



OCTOBER 2010

(For Private Circulation)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

October

- 02-03 Dindigul: Beschi Illam: Dalit Commission GBM
- 09 Tiruchi: Ordinations
- 10 Dindigul: Consult
- 12-22 Goa: Visitation and Vacation
- 23 Kolkata: St. Xavier's
- 24-01 Jamshedpur: Assistancy GC 35 Consultation & JCSA

November

- 02-03 Delhi: Visitation: VJ
- 05 Chennai: Dhyana Ashram
- 06 Sat Chennai Zonal Meeting
- 07-13 Rome: Curia FCG Committee meeting

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * **Fr. General** has appointed:
Fr Charles Lasrado (KAR) Assistant to the Treasurer General
- * **Fr. POSA** has appointed:
Br. Thomas Arulappan, Assistancy Coordinator for Brothers
- * **Transfers:**
Fr. Henry Jerome V. from AICUF House, Chennai to Berchmans Illam, Chennai
Fr. Savariraj Mariaselvam S. from Beschi Illam, Dindigul to St. Mary's, Madurai

Fr. Provincial's official and personal email addresses

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Congratulations and prayerful wishes to our Ordinandi: Deacons **J. Arockia Dass, V. Innaci John, I. Irudaya Valanarasu, G. Joseph Ignaci, A. Justin Prabhu** and **S. Paul Benedict!** In your ministrations may you discover for yourselves the meaning and the glory of sharing the priesthood of Christ!

Special Programme for Jesuit and Lay Campus Ministers

16 – 17 Oct 2010

At Dhyana Ashram Chennai – 600028

Organisers: Frs. A. J. Thamburaj, Emmanuel Arockiam and Jerry Rosario

Brothers' Retreat

Date: Dec. 6 eve to 14

Place: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
Preacher: Fr. Xavier Alphonse, SJ
Board, lodging & preacher: Rs. 2,200/-

Seminar cum GBM

Date: 15 to 17 Dec. 2010

Resource person: Fr. V.S. George, SJ
and his team

* **ELECTRONIC NEWS SERVICE**

First "Congregation of Procurators" outside Europe

In a letter, sent on September 7 to all Major Superiors, Fr. General Adolfo Nicolás announced a "Congregation of Procurators" to be held in Africa in July 2012. Important to note is that for the first time

Conscientization Seminar on Sri Lankan Tamils Today

For the Central and State Governments and the media, the issue of the unfinished and undignified resettlement of the Tamils in Sri Lanka after their release from the camps/ 'welfare centres' where they were detained after the devastating war seems to be a forgotten and insignificant one.

To awaken once again the human rights conscience and consciousness in Tamil Nadu regarding the dying memories of the suffering Sri Lankan Tamils, All College Students' Federation under the animation of AICUF organized a one-day Seminar on 28 September in LKS Mahal, Tiruchi. About nine hundred college students from Tiruchi and other parts of the State rallied together to reflect on the theme, "புலம் பெயர்க்கப்பட்ட தமிழர்களும் மனித உரிமை மீறல்களும்". Pazha Nedumaran, Tamil Peravai Leader, addressed the gathering on the present status of the Tamils in Sri Lanka and their untold miseries. He questioned the strategic silence of both the Central and State Governments and challenged the well-planned callousness of the Government of Sri Lanka towards the dignified and permanent settlement and rehabilitation of the war-ravaged Tamils. Dr. Paul Newman, Professor of Bangalore University, a committed activist-academician spoke at length about the landmark judgment of the Dublin Permanent People's Tribunal, pronounced on the war crimes and human rights violations perpetrated in the Sri Lankan war of 2009. The Tamil version of the judgment was made available to the students. Ms. Pandima Devi, a lawyer from Chennai confronted the gathering with the atrocities unleashed on women and the resilient determination of the Tamil women to carry on the struggle for survival. Questions were posed to and clarifications sought from the speakers by the students at the end of their respective talks and the responses of the speakers encouraged and challenged the students to act proactively in defence of the inalienable human rights of Sri Lankan IDPs and returnees.

In the afternoon a well-organized Students' Panel Discussion was ably conducted by Fr. Henry Jerome, S.J. He facilitated proactive and participative responses from the students. The students presented some action programmes to continue this conscientization in their respective colleges. The sessions were interspersed with meaningful songs and a street play depicting the tragedies faced by the Tamils in Sri Lanka. There was good media coverage and the Tiruchi editions of the dailies flashed this eventful seminar.

The AICUF team and its State Advisor Fr. Stephen Selvanathan did a marvellous job of mobilizing the youth of Tiruchi for the organization of this eventful seminar. Frs. Arockiasamy Xavier, Raj Irudaya, Jebamalai Raja, Santhanam, Joe Xavier and Sch. Robert played an effective role behind the scenes to make this seminar a fruitful one. We are grateful to the Community of St. Joseph's for their support. May the human rights consciousness reawakened by this seminar spur our youth to be the voice of the thousands of voiceless and suffering Tamils.

Raj Irudaya, S.J.

Convenor, Sri Lanka Humanitarian Aid and Advocacy Task Force

a "Congregation of Procurators" will be held outside Europe.

From September 24 to 27, Father General will visit the two Provinces of Belgium. There will be for the Province of Southern Belgium and Luxembourg an assembly, during which three topics will be examined and discussed. The intellectual perspective, based on the theme: "In what way am I present to the Church and to the world in the way I consider my apostolic mission beginning with the intellectual perspective?" The social perspective, with the question: "In what way am I present to the Church and to the world in the way I consider my apostolic mission beginning with the social perspective?" The spiritual perspective asks the question: "How am I present to the Church and to the world in the way I consider my engagements beginning with the spiritual perspective?" Then September 26 will be dedicated to the Province of Northern Belgium, where in the morning is foreseen a meeting with the laity involved in the apostolic works of the Province. At the focus of the debate will be Decree no. 6 of the last General Congregation on the specific characteristics of a work of the Society of Jesus. In the afternoon the meeting

with the Jesuits will be on: "The challenges in the Province of Northern Belgium in a Society that moves beyond the frontiers." On September 27, Fr. Nicolás will meet the Jesuits and their collaborators, who in Brussels labour in the European works entrusted to the Society, in the Chapel of the Resurrection.

BOLIVIA: Ancient paintings recovered

It all began in 1972 when the Swiss Jesuit, Hans Roth, started to take care of the rich and wide Jesuit patrimony in Bolivia. After 30 years of work done in different stages, thanks to a project financed by AECID (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development), the Bolivian Church and the local municipality, more than 1.700 sq. m. of frescoes of the Jesuit Church San José de Chiquitos in the Santa Cruz region shine brightly again. The Church, declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage site in 1990, was built in 1748 when the Jesuits arrived in Bolivia to carry out their apostolic mission. After the expulsion of the Jesuits the building, considered one of the best among the missionary buildings of the region, was transformed into a residence of the Spanish governors. Among the frescoes some are of geometrical shapes; there are pictures of flora and

fauna, religious and military paintings of historical value. The work done is part of a broader project aimed at improving the region as a destination for cultural, religious and natural tourism.

INDIA: Radio Station seeks larger community

Sarang Radio, a Jesuit radio station run by the Jesuits of St. Aloysius College of Mangalore, in south India, is looking forward to broaden its appeal by launching a host of new community-oriented programmes. The introduction of the new services will also help mark its first anniversary on September 23, 2010. "We plan to start more community-oriented programmes in regional languages like Kannada, Tulu and Konkani along with Hindi and English," said Father Richard Rego, who is in charge of the radio station and heads the Journalism Department at the College. There are also plans to launch several weekly phone-in programmes, such as Kannonu Kacheri, on legal issues, Arogya Sparsha, a live programme on health concerns and a special programme for children. The station will also invite leaders, writers, social workers, farmers and local artists for interviews, narration and feature presentations in order to broaden its activity, which initially was to broadcast for about four to six hours a day, but now it is on the air for 14 hours.

JESUIT COMMONS: A Virtual Meeting Place

A new website has been created called Jesuit Commons. It is "A virtual meeting place where a million-strong, global network of individuals, schools and institutions collaborate to benefit poor communities... More than a thousand schools and universities count millions of students, graduates, or faculty; and countless others work and pray in Jesuit refugee agencies, justice institutes, parishes, development NGOs, and retreat houses. Imagine the power that would be unleashed if this million-strong network could jointly innovate projects, launch global advocacy or prayer campaigns, share teaching materials, or mount research efforts." The website has invited users to register and become part of community and support projects from Asia to South America. The message continues: "The Jesuit Commons enables such collaborations by putting online communications and networking tools at the service of all those committed to working for a more just world, in solidarity with the Jesuit mission." For more information: <http://www.jesuitcommons.org>

SPAIN: Fifth centenary of St Francis Borgia

During the summer many initiatives took place in Ducal Palace, Gandía, birthplace of St. Francis Borgia, on the occasion of the fifth-centenary of his birth. Many Jesuits arrived in the town in order to visit the Ducal Palace and to celebrate the Eucharist in its chapel. There were numerous pilgrimages of religious groups and of members of the Spanish dioceses and many Eucharistic celebrations in honour of the Saint. An exhibition presented to the public the restoration of the frescoes of the ancient chapter

house of the Convent of the Clarisse which in the past counted 32 religious women from the Borgia family. The "Cabalgata de los Clásicos", a drama on the history of Gandía's Dukedom from 1399 to 1551 (the year when St. Francis Borgia renounced the Dukedom and entered the Society of Jesus) was performed twice in a new renovated version with great success. The "Visitatio Sepulchri", a holy-lyric drama, attributed to St. Francis Borgia, on the death and resurrection of Christ, which is performed every year in the chapel of Gandía's palace on Holy Friday and Easter day, was exceptionally performed during summer as a concert with participation of a large public.

Taiwan Jesuits talk of the China they knew:

Two books on elderly Taiwan Jesuits have been launched on September 25 by the Cardinal Tien Cultural Foundation which narrate the experiences of Father Mark Fang Chih-jung, 84 and Father Peter Sun, 86.

Father Fang, during the Taipei book launch, recalled that he was blacklisted by mainland Chinese authorities after his 1984 trip there because he had celebrated Sunday Mass.

The mainland-born Jesuit was also interrogated by Taiwan security officers after the China government repatriated him to Hong Kong during his 1995 China trip.

At that time, Taiwan did not allow its residents to travel to the mainland.

As he was forbidden to enter mainland China, Father Fang, the first Chinese to obtain a biblical doctorate in Rome, decided to help in the formation of mainland clergy and nuns who were studying in Europe.

Mainland-born Father Peter Sun recalled that his mother, his spiritual director, his bishop and even the apostolic nuncio had tried to dissuade him from becoming a Jesuit.

After the Chinese communists took power in 1949, he fled to the Philippines and it was only three months before his ordination in 1957 that his wish was granted by the Holy See.

The priest recalled an unhappy episode in which he was accused of using Taiwan Church money to fund his hometown diocese in Handan, northern China.

He said that he had forgotten to tell his parishioners at that time that the money came from the Holy See and it was not he but laypeople who took charge of the parish finance.

The two books are the latest in a series of books on Jesuits who have been in Taiwan for about half a century.

(Courtesy: ucanews.com)

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

During the Corpus Christi procession in our campus on Sept 4th **Fr. Jerry** of Nirantharam fame gave a mellifluous message during the benediction. **Fr. Jacob** had well organized this annual event besides the retreats for students.

On Sept. 6, Loyola-ICAM students had a one-day orientation programme in which **Fr. Emma** gave a talk on Stress Management and **Fr. Francis P. Xavier** spoke on the Jesuit ideals of higher education.

On 24th Sept., Culture and Communication organized their Springboard session for the months of September and October. About 100 students from Stella Maris and Loyola attended the session. While **Fr. Joe Antony** welcomed the gathering, **Fr. B. Jeyaraj**, the Principal inaugurated the session. **Prof. G. M. James** spoke on the skills of persuasion.

In tune with last year's grand success, Loyola College observed Environment Day under the banner GREEN FEST 2010. The theme of the festival on Sept 28 was Biodiversity. **Dr. Ranjith Daniels**, the Director of Care Earth Trust was the chief guest. Praising Loyola College for its initiatives in conserving nature, he emphasized the need for improving ecological economics in the field of education. His words that "calculating the value of a tree is a more difficult task than calculating the value of gold or silver" received a huge applause from the audience. **Fr. Arockiasamy** organized an initiative called Clean the campus.

LIBA is organizing a three-day seminar at Dhyana Ashram (Sept 30 – Oct 2) for all the Jesuit Headmasters on Educational Leadership including financial management.

Fr. Ignacimuthu has been included in the Marquis Who is Who biographical sketches. He inaugurated a national symposium on Biotechnology in Karunya University, Coimbatore. Fr. Francis P. Xavier presented a paper entitled Anatomy of humiliation and signs of self-respect during the national seminar on Reimagining the Relationship between Christianity and Dalit Liberation on Sept 10 at Chennai, organized by Centre for Asian Cross-Cultural Studies. Fr. Emma conducted a two-day seminar at Dhyana Ashram on Sept 25 and 26 on Basic Counselling skills for effective teachers.

LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

Fr. M. Elias took the initiative in getting two volunteers **Mr. Leo** and **Mr. Hew** from London to teach our students, communication in English, with proper accent and pronunciation. They will be with us for six months. On 18 September we had a one-day faculty training programme on soft skills. On 25th we organized a one-day life orientation programme for our students. The programme was carried out by 15 theologians under the guidance of **Fr. Maria Arul Raja**. The programme was focused on the overall development of

students commemorating the year of youth.

Poondy Rajan

LOYOLA TRAINING CENTRE, RANIPET

Sch. Berchmans from LASAC gave a one-day orientation and Leadership training to our school students on September 2.

The inauguration of L.S.S (Loyola Social Service Society) took place on 6th September. Since then thrice a week our students help in regulating the traffic at Ranipet during peak hours in the evening. Surely their service gives more visibility to our school.

This year being dedicated to youth, Jesuit community is happy to note that **Sch. Satyabalan** has come up with a lot of initiatives to give integral formation to our hostellers. He gives special training in voice culture and leadership.

Vedanayagam

DHYANA ASHRAM CHENNAI

Dhanam movement and TANSACS of Government of Tamil Nadu conducted a one-day programme on 20th August at Dhyana Ashram. Sixty-eight persons participated in it and 20 of them donated blood. The session on blood, organ and body donations was handled by various speakers including **Fr. Jerry**. The participants were from all the dioceses of Tamil Nadu. A detailed action programme for 2010 and 11 was brought out to promote donations of organs.

Fr. R. Raja preached a six-day retreat for some Guanellians and he also conducted a seminar on Biblical Retreat for tertians and gave a course on John to Carmel Sisters at Shembag. This same course was also given in Dhyana Ashram. Before the Feast of St Ignatius a Triduum was preached by **Br. Sadanandam Frs. S.M. Selvaraj** and **Fr. Thamburaj** to the people on different themes. On the Feast day Fr. S.M. Selvaraj gave a Sound and Light programme on Fr. Arrupe for 20 minutes and it was highly appreciated by the people. Our co-workers went on a pilgrimage to Vailankanni. In the book கிறிஸ்தவ இலக்கிய வரலாறு released recently by **Mr. Arockiasamy** four of our community men **Frs. Raja, S.M. Selvaraj, Jerry Rosario** and **X. Irudayaraj** are mentioned for their contribution.

Fr.A.J. Thamburaj exhibited the life history of Mother Teresa in Lazarus Parish and the Parishioners saw all the paintings and photos of the Mother, with admiration.

S. Selvaraj

JUNIORATE TRIVANDRUM

From the psycho-sexual integration course conducted by **Fr. Jossy** (KAR) the juniors learnt that sexuality and spirituality are two sides of the same coin in religious life. The examination of consciousness on feelings taught by the Father gave a new orientation to their spiritual growth. In preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of the BVM, a novena was conducted by Karnataka juniors and the feast Mass was celebrated in

Kannada, reminding the juniors of Jesuit universality. With a three-day cultural tour of Kerala, the first term came to an end.

A. Lawrence

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

At the end of August the I Year novices went on a pilgrimage to Vailankanni along with the parishioners of Anandarayankottai. On 6 September they returned home.

Meanwhile the II Year novices were in Dhyavanam at Kombai near Dindigul for their ashram experiment under the direction of **Fr. Korkoniyas Moses**. They enjoyed tranquility in their heart during this experience.

In the company of **Fr.D. Jeyaraj**, the novice master and **Fr. Dominic**, the socius, the novices spent 26 August in the home for the aged at Kurusady. The novices chatted with the inmates and presented a cultural programme.

Fr. Dhanaraj gave a course on the Eucharist to the novices from 8 to 10 September. On 19 September the Beschi Community went to its parish church in NGO colony and had a solemn Mass presided over by **Fr. Ambrose**, the minister. **Fr. Arul Sivan** preached an 8-day retreat to a group of Holy Cross Sisters.

A.Vino Selukas

DNC, Pune

A week-long community day with the catchy title "UNITOTSAV 2010" was truly a community-knitting experience for us at DNC. This celebration of unity reached its climax on 9 September with prize distribution and a farewell programme to the outgoing deacons. On 24 September, The JDC Day was another occasion where the cultural and artistic contribution of our province men for the success of the colourful evening was very much appreciated and acknowledged. The choir organized by **Schs Velankanni** and **William** added grace and festivity to the feast days of our Lady at Ghorpuri parish.

Gladwin

ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

Our players brought laurels at the district level by winning volleyball, football and hockey (seniors and super seniors) and handball (seniors) matches.

This is a rare feat in the recent years and ours is the only school in Dindigul district which has won so many games. Kudos to **Fr. Gerlin** the physical director and the games teachers.

S.M. Kennedy

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

The St. Mary's Cathedral Parish Celebrated its annual feast of the Mother of Sorrows, beginning on 9 Sept, followed by two days of inspiring sermons preached by **Fr. V. Ignatius** from Satya Nilayam and his team from Chennai. He brought to us both God's

choicest blessings as well as showers of rain. The Youth Group of the Parish, in collaboration with the Meenakshi Mission Hospital and the Red Cross of India conducted a Blood Donation Camp on 18 Sept, which was inaugurated by **Fr. Jerry** who himself had given blood for 155 times. Besides him many people including some of our community members gave their blood. On the same evening the statue of Our Lady was taken in a car procession. On 19 Sept, the Sacrament of Confirmation was conferred on 257 boys and girls. The celebration came to a happy conclusion with the parishioners appreciating the leadership of **Fr. P.S. Arul** and his team especially **Fr. Xavier Raj**.

The Zonal Meeting in preparation for the Province Assembly was held on 26 Sept. Eighty-four Jesuits participated in it. There was a heavy shower in the afternoon enabling us to have pleasant deliberations.

Fr. M. Stanislaus gave a retreat to the Sisters of St. Anne.

Bastian

ST. ARULANANDAR, ORIYUR

The great feast day of Our Lady of Health was celebrated with due solemnity. The flag hoisting was done by **Fr. Rajarathinam** on 29 Aug. Hundreds of pilgrims participated in the novena. **Bishop Edward Francis** was the chief celebrant at the feast day Mass and **Fr. Stephen Martin** gave an enriching sermon.

In the evening there was a magnificent multi-stage show, with **Fr. Thomas** as the director and **Sch. Magesh** as the associate director. About 100 students from the parish and substations performed.

A new initiative: we have now a "Catholic Information Centre" with **Fr. Matthew Moollel** as the resource person from which one can get answers to questions on Christian faith, the Bible, the Church and Prayer either through personal contact or through mobile or through letter.

We also have "two hours with Jesus", a special healing prayer service by **Fr. Thomas and Fr. Darwin** on the first Sunday of every month. The number of participants is on the increase.

Magesh

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

Carmel Higher Secondary School: The Jubilees of **Br. Gnanadickam, Frs. R. George** and **Xavier Mampra** were celebrated with quiet dignity on 12th September. **Fr. Ephrem** who had lost his sister just a week before could not make it. Fr. Xavier Mampra started his ministerial life at Carmel had two stints at the school. Fr. Ephrem did his regency as prefect in the hostel. Fr. R. George was Headmaster and Superior. It was an occasion for the alumni of their time to renew their contacts with the school.

The school organized a procession on 8 September the World Literacy Day. **Master P. Deeban** of the school won the first place at the State level firing

competition of junior NCC and has now gone to a camp to prepare himself for the national level competition.

LATI, MADURAI

In addition to a new car, along with the renovation of the building, LATI driving school fascinates the learners by the efforts of **Fr. Antony Arockiam** and **Br. Ignacy**. Ecological day was celebrated in the campus by the initiatives of Br. Ignacy, the staff and the students. Br. Ignacy's talk on 'skill formation' during the Instructors' Day was a real motivation to the students. He also organized safety precaution awareness to our students with the help of Tamil Nadu EB Dept. **Frs. Antony Arockiam** and **Wilfred** along with the students have prepared a new ground to play more freely. **Fr. Ambrose's** recollection talk to the community was a reminder of our way of life. Frs. Leo Correya and Wilfred took classes for the students on spoken English and personality development. **Frs. Maria Louis** and **Leo** play a vital role in counselling and guiding the students to overcome their adolescent problems.

The visitation of Fr. Provincial brought an understanding regarding efficient administration and systematic implementation of developmental works. **Fr. Stephen Muthu** moulded the life of the community college students through the diocesan 'family commission'.

Fr. Wilfred delivered a series of speeches to groups of sisters, teachers and lecturers in Madurai including a speech on 'critical relationship' on LTI Instructors' Day.

Wilfred

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The first of the five Zonal Meetings of the Province was held on 12 September. Jesuits from Oriyur, Devakottai, Vilangudi and Viragalur besides those from St. Joseph's participated. **Fr. Raj Irudaya** gave a comprehensive picture of the emergence of Chennai Mission from its inception. **Fr. Victor** the Mission Superior spoke on the status of the Mission. It was an occasion to come together and to feel the oneness of our call. Among many suggestions that surfaced one can say that strengthening of the Jesuit identity and union of minds and hearts was of paramount importance. Fr. Provincial emphasized the same in his introductory and concluding remarks and gave supplementary information including data relating to student admissions in the new institutions we have started in the Chennai Mission.

The Ozone Day was made memorable by the undergraduate students of Business Administration. They undertook a census of the trees in the campus with a view to plant more trees.

The Teachers' Day was fittingly celebrated on 4th September with some of the staff appearing on the stage displaying their histrionic talents. The Former Principal of Bishop Heber College **Dr. Swamiraj** and the

Principal of Cauvery College for Women, **Dr. Sujatha** graced the occasion and motivated the staff to reach newer heights of excellence.

The 167th Sports day was held on 24th September. A few records were made in 400mts, 1500mts, triple and long jumps. A novel feature of the annual sports meet was the competitions held for the physically challenged students. On the whole there were around 40 physically challenged students. **C. Nikhil Chittaragu** has done us proud by participating in the ongoing Commonwealth Games.

The department of English organized a drama fest among colleges on 16 and 17 September.

The Arrupe Library arranged an exhibition called "Libex" participated by 19 booksellers and publishers from 6-8 September. It was a useful exercise to have all the booksellers under one roof for the staff and students to buy books. Congratulations to Fr. John Bosco, the Library Director.

Fr. Sebastian Anand addressed the students of Trinity College, Namakkal on the occasion of the inauguration of the students' council on 6 September.

Fr. R. Rajarathinam the principal and **Prof. Fernandez Garnet**, Dean for UGC affairs, attended a meeting with the officials of the New Zealand Universities at Chennai on 22 September to explore the possibility of signing an MoU with them.

Fr. M. Charles presented a paper on the study of Angiospermous Parasites of Tamil Nadu at a National Conference on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development organized by Madurai Kamaraj University.

Fr. Francis Thamburaj presented a paper titled as "Self-Organizing Map for Analysis of SARS Corona Virus" at the International Conference on Semantic E-business and Enterprise Computing, conducted at Cochin. The NSS unit of the School is camping at Perungudi during the quarterly holidays.

St Joseph's College Alumni Association

Alumni Association, as part of JAACS series, organized a lecture on "Improving Memory Power" delivered by **Dr G Francis Xavier**, an alumnus of the College. The resource person motivated the students by sharing his life achievements. He has conducted hundreds of sessions on the topic and he has authored thirteen books till now. All the participants benefited a lot from the lecture.

Sebastian Anand

AAC KARUMATHUR

The IT department had a workshop on PHP and MYSQL on September 3. **Mr. S. Joseph Sebastin** of San Soft Solution from Chennai was the chief guest. Our NSS Unit conducted a one-day camp on September 4 at St. Joseph's School for the visually challenged students. **Mr. Karthi Chidambaram**, the Youth Congress Leader was with us for the Theatre Fest on September 8. **Mr. J. Gowtham**, NSS student, got

selected for the Pre-Republic Day camp. Our Women Study Centre conducted a Yoga Practice Programme for our students on September 14 and 15. It also organized an awareness programme on Women in Media on September 30. There was a Placement Training for the third year students of the Department of IT on September 15. **Fr. A. Joseph** is back after his fruitful visit to Malaysia on September 16. We are proud to have won the MKU Football Championship Trophy. Congratulations to **Fr. Xavier Arockiasamy** who has published an article named Mathavatha Choolalil Kuruthuvam. Our staff members went on a tour to Manimuthar dam on September 17-18. We congratulate **Mr. S. Arul Prasad**, the NSS Co-ordinator who received the University Best NSS Programme Officer Award for the year 2008-09 while two of our students **M. Sumithra** and **Joshua** received the University Best NSS Volunteers Award. The MCA department conducted a State level seminar called Digital Dazzling on September 24. A reporter from Deccan Chronicle interacted with our students.

Kingsley

IDEAS, MADURAI

The big news of September is the long and eagerly awaited day of **Fr Eugene**, IDEAS community, his family members and friends! The bright dawn of 22nd September announced his Ph. D. defence at M.K. University, Madurai. Besides his guide **Mr C. Gnanapragasam**, Prof. and Head of the Department of Public Administration and Political Science at M. K. University and the Chief Examiner **Mr. N. Swaminathan**, Prof. and Head of the Department of Political Science at Annamalai University, Chidambaram, the hall had a packed audience of 83 persons (including 6 diocesan priests from Madurai and Sivagangai dioceses, and 27 Jesuits with 8 PhDs & 4 research scholars). Looking well poised and composed, Eugene made an excellent presentation of his thesis Self-Help Groups in Madurai District - A Study and answered the questions from the audience with ease and a smile. The glorious morning came to a joyful close with the Chief Examiner stating that Eugene richly merited a doctoral award. Kudos to Eugene for being the second Jesuit (after **Fr Masillamani**) to do a PhD while being fully engaged in social action ministry! Another happy news is that he has with him now a 500-page manuscript titled Origins and Development of SHGs ready for publication. This is his Tamil translation of the book Banker to the Poor by **Mohammad Yunus** - the founder of the Grameen Bank that became the inspiration for the origin of SHGs.

For the wider reach of media education, **Fr. Stephen Martin** has been forming media clubs among various interested youth and student groups in Tamil Nadu. As part of this process, on Sept. 02 he trained as resource persons 30 Coimbatore Presentation Sisters belonging to the Communication Commission and evolved with them a strategy in their Generalate campus at Coimbatore. They are now seriously working out the

practicals to give shape to the media clubs. On 19th Sept., Fr. Stephen addressed a big gathering of CRI-Madurai on the topic Youth-Media-Religious. At the two-day GBM of JMPSA (Jesuit Madurai Province Social Action) held at IDEAS on 28 and 29 Sept., our Social Action Coordinator, **Fr Michaelraj**, kept the 28 Jesuits, religious women and lay participants on their toes while reflecting on Today's Socio-Political Situation in view of the Assembly elections next summer.

After the well participated annual ten-day course on Social Analysis from 01 and 10 Sept., the 18 men and 8 women felt it was worth having come to IDEAS to re-energize themselves with clarity of perception and direction for doing their field work better. And soon after, PEAK from the hills rolled down with 52 tribal women on 13 and 14 Sept. for a training as well as Madurai city exposure. And what a surprising discovery it was for some of the women who had never seen this ancient city! So, too, it was for some of our lay staff of IDEAS and LAAS when they went on a tour to Chennai from 19-21 Sept. For all the 16 of us, including 4 Jesuits, the Chennai Darshan was a beautiful experience of fellowship. Kudos to **Fr Sandanam**, our energetic and smiling tour organizer and leader!

Aloysius Irudayam

JMAADD, NAGERCOIL

September was a month to remember for JMAADD. Three twenty-one-day-camps in places quite a distance from each other stretched the small band of JMAADD staff right across Tamil Nadu. There was a camp at Carmel with 32 patients, one at Halcyon Home, Madurai, with 22 and the third one at CRDS, Chengalpattu with 12 patients. The last mentioned camp was the fruit of the work of Arul Kadal scholastics led by **Fr. Arul Raja**. Though extremely exhausting, it was very fulfilling to see a fresh lease of life beaming out from the faces of the patients and their families. Buoyed up by deep satisfaction of the healing ministry, three more camps are on the anvil for October: in Carmel, Tiruchi and Rameswaram. Alongside, a special programme for priest-alcoholics is run at Halcyon Home, Madurai, starting on 1st and ending on 31st October.

Nala Oli AA Group based in Carmel celebrated its third Annual Day. Over 100 AAs and their families from places as far away as Coonoor, Thanjavur, Salem, Madurai, Pudukottai as well as local AA members participated. The theme was a phrase from the 12 steps: "Making spiritual progress". The celebrations started with a marathon AA session starting at 9.00pm on 25th and ending at 2.20am on 26th. The session was kick started by **Fr. Francis Jayapathy** who delivered the keynote address. A public meeting was held on 26th. The DSP of Kanyakumari District presided. Then two separate sessions of AA and AI Anon were held. The celebrations concluded with a typical Nanjil Nattu Sappadu.

F. Jayapathy

ARIAMANGALAM

The locally situated Cluny Sisters, along with their Provincial greeted the widows of the parish in a special get-together. They organized group games and activities to draw out the widows from their isolation and helped them to perform kummi and sing lively film songs.

On the Teachers' Day, the school staff was taken in a procession and later entertained with dances. The teachers in turn replied to the toast with a group dance. On Sept. 8, our pupils took the statue of Our Lady of Health to all the houses and prayed for the health and welfare of the families.

Felix Joseph

ST ROBERT BELLARMINI COMMUNITY, TAIWAN

For those of you, companions thinking of coming to the Chinese Province... believe me there is a lot of work here and too few Jesuits. The Jesuits who are here are ageing, but continue to be active.

As for me, I am picking up the rudiments of the language. Spoken Chinese, I think I can pick up easily but written Chinese is a world of its own with twists and turns and strokes. I have heard people say that Tamil alphabet looks like murukku but you can't compare Chinese characters with any other thing because each character is different from the other. Each character is pictorially packed with a lot of meaning and sometimes philosophy too.

I have started to speak beginner level Chinese with our co-workers in the community and wonder of wonders they understand that I am trying to speak in Chinese. A fortnight ago, I spoke in Chinese with some local kids and they said that my English sounded so very different from theirs. I went crazy. But now things are better. The community here is very supportive though and encouraging us always.

I have joined the English choir, comprising mostly of migrant Filipinos. But that is the only apostolate I can think of at this juncture. I am enjoying every moment of my stay here.

Benedict Santosh

FROM BR. TONY, JERUSALEM

I reached the Holy Land safe on 25 September. I am occupying a room that was sanctified by Cardinal Martini. I am learning the accounting programme called Quicken. **Fr. Jerome Odbert** (DET) was here for fifteen months as Minister, Guest Master, and Treasurer. He is seventy-two. Because of his ill health he gets back to his province. Thanks for everything. My love and prayers to everybody in the Province.

FR. ARUL RAVI FROM SRI LANKA

I landed in Colombo on August 29. It was my long wish and dream to see our beloved Tamils who are going through a lot of turmoil in their day-to-day life. On 5 September our Provincial visited me. I also met **Fr. Michael John**. We had useful courses like Non-Violent

Communication and Psycho-Spirituality. We enjoy ourselves and at the same time are busy. On September 30 we begin our long retreat. So I kindly request you to pray for us.

FR. VINCENT SEKHAH FROM NEW YORK

It is more than a month since I came to New York. I am doing well. My pastor **Rev. Tom Lynch** is gentle and concerned. The parish rectory where I stay has a rich interior with beautiful woodwork and I feel at home. The parishioners are drawn from different ethnicities, mostly Spanish-speaking, and are active. Tom concentrates on Religious Education and we have nice people around to help in the parish. I help him out in a small way by sharing Mass, and attend a few meetings and gatherings. Along with a Pilar priest from Goa, **Rev. Urbano Rodrigues**, we are three to make a small rectory community. Life is good. I had a chance to meet with the Archbishop of New York the **Most Rev. Timothy Dolan** in a priests' gathering, where I met a few more Indian priests.

The main campus of Fordham, called the Rose Hill, is green with beautiful lawns, contrasted to the Lincoln Center at the heart of Manhattan with its famed skyscrapers. I teach at both these places. I am told that 35 in a class is 'huge' and people give a surprise note when they know that students have chosen Eastern (particularly Hindu) Religious texts for their elective. Those who have taught in universities abroad will know how much a teacher has to work from the time of preparation of syllabus, scheduling of portions for teaching, providing with specific reading materials and so on. I found it a useful exercise. The method of evaluation is left to the individual professors. Students in both the classes are interested and attentive, and to some extent, interactive. They don't miss to give you a compliment. I plan to take my students to a Hindu/Buddhist temple. I spend time browsing in the libraries in view of a book-project I intend to finish.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Amalorpavam, 72, sister of Fr. Arul Jeevan on 8 Sept.

Bob Albuquerque, 83, brother of Fr. Rex Pai on 18 Sept.

