Father Skarga authored several books on religious themes, the best known of which is his *Lives of the Saints*. He also wrote a number of political treatises: in these he advocated the strengthening of royal power and the limitation of the role of parliament. He founded a number of Jesuit colleges, including those in Polotsk, Riga and Tartu.

SPAIN: “Bravo! 2011” Award to New Technologies

The Spanish Episcopal Conference has conferred the *Bravo 2011! Award*, in the category of the new technology, to *rezandovoy.org*. The website was devised by the Jesuits of Valladolid with the collaboration of a group of lay people. It offers prayer through the Internet. The diocese of Valladolid proposed this website for the award: it stressed particularly the creative means of evangelization it has developed. With these awards, the Episcopal Conference “wants to recognize, from the Church’s point of view, the valuable contribution of

communications professionals who do outstanding work in promoting human dignity, human rights and evangelical values.” There were eight other awards in different categories. *rezandovoy.org* was inaugurated on Ash Wednesday, 9th March 2011. Since its inception, it has become increasingly popular, and there have been over one and a half million hits. The site attracts an average 11,000 visitors per day: these have come from 138 countries, but the majority live in Spain, Mexico and Argentina.

VENEZUELA: The Indigenous’ University

The lives of one hundred students of the Indigenous’ University of Venezuela begin at dawn, when they wash in the Tauca river. The day continues with one hour’s private study, before the students set off for class. A long walk through the Amazon forest takes them to their classrooms. The students learn the history, language and myths of the Indians. In the afternoon, they study plant cultivation and the care of livestock. This university, located in the heart of the Amazon jungle, is the only university in the country geared to help young Indians defend their culture and ancient traditions. It was founded, with the approval of the wise elders of the indigenous community, in the early nineties by Jesuit Brother José Maria Korta. The Indians were the original inhabitants of Latin America. After the continent was discovered in sixteenth century, they were decimated by European conquerors. Today, for example, indigenous people in Venezuela comprise only 2% of the total population. For centuries, the Indians were forced to imbibe the culture of the newcomers. To date, the university has survived, thanks to the contributions of generous benefactors. Its teachers have contributed their services freely in their spare time. At last, the government will shortly recognize the university with an official decree. This will allow the university to access public funds. Hopefully, the university will then be able to extend its work to other regions of the country.

ZAMBIA: Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre

Situated about 300 km northeast of Lusaka, Zambia’s capital, *Kasisi Agricultural Training Centre*, operated by members of the Society of Jesus, follows its mission to empower rural communities to improve their livelihoods through research, training, extension courses. KATC was established in 1974 and initially offered a two-year course in conventional agriculture. In 1990, it shifted to organic, sustainable agriculture. Currently, it offers a variety of three- to five-day and two-week courses in organic agriculture, including residential, on-farm courses and study circles. Principally, KATC teaches farming techniques that do not require fertilisers and pesticides and that require reduced water input or irrigation. The reasons are obvious: fertilisers and pesticides are expensive and a simple farmer cannot easily afford them. Furthermore, the reservoirs are drying up. Within 35 years of “trial and error,” the members of KATC became pioneers in developing the knowledge of sustainable agriculture, and in developing simple, inexpensive, yet effective tools for small-scale agribusiness. The participants come from Zambia, and from neighbouring countries

such as Malawi and Zimbabwe. Given the facts that the training is conducted in both English and the vernacular, and that seven main languages are spoken in Zambia, the courses also have a strong integrative aspect to them. The centre, which works with approximately 1,200 small-scale farmers and which has about 20 staff members who possess a variety of skills, has always relied on donors for its work. Since it is becoming increasingly difficult to cover core expenses, the centre is expanding into Production Units. Currently, it started to breed animals and sells the milk to a cheese factory. This year, there are 80 hectares under irrigation which, hopefully, next year will increase to 160 hectares.

Jesuitica

Hell on the Moon. You may be puzzled by the title of a crater on a map of the moon: Hell. This cold, barren feature is not named after the opposite of Heaven, but after an 18th-century Hungarian astronomer, Maximilian Holl, one of a family of 22 children from his father's two marriages. Max changed his name to Hell, entered the Jesuits, and became director of the Vienna Observatory in 1756. As with many Jesuit scientists of the era, his curiosity was intense and wide-ranging. Among his 28 scientific publications are a study of the origins of the Sami, Finnish and Hungarian languages, an exploration of magnetic therapy, and a detailed observation of the 1769 transit of Venus. He helped to prepare an encyclopedia on the arctic regions of Northern Norway, which was never published because the Jesuits were suppressed in 1773 (*AMDG Express*).

NEW RELEASES

சுற்றுச் சூழல் ஆன்மீகம் Fr. Ignacimuthu, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp. 160, Rs. 75/-

முள்ளிவாய்க்கால் எமது சாட்சியம், கண.குறிஞ்சி, ராஜ் இருதயா, Puthumalar Pathippagam, Erode, pp.48, Rs. 25/-

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr George Kandathil (KER) 91/70, on 7 Nov. at Kalamassery

Mrs. Perumaiee (79), grandmother of Sch. Cyril Suresh, on 23 Nov.

Mr. Maria Adaikalam (67) brother-in-law of Fr. S. Marianathan on 24 Nov.

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FR. A. DAVID KULANDAISAMY, SJ

(09.01.1932-21.11.2011)

Fr. David Kulandaisamy hailed from Thiruthanthoni in Tiruchi. He had his studies in St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi and was a semi-boarder under Br. Ponnusamy who recruited many candidates to the Society of Jesus and Fr. David was one of them. Fr. David joined the novitiate in Shembaganur along with eleven others. After his theological studies he was in parishes. He dedicated the best part of his life from 1966 to 2009 to pastoral ministry except for one year when he was General prefect in Carmel School, Nagercoil. From 2001 to 2009 he served as chaplain in Our Lady's Shrine, Basilica Poondi.



When he was in Oriyur it was found that there was too much sodium in his blood and that he needed medical care. So he was brought to Beschi Illam at the beginning of this year. The excess of sodium in his blood resulted in the dysfunction of his kidneys. He was taken to Meenakshi Mission Hospital Madurai for dialysis. Since that too proved futile he was brought back to Beschi Illam.

On 21 Nov morning he found it difficult to breathe. He was taken to St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul and was admitted to the intensive care unit. In the evening he felt better and had his supper. After supper, however, his condition took a sudden turn for the worse. He felt suffocated. In spite of oxygen supply he could not be cured and at 11.45 that night he rendered up his soul to God.

On Nov 22 his relatives came from Tiruchi and we had the obsequies at 4.00 p.m. The funeral Mass was presided over by Fr. Provincial flanked by **Fr. Britto Peter** Superior of Beschi Illam and **Fr. Kulandaisamy** Rector of our Lady's Shrine Basilica, Poondi.

Fr. Felix Joseph, a novitiate companion of Fr. David Kulandaisamy in his funeral homily highlighted the great qualities of Fr. David, especially his simplicity, availability and unostentatiousness. Fr. Kulandaisamy, Rector of the Shrine Basilica, Poondi said that he was indebted in a special way to Fr. David for his companionship as chaplain of the Basilica. He said that he was surprised to see people coming from faraway places like Sindalanchery where Fr. David had been pastor asking for his blessing.

At the end of the Mass, the Vice Rector of Poondi Shrine blessed the body. At the cemetery after the final rites performed by the VG of Madurai Archdiocese his mortal remains were laid to rest. May Fr. David's soul rest in peace.

X. Mampra