



**MARCH 2012**

(For Private Circulation)

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### **Provincial's Message**

#### ***Inspirations from the Superior General***

Dear Brothers,

During this Lenten Season, we are preparing ourselves spiritually by looking at our personal life, inner disposition and spiritual depth. This is a very useful and necessary preparation to receive the grace of the Risen Lord at the time of the Holy Week and more particularly on Easter Sunday. Let us make this inner renewal and spiritual search as seriously as possible.

As we are busy preparing ourselves to receive the grace of the Risen Lord, it will be highly useful and meaningful if we reflect upon some of the inspiring thoughts of our Superior General, Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, which he shared in the JCSA meeting, held at XLRI, Jamshedpur, from February 18 to 23, 2012. His sharing can be summarized as ***a clarion call for serious personal and structural renewal and reorientation.***

While speaking about the celebration of the second centenary of the restoration of Society, which will be held in 2014, he emphasized the need for spiritual renewal at the personal and community level, along with other activities and programmes. Thus, according to the mind of our Superior General, the next two years should be used as an opportune moment for all of us to renew ourselves and re-dedicate ourselves in the service of the Lord. The culmination of these personal and community-level renewal efforts should be the celebration of the second centenary of the restoration of the Society in 2014. A Committee will soon be formed to work out the details of this renewal programme.

Father General also spoke about the need for structural renewal and changes. In fact, a Committee appointed by Fr. General has come out with various suggestions for structural changes in the administration of the Society at different levels. These changes will have to be studied at the level of the Assistency and at the level of each Province. Fr. General suggested to the Provincials to feel free to introduce different structures at the horizontal level and vertical level to make our administration apostolically more effective. He welcomed a variety of creativity and patterns. He also made it clear that all such changes should be solely for the sake apostolic efficacy and expediency, without bringing in any other motive or consideration. In this connection, he informed the Provincials about the structural changes he has already brought about in the Jesuit Curia in Rome. Now we have three Core Secretariats: Secretariat for the Service of Faith, Secretariat for the Promotion of Justice and Secretariat for Collaboration. These three aspects should be reflected and found in all the ministries of the Society. We also need to apply this triple-focus in all our ministries.

Speaking about formation, Father General reiterated the need to realize that every community should be a place of formation. He stated that our testimony or witness is more important than all our works. This is a matter that is very relevant in our context. I invite each community, particularly its superior, to ensure that each community strives to become a place of strong testimony to our religious life — in our relationships, in the way we spend our time, our outside contacts, our outings, our contacts with our lay collaborators and our students, our attitude and disposition towards all those who are in contact with us, etc. What is the level of our witness to

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these people? This is a question that each one will have to ask oneself. We should be extremely careful not to become instruments of counter-witness, much worse, scandals to our collaborators, students and others. ***All of us need to be fully aware that the way live our life is more important than what we teach or preach or perform.*** During this sacred period of Lent, let us reflect seriously how each one can make himself effective witness to the values of Christ and to religious life itself — a life of service, sacrifice, renunciation, transparency, accountability and availability. May the Lord of history help us in this renewal process.

Fraternally,

***Sebasti L. Raj, SJ***

Provincial

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### Provincial's Programme

March		April	
05-07	Visitation: Vettavalam, Kilpennathur	03	LICET Steering Committee Meeting — Chennai
10-11	Superiors' Meeting — Chengleput	04-08	Holy Week
12-17	Visitation: St Xavier's, Palayamkottai	09-12	Visitation: Beschi
17-19	Visitation: Xaveriana, Tuticorin	14-16	Consult
19-21	Visitation: Carmel and Thozhamai Illam	23-30	Rome: Colloquium for the New Provincials
22	Visitation: Karisal		
25-26	Consult		
27-31	Interim Approval of Budgets		

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### TRANSFERS - LIST 1

Name	From	To
<b>Tertianship</b>		
Fr Amalraj Amirtha Nathan	De Britto, Devakottai	Hazaribagh
Fr Selvaraj Soosaimanickam	Dhyana Ashram	Goa
Fr Paulraj Packiam	Beschi	Sri Lanka
Fr. Louis Arockiaraj A.	Loyola	Shembaganur

### STATUS OF THE SCHOLASTICS - LIST 1

#### UG Studies

S Albinus Martin	Thiruvananthapuram	B.Sc. Comp. Sci., SJC, Tiruchi
S Amal Bosco J.	Thiruvananthapuram	B.Sc. Maths, SJC, Tiruchi
S John Paul L.	Thiruvananthapuram	B.Sc. Comp. Sci., BI, Chennai
S Jose Antony A.	Thiruvananthapuram	B.Sc. Phy., SJC, Tiruchi
S Joseph Vedanayagam	Thiruvananthapuram	B.Com., BI, Chennai
S Nelsonraj Michael Raj	Hazaribagh	B.Sc. Chem., BI, Chennai
S Nirmal Savariyar A.	Thiruvananthapuram	B.Sc. Maths., BI, Chennai
S Susaipragasam Maria Packiam	Hazaribagh	B.Sc. Physics, SJC, Tiruchi
S Thomas Alwa Edison D.	Calcutta	B.Sc. Bot., BI, Chennai
S Xavier Samuvel J.	Thiruvananthapuram	B.Sc. Maths., SJC, Tiruchi

#### PG / Special Studies

S Anton Robert	KARISAL	M.S.W., AHC, Chennai
S Robinson Antony	Paathai	B.Ed., SXCE, Palayamkottai
S Vasantha Kumar I.	Udhagamandalam	M.Sc. Bot., SJC, Tiruchi
S Wenishraj Rayappan	Kilpennathur	M.A. Folklore, SXC, Palayamkottai

### **Philosophy**

S Deva Arockia Stephen L.	Vadamelpakkam	DNC, Pune
S Doni Raja F.	Thiruvananthapuram	DNC, Pune
S Edward Lenin P.	Calcutta	DNC, Pune
S George Raja A.	Ranipet	DNC, Pune
S Jeyaraj Selvaraj	Thiruvananthapuram	SN, Chennai
S Joe Livingston S.	Hazaribag	DNC, Pune
S John Paul G.	Devakottai	SN, Chennai
S Joseph Arockiasamy	Kuppayanallur	DNC, Pune
S Manickam Perianayagaraj S.	Shembaganur	DNC, Pune
S Maria Then Amirtharaj G.	Oriyur	SN, Chennai
S Maria Valan M.	Thiruvananthapuram	SN, Chennai
S Michael Panimaya Raj T.	Chennai	DNC, Pune
S Paul Raj Arockiasamy	Thiruvananthapuram	DNC, Pune
S Vino Selukas A.	Calcutta	SN, Chennai

### **Regency**

S Arockia Alton S.	SN, Chennai	Paathai
S Arockia Selvam M.	DNC, Pune	KARISAL
S Berkman Kasparaj	DNC, Pune	Ranipet
S Christu Raj M.	DNC, Pune	Udhagamandalam
S Francis Xavier A.	DNC, Pune	PEAK
S Jesu Raja Raju	DNC, Pune	Myanmar
S Jeya Prakash P.	Nagapattinam	Devakottai
S John Magesh D.	SXCE, Palai	Kuppayanallur
S Maria Annaraj K.	SJC, Tiruchi	St. Mary's, Madurai
S Maria Viyahappan Gladwin A .	DNC, Pune	Vadamelpakkam
S Rajasekaran A.I.	SJC, Tiruchi	Kilpennathur
S Stephen Robert	SN, Chennai	Oriyur
S Swaminathan Krishnamurti	SN, Chennai	Afghanistan
S Vedha Stalin Joseph	DNC, Pune	Myanmar
S Velankanni Arockiasamy S.	DNC, Pune	Nagapattinam

## **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ◎ **Father General has appointed:**  
**Fr Fraternal Masawe**, General Counsellor and Regional Assistant for Africa (AFR).  
**Fr Christian Rutishauser**, Provincial of Switzerland.  
**Fr Christopher G. Llanos**, Regional Superior of Jamaica.
- ◎ **Fr Raj Irudaya** has been promoted by the Congregation of Catholic Education, Vatican to Professor Ordinarius.
- ◎ **Please note:**  
**Fr. Arockiasamy Antony:** arock339@gmail.com  
**Sch. Cyril Surésh**, Faculdade Jesuíta de Filosofia e Teologia - FAJE, Av. Dr. Cristiano Guimaraes, 2127 - Planalto, 31720-300 - Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brasil; Tel: +55 31 3115-7000

### **VOCATION CAMP**

**Place:** St. Mary's HS School, Dindigul  
**For XII Std. boys**  
**27 April (evening) - 10 May (noon)**

**For X Std. boys**  
**5 May (evening) - 10 May (noon)**

All Jesuits are earnestly requested to encourage potential candidates to attend the Vocation Camp.

Thank you

Vocation Promoter

## NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

### VILANGUDI

The candidates had a three-day spiritual journey under the guidance of **Fr. Savarimuthu**. **Fr. Innaci John** and **Sch Prabu** participated in the South and West Zone Pre-novitiate Directors and Vocation Promoters annual meeting held in Vinayalaya at Mumbai.

On 17th the **Most. Rev. Anthony Samy**, Bishop of Kumbakonam diocese came over to our parish for the pastoral visit for three days.

He also blessed the newly built church in Anaikudi one of its substations. St. Antony's Church, which remained a distant dream of the people of Anaikudi became a reality after 10 long years. 'Hats off' to **Fr. Arockiaraj**, who planned and executed it along with the parish counsellors.

*Prabu*

### VIDYANIKETAN, JUNIORATE, TRIVANDRUM

The nineteenth Academy Day was celebrated on 11th Feb with great energy and enthusiasm. The variety entertainment was much appreciated. The play 'As You Sow So You Reap' saw Maria Valan's sterling performance. The Ecological Awareness course by Fr. S. John Britto was insightful and enlightening. On our way back we visited at Madurai Meenakshi Amman temple and saw the sound and light show in the Mahal. The juniors are grateful to LATI and St. Mary's for their kind hospitality. The much-awaited visit of **Fr. Britto Peter** came on 21-22.

*V. Joseph*

### DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

Besides his regular classes at JDV, **Fr. Robin S. Seelan** gave a course on "Religious Life and Vows" to the formees of RJM Sisters.

We congratulate **Sch. Raphael Alexander** on his receiving a Gold Medal in B.Sc., Maths at Loyola, Chennai.

**Sch. Thayriam** secured the third place in the All India Essay Competition 2011-2012, conducted by JDV in collaboration with ASSR (Association for Science, Society and Religion). On 18 Feb, we had our Province picnic to Loyola High School, Pashan. Congratulations to **Schs. Jesu, Sarathi, Sathyabalan** and **Thayriam**, who received prizes during the Literary Day conducted in JDV. We bade farewell to our outgoing scholastics on 25<sup>th</sup> February, during which **Sch. Gladwin** reminisced his experiences in DNC and presented a portrait, an oil paint of Fr. Robert De Nobili, done by him to the DNC community.

*G. S. Thayriam*

### ARUL KADAL

Lonergan Seminar on theme அரசின் மக்கள் விரோதத் திட்டங்களும், மக்கள் எழுச்சிப் போராட்டங்களும் was organized by the Scholastics under the guidance of **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** on 4th of

Feb. in Kuppayanallur. Around 200 youths from Chengalpattu Diocese participated and the sessions were based on the current issues like முல்லைப் பெரியாறு அணை, விலைவாசி உயர்வு மற்றும் ஊழல்.

Fr. PCF was with us for his visit to the Scholastics. Arul Kadal Staff and **Sch. Clement** the Student representative went to Vidyajyoti, Delhi to participate in the Plenary Academic Council meeting from 20-22 Feb.

All the Scholastics went to Madurai for courses on Siddhars (at MUHIL) and Dalit Culture (TTS) from Feb 21st to Mar 2nd.

*Antony Markus*

### DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

ELT MELA was organized on 31st of January. **Prof. Baskaran** from Bangalore, Institute of Linguistics was the main speaker. He appreciated our efforts and motivated the students with anecdotes and examples how they should shed all fear of making mistakes in conversational English.

Installation of St. John De Britto's statue in our campus near the gate, a long-felt desire, finally became a reality on 4th of Feb thanks to the special interest shown by **Fr. Ignatius Britto** and our staff members' generous contribution. The statue, a product of local artists is aesthetically surrounded by lush grass and crotons to be called "Britto Square". A statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola is being sculpted in Tuticorin and will soon adorn our campus.

A free Medical Camp to treat diabetes was organized with the help of doctors from Karaikudi on 7 Feb.

On 13 Feb, a protest meeting with slogan shouting was held by our staff, condemning the murder of **Mrs. Uma Mahaeshwari**.

*John Paul*

### LOYOLA ACADEMY VADAMELPAKKAM

We have started the admission process for the next academic year beginning on 2 April, 2012. Managing the heavy rush for admission is already a problem for us. We are delighted to note that we have made a name within a short time and parents first try here for admission before they seek admission elsewhere for their children. For this year, the second Summative Assessment of the students will be done during the second week of March. Our teachers will have ten days in the school planning from 19 to 29 for the next academic year.

CBSE constituted inspection committee for affiliation made the inspection of our school on 17 Feb. We had prepared well for the inspection. The inspection committee has sent its report with a video footage of their visit to CBSE, Delhi.

We had the new staff recruitment on 26<sup>th</sup>. **Fr. L. Stephen**, our Secondary Education Coordinator, was here with us to help us in the recruitment process. Most of the board members in the selection committee were parents of our students teachers in schools or professors in colleges. Parents being in the selection

board made the selection foolproof; for parents were involved in selecting the best teachers for their own children.

*S. M. John Kennedy*

### **LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR**

The community is beaming with joy and youthfulness on receiving **Sch. John Peter** into the community on 1st February. **Fr. Britto Peter**, the PCF, and **Fr. F. Jayapathy**, the procurator for Procurators' Congregation paid a visit to our community on 5th and 6th Feb respectively. It is for the first time the Government practical exams for our XII std students were held in our school premises itself. The community was deep in sorrow as Sch. Joseph lost his father. **Frs. Joseph Michael** and **Alphonse William** graced the annual day of Aksheya College of Engineering as the Chief guests and motivated the students in their contribution towards society. On 27th February, **Mr. P. Ganesan**, the MLA of Uthiremerur constituency gave away free cycles to the beneficiaries and opened new library.

*S. Paul Benedict*

### **ST. JOHN DE BRITTO SHRINE, ORIYUR**

On 3 Feb, the eve of the feast of St. John de Britto, Holy Mass was celebrated joyfully. **Fr. Joe Arun** was the main celebrant and he enthralled the faithful through his meaningful homily. On 11 Feb, a mini-camp of LASAC was held in our school. LASAC teams from Cholaganpettai and Nagarikathan took part in this camp. Competitions in English Language skills were conducted. On 20 Feb, along with the members of the De Britto, Devakottai Communities we went for an eat-out at Ganzoville. The Sports Day of the Primary School was held recently. On 25 Feb, a seminar on confidence building for the X and the XII Std students to face the public exams was organized in our school.

*Amirtharaj*

### **ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL**

Our Senior Hockey and the Super Senior Football teams are placed in the second and third ranks respectively in the State. Our students Anand and Gobi won the first and third prizes in the state level oratory competition held at Chennai.

Our school has got a unique way of nurturing the priestly vocations among the students by forming a group called "Manresa Brothers". There are sixteen students in this group and our staff **Mr. I. Bosco** is the animator of the group.

Our school staff **Mr. Antony Sagayaraj's** article on "Effects of sodium chloride stress on protein metabolism of green gram (*Vigna Radiata*) was published in the Journal of Eco biology, vol.3 (2012).

Our Primary school won the overall championship in the District level cultural competition conducted by the Rotary Club and our student Ijash Ahamed secured the first prize in the "Silumbum" competiton.

*Maria Singarayar*

### **ST. MARY'S, MADURAI**

Jesuits in and around Madurai town gathered in full strength to celebrate the Golden Jubilee in the Society of **Fr. V.S. Manickam** and **Br. Irudayasamy**. During the Holy Mass Fr. V.S. Manickam thanked the Society of Jesus for the formation he had received to be at his best in Scientific and Literary research at St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai and to be involved in writing on Science, Religion and Thirukkural at St. Mary's, Madurai. **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** briefly sketched out Fr. Manickam's achievements in apt words: VANAVASI; MANAVASI, AND VISUVASI. **Fr. Joseph**, Arulanandar College praised Br. Irudayasamy for his selfless services in different communities in various apostolates including catering and nursing. Br. Irudayasamy thanked the Society of Jesus for providing him opportunities in different fields to grow and to serve everybody he met. The whole function was mastered by **Fr. Wilfred** and was followed by a sumptuous dinner.

A prayerful Candlelight procession on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was held in St. Mary's campus. Benediction was held in the school campus where **Fr. Felix Joseph** in his homily dwelt on the message of Lourdes in today's consumerist context. **Fr. Jebamalai Raja** at the end blessed every one, particularly imploring God's blessing on the sick.

**Fr. P.S. Arul** put his heart and soul to give a new facelift to the Cathedral in white and blue colour combination which Madurai People appreciated for its beauty and charm.

The inaugural function of the Platinum Jubilee of the Madurai Archdiocese was held at St. Mary's Cathedral Campus with all grandeur and gaiety. The procession started from C.S.I Church, East Gate, symbolizing No 75 in the number of students, children, youth, men and women, religious sisters and all the fathers of the diocese. The Archbishop presided over the Jubilee Mass along with the Bishops of the region. Bishop Susaimanickam preached a meaningful homily, giving importance to the spiritual outlook, given to the priests and laity by the former prelates Archbishops Leonard and Casmir Gnanadickam. Fr. Jebamalai Raja who presided over the cultural function of the Jubilee Celebration paid a great tribute to St. John De Britto and other Jesuits who had committed themselves to build up the Madurai Mission in justice and love. Fr. P.S. Arul and his team coordinated the events.

*Felix Joseph*

### **XAVERIANA, THOOTHUKUDI**

Around 300 Social Science teachers from Thoothukudi and Kovilpatti educational districts participated in a five-day in-service programme in our school from 13 to 17 February.

In honour of late **Fr. Camillus** (Tuticorin diocese), our alumnus, his father **Mr. Arputhasamy**, a retired teacher of our school, inaugurated "Fr Camillus Endowment Lecture on Excellence" for school toppers. He also generously contributed Rs 1 lakh towards this cause.

With the help of the physical education department and some of our staff members we have established *Britto Health Club* meant for the staff to be used after class hours.

Our student, **Antony Redlin** of X standard, has bagged a bronze medal in the 40-45 kilogram Judo in the Republic Day sports.

Our last eat-out in Carmel School, Kottar, brought us greater fellowship with fellow Jesuits.

*Xavier Rajan*

## LATI, MADURAI

Our community went on a two-day tour to Ooty. **Frs. Freddie** and **Antony Arockiam** took care of the logistics; we enjoyed the tour. Some of the places visited included: Coonoor, Kandal Cross in Ooty, Doddabetta peak and the Bishop's house.

*J. Boniface*

## LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RANIPET

Our Pongal celebration was presided over by the Sub-Collector of Ranipet **Mr. Jeganathan**, IAS. He appreciated the good work done by the management. Our students exhibited a colourful cultural programme on this day. The community during Pongal holidays had an outing to Sathanur Dam 30 kms away from Thiruvannamalai and also visited the Thiruvannamalai temple and the neighbouring Ramana Maharishi Ashram. In the beginning of February after paying compensation for the two lab buildings the Railway management started demolishing the labs for erecting pillars for the railway line that passes through our property. Our students shifted all the things stored in our labs. Students were exposed to street play for three days. It was demonstrated by **Mr. Manimaran** and his wife from Buddhar Kalaikuzhu, Vedanthangal. **Br. Jerome** from France visited us in the last week of February as he is doing similar work among the dropout students in France.

*Vedanayagam*

## ARUL ANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

The titular feast of our college, the feast of John De Britto, was celebrated in a very grand manner. **Fr. A. Joseph** preached a fine homily during the Mass. After the floral tributes by the officials to the patron saint, a succinct and succulent festal message was delivered by **Fr. Rufus** for the staff and students. A captivating skit on the life of St Britto organized by our students did send positive vibrations to all to stand for Justice and Truth. The staff, the clergy and the religious shared a joyous meal with us.

Fr. Provincial and his team visited us from 12 - 14 Feb. His personal meet with individual members, community, teaching and non-teaching staff members as well as the visits to the farm and various sites paved the way for the team in Karumathur to joyfully move on to greater horizons.

Fr Prince Memorial Football Tournament was held from 13-15 February. Fr Provincial graced the occasion and inaugurated the tournament. The winner's trophy

was clinched by Satya Bhama College, Chennai and the runners trophy was secured by Karunya Engineering College.

The 42nd Annual Sports Day was declared open and presided over by the Mayor of Madurai, **Mr. Rajan Chellappa**, on 25 February. The university blues, the overall champions, the Department of the Physical Education, the winners and runners of all track and field events were honoured.

The veteran of the campus, **Fr K.C. George** blessed the foundation stone of the construction for the long-awaited indoor stadium in the presence of a host of Jesuits and the staff and students on 29 Feb.

Food' Science and Technology, an innovative course, has been sanctioned to AAC by the UGC which will certainly be a blessing to the rural poor.

A one-month long visit by 16 Staff and Students of Winchester University, UK, for an exchange programme with our staff and students, the Family Day Celebrations and Pongal Celebrations by various departments and associations, National Seminar on Corporate Ethics by the Department of Business Administration, the Rural Sports Meet organized by the Physical Education Department of our college on 10 Feb, the Natural Nutrition Mela organized by the Department of Chemistry on 15 February, a one-day Seminar on Communicative English organized by the Dept of History on 17 Feb and variety of other events kept the cold and white month of January and February very warm, active, joyful and celebrative in the campus.

Along with the yearwise talents day celebrations beautifully organized by the directors of the boys' hostel, a Spoken English Course has also been introduced to the hostel students under the leadership of **Fr. Leonard Gaspar** which is well received by the students.

**Fr. Vincent Sekhar** presented a paper on "Jaina Doctrine of Plurality" in an international seminar conducted by the department of Philosophy, AAC. His two sessions on Religions and multi-culturism, **Fr Basil Xavier's** sessions on Anthropology of Food, Fr Rufus' sessions on Folk Cultures and their influence on media were well received and appreciated by the staff and students of Winchester University. Frs. A Joseph and Xavier Vedam along with **Dr. Lourdunathan** coordinated the month-long programme. **Fr. Xavier Vedam** has been elected as the Tamil Nadu representative for the AIACHE Conference in Chennai.

*Rufus*

## LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

LIBA's Programme in Africa gets an Award! LIBA is collaborating with the University of Sacred Heart, Milan, Italy to offer MBA in Social Entrepreneurship and Management in Nairobi, Kenya. As part of our collaboration, three of our faculty members – **Fr. Casimir Raj**, **Prof. P. Chandiran** and **Prof. Srinivasan** — went to teach there last year. This programme is one of the six programmes in the world

which have been presented with the 2012 Ashoka U – Cordes Innovation Awards. (Ashoka U is Ashoka's initiative for social innovation in higher education, and the Cordes Foundation is an organization that equips the next generation of social entrepreneurs). The Award highlights teaching and partnership practices that are innovative, replicable, and that make a significant impact on society

**Fr. Ignacimuthu** helped to prepare the Strategic plan for Benadir University, Somalia. He delivered Keynote addresses in the national seminars held at St. Mary's College, Thoothukudi and Selvam College, Namakkal.

One of the LICET students (with cut off 197.5) has been awarded the Chief Minister's merit scholarship (for the entire duration of his course). Scientists from Germany and Switzerland were guests of honour during the LICET sports day conducted on 27th Feb.

**Emmanuel Arockiam**

### LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

On 1<sup>st</sup> Feb **Fr. Arul Ravi**, Vice Principal blessed the foundation stone for the new auditorium. On 2<sup>nd</sup> **Br. Jesus Ugalde** from Spain visited the community.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> NSS students organized an anti-plastic rally in Vettavalam creating awareness among the public and explaining the dangers of using plastics. The department of Tamil organized a seminar on "Ways to Win", providing guidelines to students who appear for Civil Service Examinations.

On 17 Feb, **Fr. Klaus** visited the College and interacted with the students. On 18 Feb we encouraged our students to face the competitive job market by conducting mock interviews for the III UG students. On 24<sup>th</sup> an industrial visit was organized for the II B.Com and BBA students to Allison Transmission, Chennai. **Sch. Poondy Rajan** planned and executed the events.

On 19 **Fr. Arul Ravi** organized a one-day orientation for the outreach students who had volunteered to take tuition in the village. The programme helped the students entrusted to them. On 22 Feb, the department of English conducted Association Contests exclusively for Literature students. The department of Mathematics organized a Seminar on Mathematics for Computer Application for the students of both BCA and BSc Mathematics on 27 Feb.

**Poondy Rajan**

### ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

On 11 Feb the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was celebrated with great piety and gaiety. **Fr. Susairaj** of Tiruchi diocese preached the homily. The artfully decorated car was taken through the Main Guard Gate, Teppakulam and Chatram Bus stand.

Seminars were galore. The conference on "Twenty years of economic reforms and inclusive growth in India" held on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February must be singled

out. Five Departments of Humanities jointly organized this National Conference spearheaded by **Fr. Lazar**. It was attended by ten eminent scholars from many reputed institutions like MIDS, IIT, TISS, etc. The theme of the conference is very relevant since the number of people excluded is alarmingly on the high. The Department of Tamil came up with a National Seminar on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February on the progressive elements in Modern Tamil Literature. On 24<sup>th</sup> February the Department of English conducted a National Seminar on ELT. The Community had an outing to Poondi and Kallanai on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

At the valedictory function of the one-day seminar in Bishop Heber College, Tiruchi, **Fr Mani Valan** gave a special talk on 'Tamil Christian Literature'. He has been elected as the Vice-President of the World Christian Tamil Academy.

The free cycles offered by the Government of Tamil Nadu were distributed to the students of our school on 9<sup>th</sup> February. The ELT Mela was held on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Fr. Paul Pragash** addressed the students.

Grace 2012 was a grace-filled event of the year in the campus from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February. The Campus Ministry got its acts together to get the people recharged spiritually. Not only did the spirit of God surged within the people but also the number of people surged up as years pass by to more than two thousand. **Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan**, the Campus Minister deserves our appreciation.

**Fr. Stanislaus** of Dumka-Raiganj Province has joined the community and he is pursuing his Ph.D. studies in Computer Science.

Inigo Illam had its Hostel Day on 26<sup>th</sup> February. **Fr. John Britto** presided over the function. **Mr. Bastin Churchill**, an alumnus of Inigo Illam was the Chief Guest.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the Extension Department SHEPHERD conducted the National Environmental Awareness Campaign (NEAC) 2012 in four places of Tiruchirappalli and Karur districts. The theme of the campaign was 'Forests for Sustainable Livelihood'. It was aimed at creating awareness among the students and the people about tree plantation, natural farming, bio-pesticides, panchakaviya, herbal nursery promotion and kitchen gardening activities. Nearly 5000 students and rural farmers took active part in the Seminars and committed themselves to promote agriculture and forests. Addressing the college students, **Mr. I. Anwardeen** IFS, District Forest Officer, Tiruchirappalli, observed, "Of the 33% of Forest land needed for a good environment, Tiruchirappalli district has only 10%". He motivated the students to plunge into massive tree plantation. **Mr. Gnanasekaran**, Deputy Director, Horticulture Department and **Mr. Subbaiah**, Assistant Director of Horticulture also stressed the need for natural farming and social forestry. The Seminars in four places were supplemented by poster exhibitions and demonstrations of panchakaviya, herbal pesticide and vermin-compost preparations.

Twenty AICUF students benefited from a five-day training on "Folk Arts and Street Theatre" in the college. **Mr. Stephen**, a senior AICUFER who trained our students made them aware that the folk arts make the human beings "cultured beings". The AICUF students were emotionally charged after attending an interview session with **Mr. Pugazendhi Thangaraj**, Director of the feature film "உச்சிதனை முகர்ந்தால்" which was arranged in the AICUF State secretariat on 14<sup>th</sup> February. A two-day training programme for the women and Dalit co-ordinators of each unit was held in AICUF State secretariat. Fifty-two students of different colleges across the State participated in the programme. **Mrs. Banumathi**, a well-known lawyer, addressed the students on "The Role of Indian Constitution in Women's Liberation". **Dr. Selvakumaran** of St. Joseph's College addressed the students on "The Life Struggle of Dalits and the Responsibility of the Student Community". **Mr. Laxmanan**, cadre of Periyar Dravida Kazagam, Perambalur Dist. awakened the students by narrating his emotional experience on "Existing Untouchability in Perali Village".

**Sebastian Anand**

### ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

On the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes we had a Candlelight procession in the campus which culminated with Benediction during which **Fr. J. P. Arulanandam** delivered a thought-provoking homily.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb, the families of the staff of St. Xavier's College came together for the annual get-together. About 500 people eagerly took part in the same and cherished the spirit of the Xaverian family.

The Dept. of Commerce, by organizing a couple of National Seminars and a National Workshop, busied itself in the month of February. The Dept. of Foundation Courses, by realizing the need to impart sound knowledge on Human Rights, organized special lectures for all the students of both shifts in the fourth week of February.

The 86<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day was grandly celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Dr. G. Viswanathan**, Chancellor, VIT, was the Chief Guest. Being an alumnus of Loyola, Chennai he gratefully recalled the way the Jesuit Fathers and Professors at Loyola formed him to become a useful citizen in the society. He also wished that the governments came forward to reduce the level of illiteracy, by coming out with new policies in the field of education.

Xavier Hostel Day was yet another important event of the month, which took place on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. The hostellers, with their high-octane and socially oriented cultural programme stole everybody's one's heart. We thank Fr. Director and the hostel teams for making the day linger on in our minds.

As is the custom in St. Xavier's to restructure the syllabus after a gap of three years, on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb, all the departments held a meeting of the Board of studies to decide and finalize the syllabus that will suit the needs of the students.

Both the UG and PG students of the College of Education were given valuable inputs on 'Time Management', 'Stress Management' and 'Practical tips for Counseling' on various dates in February. We are indebted to **Fr. Lawrence Amalraj**, **Fr. Francis P. Xavier** and **Fr. A. Victor** for being the Resource Persons.

On 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, a painting exhibition on an ecologically relevant theme 'Let us save the world' was jointly organized by **Mr. Tamizharasan** of ஈரநிலம் and **SXCE**. The College also hosted its annual Inter-Collegiate Cultural Competitions 'XATEC' on 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. The overwhelming response was obviously felt by the participation of 27 colleges from various parts of Tamil Nadu. We congratulate Fr. Principal and his team for organizing these mega events in a successful manner.

St. Xavier's Hr. Sec. School, for the first time, organized for its own students the 'ELT TALENT FIESTA' on 10<sup>th</sup> February. That day was definitely a memorable day as it paved way for our young buds to display their skill in the use of English language. We deeply appreciate the Jesuits and the ELT teachers at school for their hard work and systematic planning.

**Fr. Alphonse Manickam** was invited to be the Chief Guest and distribute the prizes for the winners of K. வரதராசனார் நூற்றாண்டுப் போட்டிகள், organized by திருநெல்வேலி தமிழ் இலக்கியக் கழகம் on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

**Sahayaraj Vijayan**

### DACA, MADURAI

A two-member committee of the Supreme Court visited our night Shelter on 23.02.12 along with **Dr. Mrs. Priya Raj**, Madurai Corporation Asst. Health Officer and **Mr. Devadoss** Deputy Commissioner. Records and registers were verified. They interacted with all the 48 inmates. They felt very much satisfied with the provisions and the facilities made for the inmates. They assured us to recommends us to the Government for funds in due course of time.

To run the Shelter we have been exploring funds from the local donors to support the functioning of the home. Our efforts have proved fruitful. Till this month we have mobilized Rs two lakhs from 4 individual donors. The efforts continue.

On 25 Feb Madurai City Conservancy Workers Development Project conducted a conference for the privately working conservancy workers. In 20 slums. This conference was conducted in 10 forums comprising 120 conservancy workers from 10 slums. **Mrs. Priya Raj** the Asst. Health Officer of Madurai Corporation was the chief guest. Through a power point presentation she pointed out evil the effects of smoking and chewing of tobacco.

**Fr. M. Devasagayam** delivered a speech on the need for organizing and working together. **Fr. Rajarathinam** spoke on the importance of education of their children and motivated them to have self-respect. **Fr. Densil** encouraged them to be empowered and have economic development. **Mr.**



**Samson** talked on the principles of the forums, programmes and future direction.

In February, 14 poor Dalit women were given Rs.10000 each as loan for business activities in 14 villages under the Microfinance Scheme of DACA. Four women have started petty shops and the other 10 have purchased cows. They are becoming self employed by generating additional income for their families.

**Rajarathinam**

### ICRDCE, CHENNAI

**Fr. X. Alphonse** has been selected as a co-opted Member of the Executive Board of AIACHE for three years. He will be participating at the first meeting of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education. ICRDCE organized a Workshop to review the Community Colleges in AP on the 18th of February.

**Xavier Alphonse**

### IDEAS, MADURAI

Our community members from IDEAS, LAAS and KARISAL, together with the Royapuram Jesuits, had an enjoyable pre-Lenten outing in the Vadugapatty Farm of St Mary's, Madurai on 20th Feb. In preparation for their Province Chapter, the Holy Cross Sisters of Madurai Province invited **Fr. Sahayaraj** to speak at two different sessions in Feb. on *Globalization and Its Impact on Religious Life* – one for 88 Sisters at Vadipatty and the other for 66 Sisters at Nagercoil. He also spoke on *Hindutva* at the consultation organized on 25 Feb. by the Christian Marumalarchi Iyakkam at IDEAS campus for 35 members (20 men and 15 women) on the theme *Current Socio-Economic and Political Trends in Tamil Nadu*.

**Fr. Stephen Martin** was a resource person at the seminar on *Today's Impact of Media on People*, organized on 23 Feb. by Justin B. Ed College, Madurai for its 200 girl students. He was also a resource person at a workshop on *Media - Today's Trends and Tomorrow's Challenges* conducted on 25 Feb. at St Joseph's HS School in Sivagangai for 80 teachers working in the Servite Sisters' Schools.

Initiated by the Arunthamizhar Viduthalai Iyakkam, a one-day consultation of 85 representatives of 13 Arunthathiyar movements, took place for the first time on 18 Feb. at IDEAS campus. **Fr. Michael Raj** chaired the deliberative session in which were taken certain important decisions related to the official government policy of inner reservation for Arunthathiyars. He also organized training from 27 Feb. till 04 March at IDEAS campus for 45 students from the MSW Dept. of Loyola College, Chennai on *How to use Visual Media for Social Change*.

The Tamil Puligal Movement brought 35 of its male cadre on 04 and 05 Feb. for a training on *Current Social Trends*. PEAK organized training on *Leadership* for 25 members of its Kodai Malai Arunthathiyar youth from 13-17 Feb. The Adi Thamizhar Peravai conducted three one-day trainings on 5, 12 and 26 Feb. for 119 cadres on such themes as *Current Social and Political*

*Issues, Legal Security and Protection Measures in the event of Conducting Public Meetings and Encountering Police Arrest, etc.*

**Aloysius Irudayam**

### JRS

Counsellors of Thiruvannamalai and Covai districts had their two-day refresher training at Life-centre, Dindigul on 18 and 19 Feb. **Prof. Meenakshi Sundharam** handled sessions on Self-healing, Art therapy, Narrative therapy, Skills of counselling, Suicidal ideation, Inner child healing and also conducted role play. TN-JRS director **Fr. Louie** and his team partook in the Evaluation and Planning for the Pudevazhvu-IV and Pudevazhvu-V respectively at Chennai on 20 and 21st Feb. JRS stood unique and very successful by its committed and effective service among other NGOs. The 22nd batch of Mullaikudi Grihini students had their farewell day on 23 Feb. **Fr. Albert Muthumalai** inaugurated the Handcraft-show while **Fr. Michael John** presided over the cultural programme.

**Raja**

### PAATHAI CENTRE, VALLAM

On 3rd February, **Fr. Arockia Dass** and **Sch. Robinson** organized an ongoing orientation programme for the animators.

The Indian Catholic Press Association conferred its National Award on **Fr. L. Yesumarian** for his best writing and reporting on Dalit and Tribal issues. His contribution to Liberative Journalism and the services of Makkal Kalam Magazine were highly appreciated.

As a preparation for the annual exams, Sch. Robinson conducted intense special coaching camps for 10<sup>th</sup> std students. Around 120 students participated enthusiastically.

A fellowship meal was hosted by Paathai for Arul Kadal community on 12th February. **Fr. Alangaram** released the Brochure of Paathai Centre.

As a preparation for a meaningful Lent, we as a community made a pilgrimage to Mazhai Malai Madha Arulthalam, Acharapakkam, on 16th February.

Parents' Day was organized for the students of Paathai centre on 26th February. The theme of the day was 'Committed Christian Leadership in Today's World'. Parents were made to realize the need for such leadership today. We also discussed the students' future plans and their follow-up programmes.

**Fr. Ben Pex**, a Mill Hill priest visited our community and highly appreciated the services and works done here for the Dalits and the marginalized.

**Robinson**

### ELTravaganza 2012

The month of February turned out to be the most memorable month of 2012 for the ELTravaganza. The Local ELT Mela was celebrated in all our Jesuit Schools nearly for a month. The competitions were conducted at Intra-class, Inter-class and Inter-standard levels. It was a breathtaking show of talent and eloquence in

English. Eminent scholars from neighbouring schools and colleges were judges on the final day. All the visitors wondered at the splendid performance of our Tamil medium students talking in English. Each school had its unique style of organizing and executing which made this event a grand and memorable one. It was a pleasure to watch our students coming out with multifarious talents in speech, dance, drama, singing and painting.

High performing best ELT standard bagged the ELTravaganza 2012 trophy. This mega event made the students in each school have a healthy and fruitful competition. It has empowered the students to open up new horizons and gear them up for new challenges. It was not an easy job to have such a magnificent show. It was possible by the meticulous execution of every detail by the local school administration. Kudos to all the Headmasters, Asst. H.Ms, Local Jesuit Coordinators and the ELT staff of our schools for hosting ELTravaganza 2012.

**S. Paul Benedict and Mr. Amalraj**

### **SUPAM MEET**

On 6<sup>th</sup> February, **Frs. Jerry** and **Sahayaraj** from Arul Kadal were present to guide us. Starting at 9.00 a.m, we the SUPAMITES plunged into the presentation of our socio-pastoral services and ventures in our respective parishes. The presentations largely covered the creative contributions and adventures of SUPAMITES during the time of advent, Christmas, New Year and Pongal. All of our sharings reflected in one voice the significant contributions and meaningful celebrations in our mission stations. Of course some of the challenges and insights from the failures also were realized and endorsed by new suggestions from the group. During the course of our meet we had three inspiring sharings from **Frs. Arockiadass**, PP of Vellakulam, **Jegaraj**, the PP of Tindivanam belonging to Pondy-Cuddalore Archdiocese and **Sr. Jesi**, the provincial of FSAG, an active member of IGFA. Their experiential and insightful testimonies invited us to acquire a deep sense of spirituality to follow the crucified Jesus Christ amidst the caste ridden and unjust structures that we are surrounded with. Fr. Sahayaraj threw some intriguing questions before us asking how we could find ways to heal the broken body of Christ suffering from AIDS, Alcoholism, Casteism, and broken-families. Fr. Jerry expressed his joy and appreciation of the SUPAMITES this year for our sincerity and accountability in handing over the excess money to the Province with properly maintained accounts and bills. Towards the end of our meet, plans for meaningful Lenten initiatives were discussed and suggestions were made and praxis for the Thane affected people in this locality was realized with a little contribution from each SUPAMITE in the first phase as a gesture of solidarity with the suffering. At the end, our sharing aptly culminated in a concelebrated Eucharist in FSAG Provincialate.

**Ignacy Arockiasamy**

### **Report of the General Body Meeting held on 12.02.2012 - Youth Commission**

Altogether 10 Jesuits, 5 Religious and 20 youths took part in the event. We began the meeting with Eucharistic celebration presided over by **Fr. Dominic Savio**. In the very 1<sup>st</sup> session **Fr. Philomin Raj** explained about the History of **JYMSA**, its main thrust on the unattended youth, the past and the present of the youth Commission of Madurai Province, the context and the new thrust with which the commission is functioning at present and the ongoing search of the commission to make its activities more relevant, productive and meaningful. In his address he made it clear that JYMSA was the outcome of various consultations held at the South Asian level from 1992 and it is a conscious new venture of the South Asian Jesuits to reach out to the unorganized youths. He further pointed out that a separate secretariat for JYMSA started functioning from 1994. To put it in the words of our former General **Fr. Kolvanbach**, "It is a conscious choice of the South Asian Jesuits to reach out to the unorganized youths". Fr. Philomin Raj further explained to the group about the works presently undertaken by the commission and its methodology. He also highlighted the significant points of the letter written by our Superior General **Fr. Adolfo Nicolas** in "Response to the letters Ex Officio: Youth" where Fr. General invites us to understand, facilitate discernment and to accompany the youths while allowing them to grow in their own wisdom and creativity. In the second session the group made a serious attempt to suggest various ways to address the burning issues targeting the unorganized youths today in Tamil Nadu. It was a fruitful exercise where the group came out with many practical suggestions. After lunch the resource person of the day **Mr. Kamaraj**, a member of Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers Forum made an appeal to the commission to make use of our expertise to awaken the spirit of the youths through social education. After his address some of our collaborators presented brief reports about our collaborative ventures in the fields of unorganized youths and women. The presence of Fr. Provincial in the General Body Meeting was encouraging.

#### **Provincial's address:**

Fr. Provincial, in his address recapitulated the significant suggestions that emerged from the floor. He reiterated the need for great concern about the Society. He pointed out how the children nowadays are growing with more selfish motives and suggested ways to encounter them with LASAC type of initiatives in their respective villages. He further stressed the need for respecting and recognizing women and giving them their due. Fr Provincial acknowledged the importance of this ministry and gave a clarion call to the commission to work along with its collaborators to meticulously plan out and systematically implement the programmes in a fruitful, productive and meaningful manner. Further he accepted the need for a full-time Jesuit along with another full-time assistant to further the scope and thrust of this ministry. He also acknowledged the necessity for a separate secretariat that would cater to the needs of unorganized

youths. Moreover, he expressed his willingness to fund generously for the successful execution of this ministry in the future. He also suggested that the commission must find out ways of bringing the youths under the banner of SHGs similar to women and to inculcate the saving habit. He invited us to have a broader network and collaboration with other religious Congregations and lay groups as it is the policy of our Congregation.

*Philomin Raj*

### SCH CYRIL SURESH WRITES FROM BRAZIL

Brazil is a rainbow of different national identities. People celebrate not only their cultural richness but also their traditions and relationships. Before Ash-Wednesday it is a carnival celebration here. During this festival, in streets, we can witness the rich being poor and the poor being rich while demonstrating joy and happiness through the energetic procession of dance particularly *Samba*. The textile markets of Indian origin are famous here. Brazilians in general, adore wearing clothes made in India. We have 43 students in the first year, a rich diversity from 10 different nations: Jesuits, other religious congregations and laity. My colleagues were extremely happy to listen to Tamil when *Fr. Paul Claudio SJ*, Professor of Scripture asked me to expose a passage from the Bible in Tamil. They commented that Tamil is beautiful not only to speak but also to understand its syntax. *Fr. Claudio* is now learning some rudiments of Tamil! The commemoration of 50 years since the Vatican-II (1962-1965) has the revisiting significance for us in our current theological search. Brazil is excited about the forthcoming international events such as *Magis-2013*, *World Youth Day-2013* and World Cup Football tournaments.

### MYANMAR CALLS

After a long night of silent tears, a nation rises from its long enforced slumber. The turn is spectacular. The release of political prisoners, the media freedom, the influx of foreign capital, the sudden flow of western diplomats, all point to a new dawn.

But the nation, especially the poor, needs support: sustainable support to education and human development. The Church needs accompaniment in theological and other formations. A nation wounded by decades of war and conflict needs rebuilding.

What is the call to us? Especially to Madurai Jesuits born in that country?

First of all visit this land. The changes may be exciting. The opportunities may be inviting.

Surely a lot can be done. Lot was done by us even when the space was constrained. We have two schools, a social outreach and a plan for resource centre.

This is a beautiful country, enchanting all and sundry with its mountains, majestic rivers, much more with its beautiful and graceful people. And to know the Theravada Buddhism in its pristine beauty in the land of Vipassana could prove a great spiritual experience.

Who can volunteer? Any one with good health and a large heart: English teachers, social workers, retreat preachers, seminary professors. Just plain Jesuits.

Some Jesuits visited recently this country. **Peter Francis, Antony Samy, Kennedy**. Like them you are also most welcome to visit.

*C. Amal*

### A NEW BISHOP FOR DHARMAPURI

The Diocese of Dharmapuri has got a new bishop in the person of the **Most. Rev. Lawrence Pius** who was earlier Auxiliary Bishop of Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese. Bishop Lawrence was installed on 20 Feb. **Frs. A. Arulanandam, Thomas Amirtham** and **Ilanko Xavier** represented the Province at the ceremony and greeted the new Bishop. The celebration was held in a Salesian school campus about ten kilometres away from Dharmapuri. A sizable crowd of people and about 250 priests were there to honour the new Pastor. The Nuncio also was there apart from the bishops of Tamil Nadu and Puduchery.

The introduction to the celebration noted that the Jesuits were the pioneers in that area too. The history of Christianity in the area of Dharmapuri dates from 1623 when **Fr. Robert de Nobili**, his successors, and later on through the Portuguese Jesuits of Madurai Mission announced the Good News. In 1654 the Italian Jesuits of Mysore had their residence at Dharmapuri and began to preach the Gospel in the region as far as Tirupattur in Vellore District. In 1674, St. John de Britto visited Dharmapuri on his way to Kolei. He stayed with his confreres, being accompanied by **Fr. Antony Ribero**. In 1687, the Mysore Mission was active in the area. May the diocese of Dharmapuri flourish under the guidance of the new Bishop Lawrence!

### Father General

Visit to India. Rev Fr General is visiting the South Asian Assistency from February 15 to March 1. He is accompanied, as always, by the Regional Assistant, **Fr Lisbert D'Souza**, but also by **Fr. Marcos Recolons**, Regional Assistant for Southern Latin America, also one of the Assistants ad providentiam. As usual, the visit is meant to coincide with a meeting of the Provincials' Conference. Since the venue of the Conference meeting is XLRI, the Management School in Jamshedpur, Fr General will also briefly visit Jamshedpur Province, and the neighbouring Provinces of Ranchi and Hazaribag. This visit will afford Fr General to have his first experience of the Church in the tribal belt of Central India. Arguably, the most vibrant Church in the country is found here. In the tribal belt, perhaps more than in other parts of the Assistency, efforts at inculturating the liturgy have been effective and well accepted. It is appropriate that Fr Marcos Recolons, who has extensive experience of the indigenous people of Bolivia, should be Fr General's companion on this visit. Hopefully the other major tribal area, that of the North East, will be host to Fr General on a subsequent visit. There are as many as six Jesuit Bishops currently in office in this Central Zone.

An issue that the Conference intends to take up at length, hoping to profit from Fr General's presence, is the final revision of the Conference Statutes. This revision is meant to better reflect the expectations of GC 35 on the nature and scope of Conferences as units of mission

facilitation of the Society locally and universally. There will be three new faces among the Major Superiors at the Conference meeting.

### **USA: The White House Honours Three Jesuits**

Jesuit Fathers Charles L Currie, John P Foley and William P Leahy were three of the nine leaders in Catholic education from across the country who were recently honoured at the White House as Champions of Change for their service to their communities and the nation. The Champions of Change programme is part of President Obama's Winning the Future initiative to highlight groups of people, ranging from educators through to entrepreneurs and community leaders, who are acknowledged for the work they are doing to serve and strengthen their communities. "We are thrilled to recognize these extraordinary Champions in Catholic Education at the White House. Each of these nine leaders embodies the values of education, innovation and service through their stellar contributions to Catholic schools and the wider communities they serve," said Alexia Kelley, Senior Policy Advisor White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighbourhood Partnerships. "These Champions, like their colleagues in Catholic education across the country, inspire all of us to build up our communities and our nation's young people."

### **NEW RELEASES**

விசனம் (சமூக மாற்றத்திற்கான சமகாலச் சிந்தனைகள்), அருட் தந்தை. அ. இருதயராஜ், முகில் பதிப்பகம், மதுரை, pp. 149, Rs.45/-

**Environmental Studies**, S. Ignacimuthu, MJP publishers, 2012, pp. 262, Rs.160/-

**Inspiring Themes In The Gospel of St. John**, Fr. M. S. Bastian, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp. 256, Rs.150/-

### **ABIDE WITH THE LORD**

**Fr. Michael Eather** (HAZ) (76/57) on 28 Feb.

**Mr. Joseph Ignatius** (61), brother of Fr. R. J. Raja, 8 Feb.

**Mrs. Mercy Rose** (69), sister-in-law of Fr. J. Fernandes on 10 Feb.

**Mr. S. Arockiasamy** (65), father of Sch. Joseph Arockiasamy on 17 Feb.

### **Fr. Zacharias Pazheparamphil, SJ**

(1926-2012)

Fr. Zacharias arrived in our community of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi on the 19/12/2012 from Eastern African Province where he had been a member and worked for close to four decades. He had taught philosophy in major diocesan seminary in Nyeri-Kenya, built and stocked its library and to his credit he has taught at least 17 bishops and countless number of diocesan clergy for the Eastern African church.



Fr. Zacharias upon his arrival immediately integrated himself into the community and in a few days was up and running, taking walks around the campus, and carrying out errands for himself, such as going for shopping, making calls, writing letters and other tasks.

Though age had caught up with him his spirit was strong. Fr. Zacharias insisted on attending/celebrating Eucharist either in the community chapel or college church where he would concelebrate when it was appropriate. He amazed and inspired the congregation especially when he attended the 5.30 am Mass every day in the College Church. Also, he took his meals in the refectory where he would engage fellow companions both old and young in interesting conversations with clarity of thought and argument.

On the days when he was unable to attend Mass due to illness he longed and always asked to receive communion.

As days passed, however, due to old age his health continued to decline. Eventually it reached a point where he could not walk without support and eventually he was confined to his room. Even though he was bedridden he still wanted to take his usual walks and sometime had to be helped to sit on the veranda outside his room.

From time to time he was admitted to Fatima hospital at Fatima Nagar, Tiruchi for medication but always came back to the community more determined and full of life.

In late January due to lack of mobility and spending most of the time in bed, he developed bedsores and his condition was not that promising. After consultation and prayer, the community through **Fr. John Britto** (Rector) and **Br. Arokiaaraj** (Minister) transferred him to St. Joseph's Hospital in Didingul where he continued to receive care and nurse his health. Even in hospital he continued to edify those who met and administered to him.

On the afternoon of Ash Wednesday (22 Feb 2012) at about 3.45 P.M. he finally went to the Lord who had called him. The requiem Mass and burial took place in Besch Illam at 4 P.M. on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 2012. It was an occasion to celebrate a life well lived in the service of the Church and the people of God especially in East Africa and Kenya in particular.

His fellow companions from his last community of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, Besch Illam, other religious congregations, and his family members came to bid farewell to a great missionary. **Sch. Ken Ogot** read the message from the Provincial of East African Province. **Fr M. Devadoss** delivered the funeral oration. Though his wish of dying in Africa was not fulfilled he will always remain a true friend and in the hearts of the people of God in Africa.

"**Great men have big hearts**" - African Proverb

May he rest in Peace.

**John Britto Bonaventure**