



FEBRUARY 2011

(For Private Circulation)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

February

- 07-15 Tiruchi: Visitation: St. Joseph's College, Poondy and Ariamangalam
 12-13 Madurai: IDEAS: TVET Commission GBM
 14 Tiruchi: Visitation: SUPAM
 18 Dindigul: Consult
 19-20 Dindigul: Beschi: Communication Commission GBM
 28 Bangalore: JCSA meeting: Inauguration

March

- 01-06 Bangalore: JCSA meeting
 13-18 Ranipet, Vettavalam, Kilpennathur, Kuppayanallur, Ongur, Palliagaram, Vallam, Tindivanam, Pondi: Visitation

- * **Fr. Jeyapathy J. Soosaimanickam** (LATI, Madurai) and **Fr. Chelladurai P. Thomas** (Berchmans Hall) move to Beschi, Dindigul, for health reasons.
- * **Sch. Stephen Danielnathan** left the Society on 28 Dec. 2010.

Province Retreat:

May 5 p.m. — 13 p.m. 2011,
 at SHC, Shembaganur.

Preacher: **Fr. Pradeep Sequeira SJ.**

Jesuits from other Provinces are welcome to join.
 Contact: Fr. Britto Peter, PCF. Cell: 94426 26581;
 email: brittopetersj@gmail.com

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * **Fr. General has appointed:**
Fr. Michael Weiler Provincial of California
Fr. Xavier Soreng Provincial of Ranchi
Fr. Mark Raper, president of the Jesuit Conference of Asia-Pacific, new Regional Superior of Myanmar.
- * **Change of Assistancy for Malta.** Fr. General transferred the Province of Malta from the Assistancy of West Europe to the Assistancy of South Europe. The change will be effective from the 1st of March. The reason for this change is the geographical location of Malta, its cultural context and the forms of collaboration already existing with Provinces of South Europe.
- * **Fr. Lourdu John** is in Chennai for the removal of a brain tumour. As it is a major operation requiring an extended period of post-operative care, **Fr. Leo Antony Tagore** is appointed Acting Superior of De Britto, Devakottai.
- * **Two of our missionaries have returned to the Province.** **Fr. Zacharias Pazhaparambil** (AOR) has joined the community of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. **Fr. Dorairaj Joseph** (ZAM) is assigned to Veeramamunivar Illam, Vilangudi.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

IDCR conducted a week-long exchange programme for a group of students and faculty from Canisius College, Buffalo, USA. The sessions focused on Indian religions, cultures and businesses. It also organized a national consultation on *The Role of Caste in Politics*. **Prof Kancha Iliah**, noted political scientist, inaugurated the consultation with his incisive analysis of caste system and its role in structuring politics today. Eleven papers were presented on many aspects of the main theme.

Loyola Hostel organized a Eucharistic celebration in memory of **Fr. P. Susai**, a former Hostel Warden. The alumni of the Loyola Hostel paid glowing tributes to him. **Fr. Louis** is providing opportunities to the hostellers for a holistic formation through a series of talks on relevant topics. First in this series was **Fr. Emma's** talk on Jan. 10th on *Understanding and Improving Personality*.

In the beginning of December 2010, LIFE organized a national conference on *Conservation of Biodiversity*

for the *Holistic Development*. During the conference LIFE and LICET signed a MoU with UNESCO (Bangkok) which would enable introduction of bioethics education in the curriculum in collaboration with the UNESCO.

On Jan. 7 and 8, Loyola College organized two conferences: a national conference on Green energy for sustainable development and an international conference on Mathematics and Computer Science. Besides a seminar on Jan. 13th on *Spotlight on Women's Health and Fitness*, there was also *Dr. K. Swaminathan Endowment Lecture* on Jan. 19.

Fr. Joe Arun has been appointed a member of Institutional Ethics Committee by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), for a period of three years. His role, as a social scientist, involves reviewing research projects periodically and recommending them for funding. **Fr. Francis P Xavier** gave a course at Arul Kadal on *Science and Religion as Observed Truth vs. Revealed Truth*.

Fr Ignacimuthu inaugurated the national symposium on bioethics at Newman College, Thodupuzha, Kerala. He also gave the keynote address at the international conference at Little Flower Seminary, Aluva, Kerala.

Emma

LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

On 8th Jan. the department of Computer Science organized a one-day seminar cum workshop aimed at providing personal and vocational counseling. On 14th of January Pongal was celebrated with enthusiasm.

On 22nd of Jan we conducted a one-day Legal Awareness Programme to II UG students.

On 26th of Jan we celebrated the Republic Day with great pomp marked with patriotic fervour. Our Principal **Fr. M. Elias** presided over the function and **Sch. Poondi Rajan** delivered the Republic Day message. On the same day we had a street play training for the AICUF students.

On 27th of Jan we had the inauguration of Red Ribbon Club and an orientation programme on *Celebrating Life*. On the same day **Mr. Indhira Rajan** conducted a seminar on Youth Red Cross and its services.

On 28th and 29th of Jan we organized a programme on *Alcoholic Awareness* for our students. **Fr. Jayapathy Francis** and his team were the resource persons. The programme was informative and quite interactive.

Poondi Rajan

AHAL, KILPENNATHUR

The AHAL Community held *Balamela* on 14 of January. With children milling around, the campus was noisy and bubbling with joy. In the Pongal celebration and the competitions 625 children and 50 volunteers and tuition teachers participated. The Arrupe Home boys and the youth of the Kilpennathur Parish helped in the celebration.

We had happy Pongal celebration in different villages of the parish. Kilpennathur youth had it on 16 Jan. which knit them all into a community.

There was a zonal gathering on 17 Jan. We were happy to share our joy with the communities of Vallam, Kuppayanallur, Ranipet and Vettavalam communities.

Wenish

UTHAGAMANDALAM

Fr. S. Amalraj of St. Joseph's Driving School in a joint venture with the Uthagai Social Service Society (USSS) and the women's self-help-group helped 25 youths from the Village of Ooty Diocese to obtain driving licenses.

We had the Christmas celebration on 23rd December. The cultural programme by the school students and an inspiring message by **Fr. Joe Mike** made the day memorable.

The recently published NCVT results for the trades of Fitter and Welder were encouraging. **Fr. George Joseph** preached a triduum to the scholastics from Loyola, Chennai in Ooty.

Vasanth

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

After their Christmas vacation the candidates had a spiritual renewal under the guidance of **Fr. Savarimuthu** for three days.

Fr. Dorairaj, after 35 years of service in Africa, has joined our community. VMI community extends a hearty welcome to him. **Fr. Inigo** was the resource person for the *Media Awareness* programme for the youth organised by the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore. He also preached a retreat to the students of St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai.

Viji Bose

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

On 29 December the novices along with their Master and Socius spent the day with the inmates of St. Joseph's Hospice, Mettur Gate and entertained them.

On 15 January Beschi Community had special Mass along with the Sisters of CIS and the co-workers of the farm. Later they had a grand Pongal celebration in which the Sisters performed some cultural items.

On 18 January evening the novices went on a pilgrimage to St. Antony's Shrine, Marambady. On 26 January the 61st Republic day was celebrated in a fitting manner.

Fr. Victor Maria Joseph gave a talk to the novices on his mission and experiences in Kazakhstan, which inspired a missionary spirit in them.

Fr. Arul Sivan conducted a three-day workshop on *Discernment* to seminarians at Madurai.

A. Vino Selukas

JESUIT JUNIORATE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

From 3 to 5 of January, the juniors had a Triduum under the guidance of **Fr. Tom Panikulam** of Kerala Province. He explained the Ignatian Spiritual Diary and the experience of St. Ignatius at La Storta and Manresa.

On January 6, we began the third term. We rededicated ourselves to work in the forthcoming days.

On 14, we celebrated Pongal. The porch and the chapel were decorated with sugarcane and rangoli. We had a grand Pongal Mass in Tamil followed by a sharing of pongal. After thanking God for His boundless gifts and graces, we remembered all the farmers and prayed for them in a special way.

On 15, the long-awaited *Balamela* was held. For about a month, we had prepared for this children's festival. It was an unprecedented opportunity for us to relive the experience of Mother Teresa. Like the Mother, we went from door to door and collected a good amount of money with the participation of 283 children from five parishes. The Rector of St. Xavier's College was the chief guest and after a short message he declared the sports open. A variety of fun games was conducted for the children. In the afternoon, they entertained us by dancing and singing. Each one was given a memento of the celebration.

On 26 January we celebrated the Republic Day with a Solemn Mass and Flag Hoisting, presided over by **Fr. Thaiparambil** of Kerala Province. **Sch. Arul Gnanapragasam** delivered an inspiring and captivating speech on the significance of the Republic Day. Now we are preparing for the Academy Day.

Arul Gnanapragasam

DNC, PUNE

On 14 of January we had Pongal Celebration in DNC. The whole DNC was taken up by the liturgy and sumptuous dinner prepared by the Tamil contingent. Madurai scholastics went to Katraj (Snake Park) for their Province picnic on 15 Jan. On 22 January the Faculty of Philosophy organized and hosted a conference on "Divine and Human Relatedness: Challenges and Responses." This was initiated and animated by **Fr Robin** with the participants from four different colleges. Some of our scholastics including Prabu and Baskar presented a paper each. DNC is happy to see the return of Schs. William and Raja Vedhamuthu after their slum experience. On 26 Jan Schs. Gladwin and Christu Raj received a prize each for creative caption competition.

Y.Baskar

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

Fr. S. Arokiasamy taught a well-appreciated course on *Christian Commitment* for the first year theologians and gave inspiring talks to the laity who had attended 100 hours of theological course organized by Arul Kadal.

Fr. S. Arokiasamy participated in a special colloquium of Bishops (25) and Theologians (26), organized by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith in St John's Medical College, Bangalore from 16 to 19 January 2011.

Schs. Manuel and **Victor Roch** took the lead in planning and executing ministry among the Tamil Catholics here. To prepare the faithful spiritually for the birth of Jesus, an open book NT quiz competition and sharing of Christian gifts with slum children were organized. Separate retreats for catechism children, the youth and Legion of Mary were given by **Fr. Baskar Antony** and **Schs. John Wilson** and **Ignacy**

Arockiasamy. On 16th January the Pongal celebration commenced with liturgy and was followed by a two-hour long cultural extravaganza. Script and direction of the skit were done by Sch. Roch; Sch. Manuel edited it and Sch. Ignacy was the audio manager.

In VJ itself the Tamil-speaking Jesuits organized the Pongal feast. Similarly Schs. Leolin, Babu and others joined hands with the slum children of Morigate in celebrating it.

On 23 January, for the first time a one-day seminar was organized for the youth of Delhi at VJ College. Congratulations to Schs. Ignacy and Roch for their inspiring talks on *Youth and Media* and *Youth and Social Issues*.

On 25 January 2011, at the YMCA, New Delhi Sch. Wilson was one of the four VJ students who attended a seminar on *Consultations on Christian Community's Expectations* from the 12th Five Year Plan.

James Suresh

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

According to the medical report from Vadamalaiyan Hospital of Madurai, **Fr Lourdu John** has a CP angle tumour in his head. He is admitted to Apollo Hospital, Chennai for the operation. The surgery may be done in a few days. You are kindly requested to pray for his speedy recovery.

The building sponsored by a Member of Parliament was blessed by **Fr. Lourdu John** on 3 Jan. We celebrated Pongal joyfully on January 13th. All the students and the staff were given sweet pongal. Mr. Lena Arunachalam, Manager of the IOB and an alumnus, was the chief guest and **Fr Stanislaus** of Gansoville delivered a humorous and very thought-provoking speech about the present condition of farmers.

On 28 Jan, the Catholic students of De Britto Hostel along with some of our teaching staff went on a pilgrimage to Oriyur. The spiritual message was given by **Fr. J. Nedungatt**.

On 29 Jan, the ELT mela was arranged in our school for the students of Oriyur, Kuppayanallur and De Britto.

M. Selvam

ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

Hostel Day was celebrated with colour and gaiety. It was a grand display of events highlighting the importance of saving nature for a safe future. Our school senior Hockey team won the silver medal at the Republic Day State level match. Congratulations to the team that has brought laurels to the school and the district.

Gerlin

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

A long-standing need of the Cathedral parishioners was fulfilled when a new Perpetual Adoration Chapel was blessed by the Archbishop on the 1st January, in a small room within the main sacristy, thanks to the efforts of **Fr. P.S. Arul** and the donors.

Britto Hostel Day was celebrated with the usual fanfare. **Mr. M. Alphonse** an alumnus presided over the celebrations. The cultural programme was very much appreciated. On this happy day the new hostel dining

hall was blessed by **Fr. Jebamalai Raja** and declared open by **Fr. V.S. Manickam**. **Fr. Royappan** deserves our thanks.

During Pongal holidays, the Community went to Yercaud and Mettur for a two-day outing and all enjoyed the camaraderie. **Fr. M. Stanislaus** preached an 8-day retreat to St. Anne's Sisters at Periakulam.

Bastin

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

AAC conducted an orientation-cum-workshop for the rural schools' science teachers of Usilampatti educational district on Dec 2. **Fr. Kingsley** gave a one-day orientation to ten vocation promoters of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Lyons in Madurai. An International Bioethics workshop was organized by the department of Religion and Value Education on Dec 7. **Fr. Peter Xavier** directed an eight-day retreat. On Dec 10 our Physics department conducted a State-level seminar on e-learning in Physics. Our women's study centre organized a guest lecture by **Ms. Gandhimathi** on 'Women's Rights are Human Rights' on Dec 14. **Fr. Kingsley's** special Christmas message to the students of St. Charles HSS on Dec 22 was well appreciated. Our neighbourhood ministry organized a Sports Day for the children of Janatha colony on Jan 9 which they enjoyed thoroughly. Congrats to **Schs. Stephen** and **Joseph Dunston** for organizing it. On Jan 22 all teaching and non-teaching staff gathered with their families for a family day function. A Rural Sports Meet for the school students of our area was conducted by the department of Physical Education on Jan 24. The first U.G. hostellers had a cultural talent show on Jan 26. Our RDS department organized a Free Veterinary Camp on Jan 28 for the rural people who came in big numbers to avail themselves of the services given to their cattle.

A. Kingsley

ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

John Vinoth of the 12th std got a Gold Medal in Boxing in the State level Bharathiyar Sports meet for the under 19 category. Also our school Volleyball senior and Super-senior teams got Bronze Medals in the Republic day State level Games.

The school witnessed Pongal celebration with all the 52 classes preparing pongal at a stretch in our school campus.

On the 5th the Consumer Forum of SXC was awarded third prize at the State level for its meritorious service in a function organized at Tiruchi.

The departments of B.Com Corporate Secretaryship and Physics organized national conferences on 11 and on 20 and 21 January, respectively. On 7 and 21 January the College witnessed many inter-collegiate departmental festivals.

A retreat was organized for our students on 22 and 23. **Frs. Godwin Rufus** (Organizer), **Anbarasu**, **Eugene Muthu**, **A. Irudayaraj**, **Paulraj** and **Inigo** conducted the retreat. On 25 the Republic Day was celebrated.

On 13 Pongal was celebrated. **Mr. Dharman**, a novelist inspired the gathering with his message.

On 29 Jan the Graduation ceremony was held. Dr. V. Rhymend Uthariaraj was the chief guest.

On 20 Jan **Fr. Alphonse Manickam** was the chief guest at the College Day of Morning Star Polytechnic College, Nagercoil and on 28 at the Graduation Ceremony of Rose Mary College, Tirunelveli.

The students of SXCE had their first semester exams in the second week of Jan. The B. Ed students went on an educational tour to Visakhapatnam from 20 to 25 Jan. The students and staff applauded the planning and services of **Fr. Raja Kumar**, an alumnus and a Diocesan priest of Visakhapatnam Diocese.

The students had a series of extension lectures on the bad effects of tobacco and on consumer rights on 28th and 31st Jan.

There was a one-day seminar on Basic Legal Education by **Fr. S. Kulandaisamy** on 29 Jan; the students appreciated the programme.

Francis Xavier Raj

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

On 8th January, the campus wore a festive look as over 1300 new graduates gathered here to receive their diplomas. **Dr. Kanagasabai**, Director of Medical Education, delivered the convocation address and gave away the diplomas.

The Department of Physics organized an Indo-US Workshop on Nanosonics and Ultrasonics and an International Conference on Nanotechnology and Ultrasound from Jan 12 to 14. There were 400 participants from the U.S.A, Nepal and India.

In order to disseminate relevant information, update research-based knowledge, motivate and encourage the Research Scholars (M.Phil & PhD) in the campus, Research Day was held on 18 Jan on the theme: "Research and Development: The Global and National Perspectives". **Prof. M. Victor Louis** delivered the keynote address. Two Parallel technical sessions in MATLAB & SPSS were arranged. In the afternoon, interaction with experts was arranged in each department separately.

The SHEPHERD has Completed 25 years. To mark the Silver Jubilee Year programmes are being chalked out.

X Standard students in our School were given special training in memory techniques on 4 Jan.

Pongal was tastefully celebrated both in the School and the College. The stage decoration very vividly captured the rural charm of this premier festival of Tamil Nadu. Flex boards were displayed in the school, highlighting the ailments prevalent in the society. Our school - under 17 and under 19 - football teams made a mark in the State level Republic Day Sports events.

The parish of Our Lady of Lourdes celebrated the birth centenary of Bl. Mother Teresa on 23 Jan. Besides recalling her stellar service to humanity, film shows depicting her life were screened.

Fr Albert Muthumalai served as a Peer Team Member for NAAC assessment and accreditation for two Colleges in Maharashtra in Jan.

Fr Sebastian Anand spoke on "Gender Issues in Indian Writing in English" in a State level seminar on 20 Jan in Jamal Mohamed College.

Sebastian Anand

LATI, MADURAI

The Christmas celebration in the campus was inspiring indeed to all the staff and the students. Our ITI scored 85 percent Passes in the NCVT exam, securing the first place in Madurai district. Congrats to **Br. Ignacy** and all the staff. *National Consumer Day* was celebrated in the campus. The State leader of consumer awareness centre organized the whole programme. The speeches of **Br. Ignacy** and **Fr. Wilfred** were appreciated by the chief guest. **Frs. Antony Arockiam, Freddie** and **Wilfred** delivered a number of speeches on Christmas and New Year in various schools and parishes. The Jesuit Community the staff and students together paid homage to **Fr. G. Ambrose** who passed away recently.

In collaboration with *Dhanam*, we organized a rally cum seminar to promote human organ donations. The donation of the eyes of Fr. Ambrose was duly noted on that day. **Fr. Jerry** who was present inspired and challenged the gathering and the effect was that thirty-eight persons donated blood and some others are working on the procedure to donate other organs. It was encouraging to note the participation of our industrial partners in expressing their Corporate Social Responsibility for a common cause.

The TNBC Regional Ecumenism and Dialogue Commissions held their two-day seminar here.

The Kodai-Grihini students at Shembaganur attended training cum industrial visits programme in the main campus of MCC. The VC of IGNOU has appointed **Fr. Stephen** a member of the Steering Committee to guide Gyan Vani FM Radio station at Madurai for a term of two years; also nominated him as a member of the Sub-Committee for finalizing the vertical mobility scheme of TNOU for its Vocational Diploma holders.

Sch. George and his team had a five-day workshop on *Science and Technology capacity building for industrial needs*. Fr. Wilfred provided 'life orientation' to the students of Elam. **Fr. Basil** presented research papers titled "Epistemology of Folk Worship" and "Popular Consciousness in Worship" on 4th and 11th Jan 2011 respectively in MK University. He reviewed a book titled *Brahmanism down the Ages* in Senthamizh College, Madurai on 26 Jan. Fr. Freddie organized many Human Rights programmes.

Wilfred

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

On the eve of Ambedkar's death anniversary a quiz competition was conducted for all our students in Inigo Siruvar Illam. Nearly 75 children contested and gained general knowledge through their committed participation. A two-day orientation for the hostel staff and village animators was conducted on 30 and 31 Dec. **Fr. Arockiam** spoke on the theme *What is real development and its Impact* on the villages of upper and lower Palni Hills. The following day all participants

and PEAK team went for an outing to Vailankanni, Thanjavur and Tiruchi.

Fr. A.G Leonard, as chairman of the Association of the Economists of Tamil Nadu conducted the 31st Annual Conference on Jan 8 and 9 at Thiruchendur. There were more than 620 registered participants attending the conference which had an international coverage.

A two-day seminar for women of Puthuputhur and Pazhamputhur was organized by PEAK. The participants had inputs on *Empowerment of Women and the Rights of Dalits* given by Fr. Kulandaisamy.

The Pongal festival brought much joy to the children of our hostels on January 15. On 6th our students exhibited their talents and skills through skits and dances.

Antony Anand

LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RANIPET

On 13 Jan, feast of Pongal. **Fr. Ambrose**, the parish priest of Veppur celebrated the Eucharist. On the following day, we had the annual Sports Day. Kudos to **Fr. Arul Oli** who organized the events. Our students were trained in street theatre for three days in the last week of January.

Vedanayagam

KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

Kalanganrai Team organized a three-day Legal Training for the deserted women at Poombuhar. Some of them boldly came forward to narrate their personal stories and to lodge complaints against their husbands who unjustly abandoned them. **Fr. Santhanam** and **Mr. Thyagarajan**, a local lawyer presented the legal provisions relating to the rights of women.

Sch. Sarathi and his team organized two one-day children's day celebration at Vedaranyam and Tharangambadi. The children went home not with some prizes but good memories of staying together and playing together forgetting their differences. Congrats to Sch. Sarathi.

A. Irudayaraj

DACA

DACA in collaboration with the Madurai Corporation has started the following programmes: a home for the urban homeless poor (night shelter) at Sellur, Tailoring and Fashion Designing at Virattipathu and Computer Hardware and Software Programme at Anupanadi.

On 29 Jan we celebrated the 11th DACA DAY. With various competitions and games it was a month-long celebration which came to a conclusion with a cultural programme. The Chief Guest of the day was **Dr. P. Muthuveeran I.A.S.** The splendid cultural performances and the fire dance of the students were specially appreciated.

A. Sebasthiraj

ARIYAMANGALAM PARISH

The whole village took an active part in celebrating Pongal with rangoli decoration in front of the houses;

special Mass, sports, games and dances added charm and gaiety to the festival.

We also celebrated the year of chemistry in our school. A lecturer from SJC presided over the assembly. The students came with garlands made of articles which affect our daily life and also our health.

A.Felix Joseph

Vincent Sekhar from New York

Heavy recurring snows welcomed the much-awaited spring semester. I am teaching a course on Hindu literature. The university has given me credit for attracting full class (35) in both fall and this semester. One of them has published a collated report of the class experience after visiting a Hindu temple (http://www.dimmid.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={4844EA67-DF5A-41E6-A1F4-CF2D525D2B55}).

I had a good chat with Fr. David Ciancimino, the New York Provincial, during his visitation to Spellman Hall. He was happy to note 'our' way of promoting vocation, especially through vocations facilitators of each house printed in the Province Catalogue. The final touches of my book project will be over with a little more updating.

A Fraternal Visit of an Artist!

The Jesuit Community of La Reunion (4 French, 2 Mauritians and 2 Indians) was well inspired to invite Fr James Thamburaj of Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. The twenty days he was with us in December were a period of grace and beauty: for us and for a thousand persons who came in contact with him and his paintings. Besides sight-seeing in this lovely island, he gave the public a conference on his paintings of three genres: symbolic, expressionistic, abstract. It was unbelievable that he could so easily get back to French which he had spoken for just one year 37 years ago, when he was an art-student in the Louvre in Paris! There was an exhibition of his paintings on three mornings.

In an interview accorded to a Weekly (TELEMAG) he spoke of his ministry of listening to bruised hearts, stressed his deep desire to share his Christian faith and love with others and that through the medium of art as well. He pointed to the subtlety of his inculturated paintings, blending the Indian concept of the Divine Descent with the Faith-Mystery of the Incarnation. He would love, he said, his art be contemplated more than admired! He rounded off his stay with a charismatic prayer session, when our little Chapel resounded with faith-filled supplications!

Thambu, come back soon!

A.M. Varaprasadam

JRS Tamil Nadu

Fr. Louis Prakash, the regional director for South Asia visited in the southern districts some refugee camps and some hostels and religious institutions which support them. He and the JRS staff rushed to Mottamalai Refugee Camp in Virudhunagar Dt for relief service when the whole camp was on fire due to electrical short circuit.

Our teachers in all the four Zones of the refugee camps had a day's picnic.

From 3 to 6 Jan, we had the SWOT analysis and evaluation of 2010 action plan. We discussed starting skills training centre for boys.

On 9 and 10 Jan, we had valedictory day at two Grihini centres, 34 refugee girl students got their life skill training certificates. **Fr. Vinny Joseph** and **Fr. Premkumar** graced the occasion by their presence.

John Mike

News from elsewhere

Calcutta Province

Last December the Government of West Bengal conferred its highest literary award on **Fr Paul Detienne**, a Belgian Jesuit missionary aged 86, who created a new literary style in the Bengali language.

Jesuit **Fr Albert Huart**, who handles records on organ donation in Calcutta Province, said 17 Jesuits have pledged their eyes and 14 have agreed to donate their bodies. "We get very few bodies, and the need is a lot more," said **Umesh Mallick**, a staff at the medical school's anatomy department, who expressed "pleasant surprise" to see *sanyasis* (religious) donating their bodies for research.

Jesuit Refugee Service wins five awards

A public service announcement created for JRS South Africa by a student's team from the University of Pretoria has won five awards in M-NET Vuka! national competition. The prestigious social responsibility film competition (Vuka! means 'Wake up!' in the Nguni languages) provides a platform for talented media students and professionals to create public service announcements for charities of their choice. The Jesuit Refugee Service announcement, which was praised for its special animation, explained who a refugee is, using a unique perspective, that of the refugee himself, and focused on remembering his humanity. The announcement won the newcomer category, took awards for best editing, best sound design, best script, and shared the accolade of best animation. Winners will have their public service announcements broadcast on television, at no charge, into over one million homes in South Africa. In this way it will contribute to break down negative stereotypes of foreign nationals in South Africa.

SPAIN: "Eat Healthy, Eat Fair"

Jesuits in Valladolid are taking part in a cooperative called *Come Sano Come Justo (Eat Healthy Eat Fair)*, which has just celebrated its first anniversary. The cooperative gathers over 100 members whose shared values include sustainability of the planet, promotion of responsible consumption, support of fair trade networks, social integration and employment of people with disabilities, and unconditional support for those in need. The cooperative runs a store that sells organic and fair-trade products. <http://www.comesanocomejusto.com/>

Special News from Kolkata!

Former President **A.P.J Abdul Kalam** was here in Kolkata, on February 2, to inaugurate the year long Centennial Celebrations of Loreto College. Gracing the occasion as the honoured Chief Guest, Dr. Kalam went on to give an inspiring speech before a specially invited audience, consisting of several church as well as state

dignitaries, staff and students, parents and well wishers of the college.

He certainly captivated everyone in the audience with his typical interactive form of addressing any youth group. I was particularly happy to hear him pay rich tribute, in a non Jesuit College, to two Jesuits of St. Joseph's College, Trichy. He said, "It was **Fr. Chinnadurai** who inspired and instilled love in my heart for nuclear science. He is about 87 now. Every New Year day, we speak to each other. When I am around Dindigul I make it a point to go and meet him." Dr.Kalam also spoke of another Jesuit of **Fr. T.N. Sequeira**.

Jeyaraj Veluswamy (CAL)

An extract from an interview with Fr. Daniel Huang, general counsellor of Asia Pacific.

Q. Father Huang, the Conference of Asia Pacific groups together many Provinces, Regions and Missions, that often have very different situations and problems. Can you give us a brief overview of this area of the Society?

A. the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific (JCAP) is composed of thirteen units: 7 Provinces (Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, and Vietnam) and 6 Regions and Missions (Cambodia, East Timor, Malaysia-Singapore, Micronesia, Myanmar, and Thailand). As of January 2011, there are 1640 Jesuits in the Assistency - about 9% of the total Jesuit population of 17,772. JCAP serves an enormous part of the world, in terms of both land area and population. In addition to the vast continent of Australia, JCAP also includes China, the most populous nation in the world and the second largest country in terms of land area, as well as Indonesia, not only a huge archipelago extending over three time zones, but also the country with the biggest Muslim population in the world. By way of contrast, with the exception of two largely Catholic countries (the Philippines and East Timor), the Catholic Church in this part of the world is truly a "little flock," a tiny percentage of the total population. For example, the Catholics of Japan, about half a million people, are less than 0.5% of the total population of the country. Similarly, the less than 300,000 Thai Catholics constitute a little over 0.4% of Thailand's population. The great majority of the peoples of Asia Pacific have belonged for centuries to one of the other great religious traditions, such as Buddhism, Islam and Confucianism. At present, however, these ancient Asian religions and cultural traditions also find themselves confronted by a growing secularization of cultures. The new emerging "global" cultures affect particularly the young, of whom there are so many in Asia Pacific.

Aside from being so religiously and culturally diverse (we not only have different languages, but also numerous different alphabets and systems of writing!), the countries served by JCAP also face very different challenges. On the one hand, in Asia Pacific, one finds economic giants, like China, Japan, Korea, Australia, and Singapore, but also some of the poorest countries in the world, such as East Timor, Myanmar, and Cambodia. Problems of political repression and limitations of religious freedom face Myanmar, Vietnam and China. Relating to the various forms of Islam today is a challenge for Indonesia, Malaysia, and the southern parts of both Thailand and the Philippines. Migration, undertaken for various reasons, is a huge challenge for

the entire region, involving millions (indeed, if one includes internal migration in China, hundreds of millions) of people. Finally, on the whole, Asia Pacific is a young and growing region of the Society. About a third of the Jesuits in JCAP are 40 years old and younger. A new Province like Vietnam, only five years old, has about 150 Jesuits, among whom 90 are in formation. Of East Timor's 45 Jesuits, 30 are in formation. Out of the 41 Jesuits ascribed to or working in the Mission of Myanmar, 34 are in formation.

From the Provinces

AUSTRALIA: Community unites for flood victims

A great sense of people coming together and a great generosity. These were the major aspects among the parishioners of St. Ignatius Church in Toowoomba, Brisbane, in response to the devastating floods which spread recently all over Australia. Fr Greg Jacobs S.J., the assistant priest in the parish, said the disaster was bringing out the best side of people. Brisbane was the biggest urban centre hit by the floods, with many houses in riverside suburbs swamped with water. During the emergency days the parish, that was not affected by the waters, offered the church hall as a place for people to take shelter and generous parishioners opened their houses for any families in need, while many volunteers were cleaning the town from the mud. Among them there were also volunteers from the parish who organised themselves to bring relief to those who had their house devastated by flooding. Help arrived from all over Australia by institutions and individual donors. Also the Province Office gave money to support in the relief efforts.

COLOMBIA: Javeriana is the best university

The Pontifical Javeriana University, run by the Society of Jesus, is the best private university of Colombia and the third among public and private institutions. These are the results of a survey published last January by www.guiacademica.com The article says that at the beginning of 2010 the Sapiens Research group, directed by Carlos Roberto Peña, begun a survey on the parameters of science, technology and innovation in Colombian higher education institutions (IES). "It was called Ranking U-Sapiens Colombia, in order to draw a classification in terms of academic quality and then make a comparison with the best IES in the world. The results will be published twice a year." Out of 125 universities and 125 higher education institutions of Colombia, the study ranked 61 universities and three institutions that met three criteria: they have training programs and doctorate, research groups and publish academic articles in their magazines reported in Publindex.

EUROPE: Matteo Ricci in Strasbourg. January 19 was a memorable day at the European Parliament in Strasbourg with the official commemoration of the fourth centenary of the death of Matteo Ricci. The theme was: "Meeting of civilizations. Father Matteo Ricci European ambassador in Ming's China." There were many authorities of Macerata, the birthplace of the missionary. Ricci's example and the approach of friendship and respect among peoples offer a lesson to think about - said Marco Scurria, patron of the event - in a time when religious freedom and attacks against Christian communities are at the center of European attention." The event was the occasion for an exhibition

in the south gallery of the building of the European Parliament. "Ricci teaches us how to understand and relate with China, said Antonio Tajani, vice-president of the European Commission. The key to the success of Ricci was to address the confrontation with China in terms of excellence, an approach and a way that are still valid today in the relations with this country representing a great opportunity for Europe." For this reason it was announced the European Commission's intention to organize an exhibition in Brussels, together with a moment of reflection, analysis and comparison about Ricci's experience.

INDIA: Stamp for the centenary of Doot review

On January 15 the Indian Postal department has released a commemorative postage stamp on the occasion of the centenary of Jesuit-run Gujarati magazine Doot (cfr. Electronic Bulletin, Vol. XIV, N. 3, 5 February 2010). Doot was started in January 1911 and it is the second Gujarati magazine besides Gujarat Vidyasabha's 155-year-old magazine Buddhprakash. Over the years the magazine contributed to build the spiritual and intellectual life of the people of Gujarat, instilling in readers the Christian values of love, compassion, justice, peace and brotherhood. Former editor, Jesuit Father Varghese Paul, said Doot helped establish a strong bond among Christians in Gujarat when no communication medium existed, particularly in rural areas, and it continues to be an agent of social and religious change with its commitment against social evils such as the caste system and discrimination in general. With a circulation of more than 10,000, it is read by about 50,000 people in India and among the Indians in the UK and USA.

UNITED KINGDOM: Exploring culture and communication

Irish Jesuit Fergus O' Donoghue, Editor of Studies, was one of the guest speakers when thirty-seven Jesuits in Formation, gathered for a residential weekend to consider media and communications. The event was held in the Emmaus Retreat Centre in Kent from January 14-16, and men came from two dozen Provinces, including Ireland. Among the topics they discussed were the various Jesuit media initiatives in their own countries and the way their regional cultures affect communication of the Gospel. Fergus shared his thoughts on the opportunities and challenges of the written word, especially on the net. Other topics included film - led by Maggie Roux of Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds; journalism (Sr Janet Fearn FMDM), and the use of drama, facilitated by Chrissie Poulter who, among other initiatives, has used the discipline in conflict resolution in Belfast.

NEW RELEASES

Nerudal, A. Irudayaraj, Nehr Nirai Publishers, pp.176, Rs 70

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ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Joachim M. Fuster (BOM) 97/80, on 9 Jan.

Fr. Thomas Lepcha (DAR) 48/16, on 9 Jan.

Fr. Francis Xavier Mani Ponnaiah (AND) 72/53, on 13 Jan.

Br. Joseph Tort (BOM), 84/66, on 2 Feb.

Br. Lizarralde Felipe (GUJ), 86/67, on 4 Feb.

Mr. M. D. Jesappan, 80, uncle and **Mrs. Visuvasam**, 77, aunt of Br. M. L. Bosco, on 19 and 26 Dec. respectively

Mrs. Maria Arockiammal, 87, mother of Fr. Singarayar on 29 Jan.

Fr. Miranda Apolline, S.J.

(23.07.1919 - 22.01.2011)

Fr. Apolline Miranda died on 22 January at the age of 92. He was parish priest in several parishes and retired in Beschi about 10 years ago. He was declining in health and practically lost his memory. So he had a difficulty in recognizing his own relatives and friends. A few days before his end he could hardly take any food. On seeing his condition the ever-alert infirmarian **Br. Aloysius** took Fr. Apolline to St.



Joseph Hospital where he passed away peacefully around 4.30 pm on 22 January. The body was laid in Beschi parlour for people to pay him their homage. The funeral was at 4.00 pm on 23 January. **Fr. Arulanandam**, the Socius presided over the funeral Mass. **Fr. Vitalis Diaz** who had known his family very well preached the homily. He portrayed Fr. Apolline as a man of poverty, simplicity and generosity. **Fr. Arul Sivan** thanked the Sisters of St. Joseph hospital and the co-workers of Besch for their care of Fr. Apolline. After the Eucharist his body was taken to the cemetery and the final absolution was given by Fr. Vitalis Diaz before his body was laid to rest.

A. Vino Selukas