



JUNE 2011

(For Private Circulation)

WELCOME TO THE NEW PROVINCIAL

On 17 May, we got the good news that **Fr. Sebastia L. Raj** is appointed by Fr. General the Provincial of Madurai Province in the place of Fr. Mudiappasamy Devadoss. The Province prayerfully felicitates him and offers its congratulations. Hearty welcome to him to guide and lead the Province.



Fr. Sebastia was born in Burma (Myanmar) on 18 February 1945 and came to India in 1965 and joined the Jesuits on 14 August. After his licentiate in Philosophy at Shembaganur he did his Masters in Political Science in M. S. University, Baroda. He was ordained a priest in 1976. He served as Socius to the Provincial during the transition from Fr. Rex Pai to Fr. Michael Jeyaraj (1981-82). He obtained a doctorate from Madras University by doing research on the concept of *Total Revolution* by Jeyaprakash Narayan. He then went to Loyola University of Chicago, USA, for post-doctoral studies (1982-84).

On his return to India, in 1984, he joined the Common House and taught Philosophy at Satya Nilayam. From 1985 to 1988, he was the Principal of Satya Nilayam. In addition, from 1986 to 1991, he was also the First Director of Satya Nilayam Research Institute. In 1991, he was appointed the Director of ISI, New Delhi, which post he held till June 1998. From January 1998 to June 1999, he served as the National Secretary for the Apostolic Visitation of Seminaries, commissioned by the Holy See. In June 1999, he took over as the first Director of NISCORT (National Institute of Social Communication, Research and Training), run by CBCI. From January 2006 till now when he was appointed Provincial of Madurai Province, he was the Director of Xavier Institute of Management (XIMJ), Jabalpur, an Institute owned by the Jesuits of Madhya Pradesh.

He has made extensive evaluation studies of the CBCI and dozens of religious congregations, dioceses and educational Institutions. In that way he brings with him wide, national level experience in administration and management. He welcomes challenges because they are for him opportunities to achieve. The God of History who is with us and guides us in all our undertakings will surely guide him in leading the Province for God's Greater Glory!

THANK YOU, DEAR DEVA

It is my pleasure and privilege to thank **Fr. Deva** on behalf of the entire Province for his service as Provincial from Nov 2005 till 28 May 2011. He took over as Provincial rather reluctantly. It is not that he loved Madurai less but that he loved East Africa more. As a man of obedience he plunged himself into the task of governing the Province. He believed in the group process and called for frequent consultation; he set



in motion a system of governing wherein there was greater transparency and dialogue. He set himself the task of supporting the growth and development of Chennai Mission. He had endless patience in negotiations; he evinced deep respect for the mystery of each person. He was ready to pay any price for his principled stand. If he erred it was because he trusted his subjects. His physical and spiritual stamina was amazing. He can best be described a man of the *magis*.

Together with offering our deep debt of gratitude to him we assure him of our prayers and good wishes that he continues to be ever available to God's Mission wherever he is!

Message from the Provincial

My dear Brothers,

This is my first communication to you, after taking charge as your Provincial. First of all, I thank you sincerely for all your prayers for me and my new responsibility. I would also like to thank all those who sent me greetings through email, SMS, phone calls, etc. In this message, I would like to reiterate the reflections I shared with those present for the inaugural function on May 28, at Beschi Illam.

We believe in the God of History, a God who is present throughout history and who guides history. He is present in every historic event or moment. In our case, all of us believe that God was present and active in the event which took place on May 28, 2011, at Beschi Illam, when Fr. M. Devadoss handed over charge to me as your new Provincial. While it is a routine change of leadership, every change in leadership has its impact on the Province and we believe that it is God who is effecting these changes according to his will, through our Superiors and the Church.

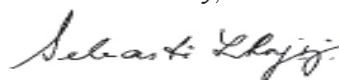
We need to believe firmly in the eternal and dynamic presence of God in every moment of our life, both at the personal level and in our ministries. Through his presence, God becomes our strength and our source of support and inspiration. When God is with us, we are absolutely sure that no one else can prevail over us. We firmly believe that even amidst problems, struggles, failures, humiliations, insults, etc. he is with us. He will always stand by us, even when all others may reject us and thus we are never alone. When we believe firmly that God is with us always, we are also conscious, and cautious to ensure, that we say or do only those things, which are in accordance with God's will. This is the way we respond to the loving and eternal presence of the Lord in our life and in our ministries. Let us continue to pray that we may always allow God to be present in our life, to guide every action and decision and be our source of strength and inspiration, so that we always do what he wants us to do.

Let us thank God every day for his presence amidst us and let us also learn to become more and more aware of his ever loving presence. With his active presence, we can surely achieve many things and move forward in our personal life and in our service to our people. We can also overcome all problems and obstacles. Let us, therefore, keep our hearts and minds ever open to the God of history and allow him to lead us on, inspire us and support us. With this strong faith, let us march forward, along with the Lord of history, and we will definitely overcome all the obstacles that are staring at us or blocking our progress. Let us keep our hearts and minds always open to him and allow him to operate within us. Let us move ahead with a great sense of hope, courage and confidence, because we are not alone and he is always with us. Let us pray for his supportive and loving presence in the entire Province and in each one of us, as we begin a new era, under a new leadership. More specifically, I seek your continued prayers for his active presence in all that I do as your Provincial — in all my judgments, in all my decisions and in all my policies and actions.

I have planned to make a quick contact visit of all our communities starting from June 21. I will try to complete this contact visits by August end. During this visit, I would like to meet every member of the Province personally, to listen to you about your vision, expectations, suggestions and concerns related to our life and our mission in our Province, so that we can move forward collectively. The official visitations will commence from September.

I take this opportunity, to thank Fr. M. Devadoss, for his selfless service to the Province as our Provincial. He was a model of hard work, dedication and simplicity. He has given leadership to the Province with a great sense of love and personal concern for the members. The entire Province is grateful to him and prays that the Lord may bless him abundantly for his selfless and dedicated service and wishes him peace and joy in his personal life and success in the new ministry that will be assigned to him.

Yours fraternally,



Sebastia L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

June

05-07	Chennai
08	TNPCRRI at Tindivanam
09	New Delhi, meeting with POSA
10-20	XIMJ, Jabalpur (Handing over charge to the new Director)
21	Beschi, First Vows, GBM Sacred Heart Trust
22-24	Contact Visit — St. Joseph's, Tiruchi
26-28	Contact Visit – Kodai Hill communities
30	Dindigul, Consult

July

01	Sacred Heart Feast Day Mass, Beschi
01-02	Contact Visit – Beschi
04-05	Contact Visit – St. Mary's, Madurai
06	Contact Visit – IDEAS
07-08	Contact Visit – LTI
09	Contact Visit – LAAS
10	Contact Visit – DACA
11-12	Contact Visit – Arul Anandar College, Karumathur
14-17	Guntur (AP), Chapter Guidance – JMJ Sisters
19-20	Contact Visit – De Britto, Devakottai
21	Contact Visit – Oriyur
23	Dindigul, Consult
24-26	Contact Visit – St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai
27	Contact Visit – Tuticorin
28-29	Contact Visit – Nagercoil, Thozhamai Illam

- * **During the Contact Visits**, the Provincial would like to meet all the members individually, apart from common meetings. All are requested to make themselves available. Those who are living alone (in parishes) may kindly meet him in the house to which they are attached.
- * **Please note the details for all electronic communications to the Provincial:**
All official communications to the Provincial: mduprovincial@gmail.com
All personal communications to the Provincial: slrsj45@gmail.com
All communications meant for the Province Curia: mducuria@gmail.com
- The new Mobile numbers of the Provincial:**
94421-71234 or 73733-33166

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * **Fr. General has appointed:**
Fr. Jude Odiaka Provincial of the North-West Africa
Fr. Mieczyslaw Smyda Provincial of the Central Brazil
Fr. Bhausahab Sansare Provincial of Pune
Fr. Jeyaraj Veluswamy Provincial of Calcutta
Fr. S. John Britto Bonaventure, Rector of St. Joseph's, Tiruchi
- * **Fr. Provincial has appointed:**
Fr. Tagore Leo Antony, Superior of De Britto HSS, Devakottai
Fr. Britto Peter A., Superior of Beschi Illam, Dindigul
Fr. Dunstan Vinny Joseph, Superior of SH College, Shembaganur
Fr. Jeyaraj Michael, Superior of IDEAS, Madurai
Fr. Jayapathy Francis A.M., Superior of Carmel HSS, Nagercoil
Fr. Albert Joseph S., Superior of Xaveriana, Thoothukudi.
Fr. Ilanko Xavier, Director of Novices.
Fr. Wilson Arockiasamy, Acting Superior of St. Arulanandar H.S.S., Oriyur
Fr. Arockiasamy Antony, Secretary, SXC, Palayamkottai
- * **Transfers:**
Fr. Michael John A., HRM studies in St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi
Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier, From AAC, Karumathur to SJC, Tiruchi
- * **Fr. M. Devadoss** is now based at St. Joseph's Agri Farm, Perumalmalai, Kodaikanal, 624 104, and reachable by Tel: 04542- 230485 or 230221 or Mobile: 9442206949

* Province Congregation:

The Province Congregation will be held from December 27 to 30, 2011. The Provincial will formally convoke the Province Congregation soon, with all the details.

- * **Fr. Francis Jayapathy:** cell: 94445 89174
Fr. Devadhas Muthiah: cell: 94875-80952
- * **Left the Society: Novices Antony Arockia Raj V.** on 20 May, **William Raja T.** on 23 May and **Sch. Justin Gnana Diraviam A.** on 27 May.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

A Triple Feast

May 28th will go down very green, in the memory of many of our men in Beschi College as well as for all the guests who came to witness the triple festivities. They were: the taking over ceremony of the New Provincial **Fr. Sebasti L. Raj**, the grand Jubilee of fifteen of our men and the final commitment of Fr. Jerome Manyahi of the East African Province.

In the Holy Eucharist, which began at 10 am, the outgoing Provincial **Fr. M.Devadoss** solemnly read out the Decree installing the New Provincial and invoked God's choicest blessings on the incumbent. The new Provincial continued the Holy Mass stressing the mighty role of the God of history.

After celebrating the Eucharist, there was a felicitous gathering. **Fr. Sahayaraj Stanley**, the M. C. welcomed the gathering to the mega event! There were seven reputed Jesuits as Golden Jubilarians – Br. Irudayasamy Sebastian, **Frs. M. Arulanandam, I.M. Joseph, Joseph Raj, V.S.Manickam, G.Packiaraj** and **Fr. X.Savarimuthu.** **Fr. I. Arul** paid a glowing tributes to the Golden Jubilarians, highlighting their personal erudition and their lifetime achievements in all the places of their ministry. Special felicitations were also given to **Fr. Rodney Hart SJ**, a Jubilarian, who working in the Philippines came to India specially to attend the function.

Next was the honouring of the diamond Jubilee of sixty year Jubilarians...! The six illustrious and famous men were **Frs. Andrews Thekkekara, A. M. Lourdasamy, J. M. Lourduraj, Maria Louis, Matthew Moollel** and **Fr. Srinivasan.** **Fr. Thamburaj** drew the attention of the assembly to the successful and inspiring stories of these six super men..! Along with these gifted men, the Province also congratulated **Fr. Paul de la Gueriviere** on his seventy years in the Society of Jesus. The very special, singular feat of 80 years in the Society by **Fr. Pierre Ceyrac** was particularly remembered and rich compliments were showered on him.

The Beschi novices added more pep to the festivity by performing a fantastic dance and scholastics made it all grander with their enchanting singing, highlighting the special salient qualities of the Jubilarians. The animated and dynamic power-point presentations by **Schs. Swaminathan, Berchmans** and Co., with catchy and juicy details of the Jubilarians made the event more sparkling!

Fr. G. Packiaraj gave an emotional acceptance speech by thanking God Almighty and complimenting

the whole Province. From the Jubilee celebrations, we had a brief break, in felicitating **Fr. Jerome Manyahi** of the East African Province, who pronounced his last vows during the Jubilee Mass. **Fr. John Kumar** adorned Jerome with a ponnadai and Fr. Devadoss, the outgoing Provincial lavishly praised Jerome for his mission and contributions to the Society. Another highlight of that day was the rendering of a song in *Kiswahili* by Fr. Deva (African by choice!) and the African guests.

The new Provincial, Fr. Sebastia L. Raj reiterated his commitment to the Province in his first address as Provincial. He profoundly thanked Fr. Deva for all his selfless service and taking the cue from him, the Jubilee assembly gave Fr. Deva a standing ovation in acknowledgement and gratitude.

The celebrations came to a grand finale with a soulful rendering of a full-throated "Mother Dear O Company" – the Society's anthem. (Someone incorrectly thought the song refers to Mother Mary!) *Ad Multos Annos* for the Jubilarians and *Muchas Gracias* to the Beschi Community for hosting the memorable event...! Till the next Jubilee, *Auf Wiedersehen!*

Sahayaraj Stanley

BESCHI ILLAM

The new novice master **Fr. Ilanko Xavier** was welcomed and the retired novice master **Fr. D. Jeyaraj** was thanked for all his services in a Eucharistic celebration in Beschi on 25 April. The first year novices finished their Ashram experiment successfully in Jothi Vanam, Kuzhithalai under the guidance of **Sr. Stephaney Jones**. The second year novices returned to Beschi after their home visit.

On 19 May the novices had a friendly basketball match with the Scholastics of the Madurai Province. The novices won the match 38-30. The novices went for a picnic to different places in and around Dindigul.

Beschi community began its major holidays on 17 May. **Frs. Arul Sivan, Boniface, Cyril Mathew and Premkumar** and **Br. Irudayasamy** who were transferred from Beschi were thanked for all their services to the community in a concelebrated Mass on 19 May. The new Superior of the Beschi Illam **Fr. Britto Peter** was welcomed on 25 May.

M. Valan

ST. PETER'S, VIRAGALUR

At the request of the **Most Rev. Paul Arulsamy**, Bishop of Kumbakonam, the Jesuits of Madurai Province started managing St. Peter's School, Viragalur thirty-one years ago. **Fr. Pushpam Agnisamy** was its first Jesuit Headmaster. But since it was done in an emergency without any timeframe, there was no formal contract between the Diocese and the Order.

The time has come now for saying goodbye to Viragalur as the Diocese would like to manage the school. So we handed over the school back to the Diocese in the presence of the **Most Rev. Antonysamy** and **Fr. John Britto**, the Rector of SJC, Tiruchi. The present Bishop thanked profoundly the Jesuits for their dedication and service. **Fr. K. A. Augustine**, the

outgoing and retiring HM of St. Peter's made the transition smooth and friendly.

K. A. Augustine

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

On 23 May **Fr. John Britto** assumed charge as Rector of St. Joseph's College in the Community Mass. **Fr. Rex A. Pai** in his homily recalled Fr. Britto's association with St. Joseph's for nearly four decades. **Fr. M. Devadoss** presided over the liturgy.

The first year MBA students have gone to different places for month-long internship.

The three Jubilarians from our community are **Fr. Joseph Srinivasan**, 60 yrs in the Society, **Fr. X. Savarimuthu** and **Fr. M. Arulanandam** 50 yrs in the Society; they celebrated their Jubilees in Beschi Illam on 28 May.

Sebastian Anand

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

The Union Planning Commission has appointed **Fr. Boniface Jeyaraj** and **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** members of the Working Group on Higher Education for the formulation of XII Five Year Plan 2012 - 2017.

Xavier Alphonse

JRS

JRS regent **John Michael** and 13 other scholastics left immediately after Easter, for the summer camps. The scholastics who were tired after the annual exams, were energized and recharged with a full-day orientation on 23 April, by **Fr. Prem Kumar**. They went to all the 4 refugee zones and conducted 16 camps all over Tamil Nadu. There were 980 refugee students who participated in them.

Students who were not ready on the first day to sacrifice their summer fun, had tears in their eyes and hope in their hearts on the last day. Many were happy that JRS gave a chance to learn their lessons together in a joyful atmosphere. JRS co-workers and camp volunteers too were happy to sweat along with the Jesuits. Scholastics were filled with happiness and satisfaction for giving out generously what the Society has given them freely.

On 30 May, the annual fact-finding evaluation on Gender Based Violence (GBV) was organized for our Staff at Beschi Illam.

Raja

SUMMER CAMP AT PAATHAI CENTRE

From April 4 to May 14 a free summer camp was conducted by the Paathai Centre at Vallam in Chengalpattu diocese.

This year we four scholastics Tony, Robin, Jesu and I, with the help of three Gonzaga Sisters and five lay volunteers, organized this camp.

Students from 9 to 12 std. totalling about 280 came from five districts. It was a tough task to Regent Toni to contact the animators, meet the students and make them attend the camp.

We had a well-planned schedule of activities like yoga, voice culture, classes, games, competitions, etc. Resource persons were invited for special classes on IACM, media, career guidance, herbal medicine, etc.

With proper instructions, some of the *asanas* taught were *suryanamaskar*, *anulomaviloma*, *pranayama*, etc. which are very helpful for increasing concentration cum memory of the mind. The students enthusiastically learnt them. After the camp some phoned and told us that they were practising some of them at home.

Every day we taught them the basics of English grammar and we strictly instructed them to speak only in English. In the beginning they were very shy since they regarded speaking in English is impossible but we overcame the opposition by kindling the fire of interest in them. Every day they performed a five-minute skit in English. Some students, in the daily evaluation, gave their feedback in English. They themselves were astounded at their growth and ability to speak in English. Finally they understood that with interest and indefatigable hard work we can achieve anything.

We were taken aback when a boy shared, "If I had been at home, I would have had only rice cooked the previous day and some pickle. But here I get hot rice, vegetables and curry." Like this they shared their thoughts and feelings. I am extremely happy to recall a few of them.

1. **Francis**, a ninth standard boy became homesick after the second day of the camp; he was adamant to go back home. We followed the Ignatian method of going with him and making him come back by our way. We conducted some games especially for him and we made him feel at home. Then he remained till the end of the camp. He happily shared on the last day that he had liked the camp and was eager to participate in the next camp also.

2. **Pasupathi**, a tenth standard student shared, "While my friends called me to attend this camp telling me that it was conducted by Christian Fathers, Sisters and Brothers, I thought that this camp was only for Christians. And so I was reluctant to come. But after coming here I understood this camp is for all. The way Sisters and Brothers spoke to us, treated us and taught us made me have a sense of equality and liberty."

3. **Johnson**, an 11 standard boy said, "If I had been at home I would have wasted my holidays by simply playing cricket or watching T.V. By attending this camp I could learn many new things. I think that I have made use of the summer holidays usefully."

Helen Keller says, "The most beautiful thing in the world cannot be seen or touched but rather can be only experienced. Those experiences also cannot be expounded by words but we can only feel them."

We too feel the same. We enjoyed the days and cherished the company of others. Of course, we learnt many things from the budding leaders. Service is to form others as well as to form ourselves. We accomplished both.

Arul Gnanapragasam

Spoken Hindi Course: (May 22- June 1)

"Spoken Hindi Course" (SHC) for the Pune-going scholastics was organised for the first time in LTI, Madurai. Realizing the importance of learning Hindi, this maiden attempt was taken by the initiative of **Fr. Britto Peter**, our PCF. **Fr. Stephen J. Muthu**, the Superior of LTI arranged this programme executed it in an excellent way with the help of his staff. **Ms. Meenakshi** was the resource person and we, the scholastics were very eager and learned the language within a short span of time with a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. This ten-day programme created in us a thirst to equip ourselves with the most widely spoken language in India. The fruit of this SHC was vividly witnessed at the valedictory function, wherein we staged a programme in Hindi and made the audience awestruck. **Fr. Lourduraj** presided over the function and distributed the certificates to the participants. During his address, Fr. Lourduraj appreciated this new venture of the Province and said that it was a real privilege. We the scholastics thank the members of LTI community for their care, concern and hospitality during our stay in LTI. We thank Fr. Britto Peter for this marvellous opportunity and wish that this is taken ahead in the following years with the same zeal.

G S Thayriam

General Curia, Rome

Office of Development Resources. Fr. Jorge Ordoñez writes: "In 2007 Fr. General P.H. Kolvenbach named Mr. Chuck Duffy (USA) as the first director of the development office created in the General Curia after the Major Superiors' meeting in Loyola (2005). The first three years were to lay the foundations of this new and urgent service to the universal Society due to the great changes in the world's economy, as well as to the new structures within the apostolic body of the Society and its government. This work done by Mr. Duffy with the support of the Assistants, Provincials and Treasurers was the basis for the proposal presented to the Father General, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, and to the presidents of the Conferences in September 2010, called the *Flagship Project*. This proposal seeks to support one Province a year in each Conference until 2013, whether the Province is beginning a fund raising office, or is in the midst of strengthening a fund raising programme. What is important is that the Province desires to raise funds for the apostolic priorities not only of the Province but also of the shared priorities of the Conference and the worldwide Society. The Conferences have already chosen the pilot Province: East Africa, Philippines, Madhya Pradesh, and Malta. Latin America has postponed the selection of a pilot Province until the year 2012. The name of this General Curia service has been changed from "Development Office" to "Office of Development Resources", since it is not this office's task to do fund raising, but to facilitate the growth of Development Offices in each of the Provinces and Conferences of the Society."

CHAD: Recognition to Fr. Gherardi

On May 19 in Geneva, at the UN Headquarters, the WHO (World Health Organization) awarded the Chadian Community Association for Progress,

founded by Father Angelo Gherardi, an Italian Jesuit missionary living in Chad for decades, the 2011 prize of the Foundation of the Union of Arab Emirates for Health, and the 2011 prize of Kuwait State for research and promotion of health. The reason for both prizes highlighted the excellent work done by the Association for research and development of health. In addition to the prestigious award, the prizes involve also substantial sums of money.

EUROPE: Strategic Plan

A special meeting of the Council of the Conference of European Provincials (CEP) was held recently in order to realize a strategic plan of action for the next three or four years. Fr. John Dardis, the president, outlined the main points: "First we took into consideration *evangelization and its importance across Europe*, in a moment of big secularization. The Jesuit charism is open to culture, to meet God in all things and to help people to meet him too. This is our particular contribution to the Church. A second basic idea in our discussions was *to pay particular attention to young people* (...). Everywhere young people have a deep hunger and a great potential. Will we be able to bring out this potential and to develop it? Regarding *interreligious dialogue*, it was stressed that it was really more than one dialogue. *Islam* is not the only group with whom we have to interact, even though it is the most complex and difficult. We must not forget also the ecumenical call in Europe among all *Christian Churches* (...). Then, we stressed the importance of helping the renewal of the Church all over Europe."

PORTUGAL: Drama on Father Vieira

Throughout the month of May, the Museum of San Roque (Lisbon) offers to secondary students a drama around the figure of Father Antonio Vieira (Portuguese Jesuit and famous preacher and writer in Portugal and Brazil), to be held in the exhibition areas of the Museum and the Church of San Roque, the very place where the "Emperor of the Portuguese language" gave some of his most famous sermons. In June, the sessions of the show are directed to the general public, and will take place at night. Fr. Vieira was born in Lisbon on February 6, 1608. When he was 6 years old he travelled to Brazil to join his father who was already there. After joining the Society of Jesus in 1623 he distinguished himself as one of the most brilliant preachers of the 17th century. He played important diplomatic roles and was a great defender of the Brazilian indigenous people.

SPAIN: "The Last Jesuit"

The latest historical novel of Father Pedro Miguel Lamet was presented on May 9 in the conference hall of ICADE in Madrid. The book, titled *The Last Jesuit*, recounts the tragic persecution of the Society of Jesus during the reign of Charles III. The work, Father Lamet's 37th, has been a major challenge for the author, who considered it "the most dramatic, exciting and rigorous historical novel" he ever wrote. According to Lamet the expulsion and suppression of the Society is comparable to "the expulsion of the Moors and Jews." The reasons are many and various: the Order was at that moment at the zenith of its influence in Rome and in the world's theological issues such as Jansenism, the doctrine of Fr. Mariana on tyrannicide, the publication of the famous novel "Fra

Gerundio" by Fr. Isla and especially the lies about the *Reducciones* in Latin America. But, according to Father Lamet, the main reason for this and other expulsions the Society of Jesus suffered during the centuries was "the work at the frontiers of faith and culture and an independence of approach which has its basis in the inner freedom of spirit acquired through the Exercises of Saint Ignatius."

SPAIN: Ignatian immersion in Manresa

The spiritual centre at the Cave of St. Ignatius in Manresa welcomed 36 participants for the first international immersion course. The course turned out to be such a success that it was necessary to open a waiting list with 60 applications for the future. This is the first international course in English to take place at the Cave of St. Ignatius. There are participants from all over the world, from 20 different countries and from every continent including Africa and Asia and representing 19 different languages. A third of the participants are lay people and the majority of the rest are Jesuits. For five weeks, the participants will be "immersed" in Ignatian spirituality. The course, said Father Francisco José Ruiz Pérez, Provincial of Spain, "demonstrates that Ignatian spirituality is alive and that there is everywhere a strong desire to know about it and bring it up to date and adapt it to the needs of the Church and mankind." Spain's Provincial reminded us that the spirituality of St. Ignatius does not only belong to the 16th Century but it is open to the challenges of every day and everywhere. A proof of the fact that this course is international is that the Spiritual Exercises can be followed in English and also in Chinese thanks to the presence of Colleen Wang, who is a member of the Centre run by the Society of Jesus in Hong Kong. The course began on 27th April and will end on the 4th June.

NEW RELEASES

"புனிதர்களின் பணியும் வாழ்வும்" Fr. R. S. Amalraj, Nanjil Book Stall, Nagercoil, pp. 227, Rs. 110/-

Indian Secularism: a Theological Response, edited by Raj Irudaya & Antony Kalliath, ITA & ATC, Bangalore: 2011, pp.276, Rs 250.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Br P.J. Mathew (KER) 73/51, on 12 May in Calicut

Fr. Suleman Tirkey (RAN) 63/42, on 1 June

Mr. Arulanandam, 79, brother of Fr. S.P. Savarimuthu on 7 May at Chennai

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