



OCTOBER 2011

(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial

History Beckons Us to Respond Passionately

My dear Brothers,

During the past few weeks, the whole province has been actively involved in its collective spiritual journey. After the contact visit of the Provincial to all the communities of the province, different age-groups gathered in our “Mother House”, Beschi Illam, for a highly rewarding experience of meeting our own novitiate batch mates and others. It was a rare and immensely enriching meeting indeed at least for most of us. Almost all the participants expressed their joy and happiness for this wonderful opportunity to spend two days together. Even some of our senior most members were highly excited about such a rare opportunity.

These meetings were no doubt moments of grace to all the participants and to the entire province as whole. All of us together experienced true “communion” and we felt free to share our views, experiences and even our own personal life and our spiritual journey. Of course, one more batch (59-70 Age Group) is eagerly waiting for its turn to have this rich experience on November 1 and 2.

As a result of these interactions and sharing, common spiritual journey and collective discernment, the whole province is becoming intensely aware of the richness and the high value of deep spiritual life and experience. Every member is becoming aware of the need for deep personal spiritual depth and also the value of its visible expressions in his external spiritual practices, both individually and in his communities. We are also aware that this deep spirituality should be reflected in our entire life-style, decorum, contacts, relationships, transparency, accountability, availability, etc. Thus, the province is gradually re-discovering and re-affirming its true strength – the spiritual strength – which will enable its members to achieve great things in their different ministries and undertakings.

I invite every member to continue in the same mode of thought and perception and ponder over the various experiences and thoughts that were shared by your companions, batch mates and other members during the meeting in Beschi, along with the various thoughts, ideas and concerns shared by the Provincial. Let us remember that we have launched a collective search, collective discernment, collective endeavour. All of us are fully aware and are confident that these collective efforts will bear much fruits, that we will grow from strength to strength, that we will overcome effectively some of our shortcomings and that we will be able to build on our past glory, which we have inherited from our forefathers. We are a privileged group to have inherited such rich traditions, resources and a high level of credibility. Now it is up to us to respond with a grateful heart and unwavering determination and reach new heights. The past history as well as the present situation beckons us. Let us respond positively and passionately.

Sebasti L. Raj. SJ

Provincial

Provincial's Programme

October

06-07	Visitation: DACA
08	Ordination, Madurai
09-10	Visitation: LAAS
10-11	GBM: Pastoral Commission – Madurai
12-13	Visitation: LTI
15-16	GBM: Dalit Commission — Trichy
19	Consult
22-23	Visitation: DNC, Pune
23-30	JCSA Meeting, JDV, Pune

November

01-02	59-70 Age-Group Meet — Beschi
05	Zonal Meeting — Palayamkottai
06	Zonal Meeting — Madurai

07-11	Visitation: Vadamelpakkam, Vallam, Kuppayanallur, Ranipet, Pondicherry
12	Zonal Meeting — Chennai
13	Zonal Meeting — Trichy
14-15	Visitation: Poondy, Vilangudi, Kumbakonam
16-17	Visitation: Nagapattinam
19-20	GBM: Higher Education — Trichy
22	Consult
24-26	Trivandrum, Southern Provincials Meet SICJ
28-30	Visitation: Bangalore – ISI, St. Joseph's College

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **Father General has appointed**

Fr. Gerald R. Blaszcak of the New York Province, Secretary for the Service of Faith.

Fr. Rosario Rocha, Provincial of Goa Province

Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj (CCU), assistant to the Secretary for Social Justice and Ecology.

* **Convocation of the Province Congregation:** Through his Circular Letter, dated October 03, 2011, Fr. Provincial has convoked the **Province Congregation**, which commences on December 27, 2011 (evening) at Beschi Illam and is likely to be concluded on December 30, 2011.

* **Age-Wise Group Meeting:** The Meeting for the Age-Wise group (59 to 70) will take place at Beschi Illam on November 1 and 2. The Meeting will commence at 09.00 a.m. on the first day and will conclude at 17.00 hours on the second day.

* **Zonal Meetings:** As announced already, the Zonal Meetings of the Province will take place as given below. If someone is unable to participate in his own zone for good reasons, he may join another zone, with prior information to the Socius.

Nov. 05	St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai	09.00-17.30
Nov. 06	St. Mary's, Madurai	09.00-17.30
Nov. 12	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	09.00-17.30
Nov. 13	St. Joseph's, Trichy	09.00-17.30

* **Curia Space Improvement Committee (CSIC):** Fr Provincial has appointed this Committee to study different aspects related to the improvement of space for the Province Curia. This Committee — consisting of **Fr. S. Mariadoss (Convener)**, **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** and **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** — will submit its report and recommendations by the middle of December 2011.

* **Sch Kilbert Savarimuthu** has moved from Sri Lanka to London for theology; Garnet House, 4, Wind Mill Drive, Clapham, London SW4 9DE; Tel: 0044 20 8675 4710, Cell: 0044-7435698550, <skilbertsj@gmail.com>

* **Sacred Heart College**, Shembaganur has a Website: www.shcjesuits.org, Email: info@shcjesuits.org

Brothers' Retreat

Date : Dec 5 eve to 13 eve 2011

Venue: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai

Preacher: **Fr. M. Viaguladasan, SJ**

Board, lodging & preacher: Rs.2,400/-

Seminar Cum G B M

Date : Dec. 14 morn. to 17 eve

(including one full day outing)

Venue : Dhyana Ashram, Chennai - 600 028

Resource Person : **Fr. Sundar Wilson, OFM**, (Cap)

Theme : Psychosexual and Affective Integration

* **Fr. Raj Irudaya** as Convener of the Task Force for the Humanitarian Aid and Advocacy for Sri Lankan Tamils informs that we were able to collect 46,920 signatures to be sent to the UNO and to the Prime Minister of India urging them to pressurize the Government of Sri Lanka for a permanent political solution. He thanks all our Superiors, Headmasters and Principals who collaborated in this venture.

* **Fr. Sahaya Raj Thangasamy:** Cell: 89394 27364

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

The pre-novitiate is academically equipped with the new edition of Oxford English dictionary. The Pre-novices are in their quarterly holidays from 26 Sep.

Hats off to **Fr. Ignatius** for the bumper crop from our paddy fields.

Prabu Francis

BESCHI ILLAM

In Beschi the following meetings were held: Supamites on 2 Sep, Regents on 3 and 4, Local Superiors and Consultors on 10 and 11, Below 45 age-group on 17 and 18 and Above 70 age-group on 21 and 22.

On 30 August, I year novices went on foot to Vailankanni along with the pilgrims of Anandarayankottai. Earlier, **Fr. Dhanaraj** enlightened them on the importance of pilgrimage, but II year novices worked in the kitchen and were busy with house maintenance.

Fr. I.M. Joseph gave a 3-day course on Psycho-Spiritual growth for I year novices and he met II year novices individually. *The novices have begun a **Birthday Garden** where on the birthday of a novice a sapling will be planted.*

Beschi Community had concelebrated Mass in the Parish Church of N.G.O. Colony on one of the novena days and novices helped the parishioners in liturgy and choir.

The maize harvested was sold for about Rs 1 lakh. Congrats to **Br. Jesudas**.

Fr. P. T. Chelladurai is convalescing in St. Mary's, Madurai and **Fr. Jeyapathy** is in St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul. **Fr. Chacko** and **Br. William** have returned from the hospital. Remember them in your prayers.

Anto Arputha Raja

JESUIT NOVITIATE – SHILLONG (KOHIMA REGION)

On 3 Sept. we had an Inter-Novitiate Meet for novices from seven different congregations (VSDB, SDB, MSMHC, FMA, MCJ, SJ, DIVINE MERCY). Archbishop of Shillong, the **Rt. Rev. Dominic Jala S.D.B** was the president-cum-resource person of the programme. He introduced us to the changes in the New Roman Missal.

We had a self-discovering assignment about human formation, in the absence of our Master of Novices **Fr. Richard Jarain**, owing to his commitments elsewhere. Our Socius **Fr. Albert De Silva** is busy preaching retreats to various groups.

Arun Kumar

JUNIORS AND TERTIANS IN SITAGARHA

A course on 'self-awareness' for a fortnight by **Fr. Matthew Chemplany** (PAT) helped us to be in touch with our feelings and have spiritual vibration. **Fr. Matthew** led us to a deeper understanding of our childhood experiences in order to identify the roots of our own positive and negative characteristics. Realising our childhood experiences was itself a healing touch. The course also helped us to know and appreciate one another better and build up a healthy community here in the Juniorate.

Another course that was equally enlightening was the course on Social Analysis by **Fr. Tony Herbert** (HAZ). It has awakened in us our social consciousness. The tertians would be out for a month in October for two experiments –directing retreats and hospital/pastoral experience. Both Madurai Tertians, **Frs. Anthony Samy** and **Robin Seelan** will be with MC Brothers to look after the sick and the dying.

Susaipragasam

ARUL KADAL

Rural and urban immersion experiences drenched the Arul Kadalites with the stark reality of the poor and provoked in them several soul-searching theological questions which will be deeply reflected upon in the course of the academic year. We thank profusely all the Jesuits who made it possible for us. To show our solidarity and voice our concern we participated in the public meetings organized against capital punishment and police atrocities unleashed

against Dalits at Paramakudi. Along with the Staff, **Schs. Clement** and **Anthony Marcus** represented Arul Kadal in the seminar organized by Tamil Theological Association at Tiruchi. **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** as the outgoing president of the Association had organized its Silver Jubilee Seminar on the theme: "இறையியலாக்கம்: புதிய திசைகளும் புதிய களங்களும்".

Fr. Raj Irudaya's interview "இலங்கையில் யுத்தம் தொடர்கிறது: அதிர்ச்சி தகவல்" was telecast in *kumudam.com* as an advocacy programme. The interview has bared the stark realities of the ongoing atrocities unleashed still on the Tamils in Sri Lanka even after the so-called end of the war in May 2009. It has been put in youtube.com. Vatican Radio also interviewed him on the same topic. Further, he has been mobilizing the different Christian organizations in Chennai to form a Federation called தமிழர் கிறித்தவத் தோழமை இயக்கங்கள், which will continue to take up the cause of Sri Lankan Tamils in different and effective ways.

Arul Kadal has been instrumental in collecting 46,920 signatures from all over Tamil Nadu for the cause of Sri Lankan Tamils, which have been sent to the UNO and to the Prime Minister of India. Special thanks to **Schs. John Paul** and **Thangadurai** for their involvement in this.

Fr. Maria Arul Raja delivered a series of theological lectures for Missionaries of Charity, Kolkata; TTS, Madurai and SH College, Ponnammallee.

Fr. Alangaram, as supervisor of doctoral studies through IDCR conducted the viva exam of his first PH.D. candidate with Fr. Raj Irudaya as the external examiner approved by the University of Madras. On September 13, Fr. Alangaram was invited by MMI Theologate, in Chennai to address 90 students of theology and the staff on the theme "Asian Contextual Christology".

Viji Bose V

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

The school celebrated Teachers' Day on 05.09.11. Organized by ELT. Students themselves conducted all the proceedings in English. Teachers were presented with a memento each by the management.

Fr. Packiaraj is teaching English to the teachers once a month.

Our recently completed Language Lab was inaugurated on 04 Sept.

The newly built Britto Junior Hostel building is due to be opened on 29 Sept.

John Paul

ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

We conducted a grammar exhibition "Hexa-Gram" (Hexa- 6th and Gram- grammar) on 15 and 16 Sep. It provided a big platform for the little boys of VI Std.

to exhibit their skills and to learn the art of explaining. The Superior and the Headmaster were the first visitors who interacted with each student and encouraged them.

Students made great efforts to explain the parts of speech with their painstakingly crafted models, colourful pamphlets and illustrative charts. The exhibition was highly innovative, educative and informative to the spectators.

Students from neighbouring schools came and saw what form ELT could take.

Singarayar

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

We are happy to announce that **Fr. L. Francis Xavier** is the recipient of the *Best Educationist Award* given by an institute from New Delhi. We are proud of our IX Std student, **Michael Sagin Santa Cruz**, who has been chosen to represent the State in *tae kwon do* competition.

Paul C. Jesuraja

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

On 3 Sep. we conducted a workshop on group dynamics for all our teachers.

Follow-ups of the de-addiction camp conducted during last summer are in full swing. Village level AA (for those recovering) and *Al Anon* (for alcoholics' wives) weekly meetings have been initiated by **Fr. Masillamani**. Also, "Al Ateen" (for alcoholics' kids) forums have also taken off in our campus on a weekly basis. Apart from the 34 recovering alcoholics of the summer camp, 20 more newcomers have begun to relish their sober life, free of alcohol.

CFCA parents' meeting (Mothers' self-help group) was held in Thomas Mount, Chennai when 150 parents from our locality participated and benefited from it. On 27th, we had a meeting in LTTI for the parents of the second year trainees.

Joseph Arockiasamy

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

Fr. Anto addressed the Lion's Club members, and prodded them to go beyond charity, however admirable, to commit themselves to challenge the corrupt.

Fr. Francis Peter animated a 3-days' Assistancy level common juniorate meeting at Kolkata. He tackled pedagogical and phenomenological issues arising out of the current exigencies in the Assistancy. To the Goenka group of schools at Delhi as well as to the Doon school, Dehra Dun he offered a capsule on accelerated learning. At the Gandhigram University he served as a resource person initiating the participants into academic and research writing.

Fr. Ignacimuthu took part in a brainstorming session of scientists selected by CSIR, New Delhi in finding ways to combat tuberculosis and malaria.

Fr. Louis has raised the spiritual atmosphere of the College Hostel by a notch by erecting an inspiring grotto at the entrance of the hostel.

For the Nool Maalai in September, **Fr. M.A. Joe Antony** organized a thought-provoking discussion on **Fr. M.V. Dasan's** book regarding the caste conflict in our country.

Fr. Maria Augustine along with Dr. Victor Louis Anthuvan organized a four-day Rural Exposure programme at Kuppayanallur for all the first-year students of LIBA.

Fr. Mahalingam conducted a four-day seminar on Socio-political Awareness for the novices and tertians of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Anne, Madavaram.

Emmanuel

ANANDA COLLEGE, DEVAKOTTAI

During this academic year, we organized *Kalai Ilakiya Puthagavizha* in August to highlight the importance of Tamil Literature and promote a reading habit among the rural youth. During these four days there were 30 bookstalls attracting nearly 10,000 people. In the last academic year we had 7 university rank holders and 14 university blues in sports and games.

G. Pushparaj

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

Fr. Lourdusamy and **Fr. Vincent Sekar** participated in the Jesuit writers' convention in Bangalore.

On Sept 27 the community prayed for the entire Society and each member was asked to pray specially for the community where he had lived earlier.

G. Leonard

ST. XAVIER'S INSTITUTIONS, PALAYAMKOTTAI

On 3 Sept Fr. Anbarasu along with **Schs. Vincent, Francis Xavier, Magesh** and **Sahay** gave an orientation programme for the students of eleventh and twelfth standards at St. Francis Xavier Hr. Sec. School, Manguzhy. The members of our community showed their solidarity with the people of Idinthakarai by going in batches and actively taking part in the hunger strike that was organized for the closure of Kudankulam nuclear power plant.

On 5 Sept the Teachers' Day was celebrated in the school. The teachers who had completed 25 years of service in our school were honoured on this occasion.

Our boys won the Inter-School Championship trophy in the district level sports competitions conducted by Bell Pins and SDAT, Tirunelveli. We are also happy to note that the school football, hockey, volleyball and tabletennis teams have been qualified for the divisional matches.

A one-day seminar on "Human Rights Education" was held in our school and about sixty teachers from various parts of the city participated in it. **Fr. Cyril** was the resource person.

The Alumni Association unit in the school gave away free uniforms to 120 deserving students.

On 3 Sept the department of Computer Science in SXC celebrated its Silver Jubilee. On 13 Sept the College had its 89th Sports Day.

On 22 and 23, the College conducted Inter-Departmental Competitions, called INDECO'11. On 27, the UGC sponsored a National Seminar on "ICT enabled Teaching-Learning through Smart Class Room Facility" organized for all the staff in the College.

The inauguration of an Endowment in honour of the late **Dr. S. Innasi** was organized by the department of Tamil on 29 Sept. **Prof. Solomon Pappiah** was the Chief Guest and he spoke on the life and contribution of Dr. S. Innasi to Tamil Literature. **Fr. V.M. Gnanapragasam** and **Fr. A. Lourdasamy** were special guests at the function.

The students of Viscom department made a collective effort in exhibiting for about three days the photos of the genocide in Sri Lanka for all to realize the post-war effect in the island.

The College of Education was reopened for the academic year 2011-12. They had a good start with an orientation, given by **Fr. S. Amaladoss**.

On 16 and 17, Sep, a UGC sponsored National Seminar on "Human Rights Education" was organized for the teacher educators and research scholars in our College.

The Teachers' Day was celebrated with full gusto on 19 Sept and Bishop Jude Paulraj graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. It turned out to be an occasion to honour the best teacher awardees of our College. The presentation of a cultural programme by five colleges was a treat to all present. **Fr. Jesudoss**, the Director of the Alumni Association deserves our appreciation for organizing it well.

On 21 Sept a special seminar for B. Ed students on "Basic Legal Education and Human Rights" was conducted by **Fr. Stephen Kulandaisamy**.

On 2 Sept **Fr. Britto Vincent** served as Resource Person in a seminar on 'Ethnomusicology' to the Faculty, research scholars and PG students of the departments of Anthropology and Performing Arts at Pondicherry University.

Sahayaraj Vijayan

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

On 21st September, a new generator with an output of 320 KVA was commissioned with UGC funds.

Fr. Susai's memory has been perpetuated by an AC Hall in the Jesuit Residence used for meetings and recreation. The two halls on the ground floor of Arrupe

Library have been named after **Frs. C.K. Swamy** and **K.P. Joseph**.

The non-teaching staff of the College went on a pilgrimage to Poondi on 17th September. **Fr Wellington** accompanied them and celebrated Mass in the shrine.

The Jesuit scholastics and priests of our community went to Uthagamandalam on a two-day tour. The lofty hills and the dense forests lifted and refreshed their body and mind.

Sch. Antony Inico presented two research papers on Work Life Balancing in Human Resource and Cyber Security in E-commerce at two international conferences held in Madras Christian College and Sri Sai Ram Engineering College, Chennai.

The teaching and non-teaching staff of the College made their retreat on 24th September.

Around 300 boys, mainly from Computer Science department made a pilgrimage walking to the Shrine of Poondi Matha on 24th September.

The School Annual Day was held on 26th August. Due to inclement weather, it was held in the Lawley Hall. **Msgr. Thomas Paulsamy**, VG, an alumnus, the Chief Guest, paid rich tributes to the formation he had received from the Jesuits both in the school and in the seminary.

Accompanied by the Jesuit staff, the school staff made a pilgrimage to Vailankanni on 17th September. The Veeramamunivar Tamil Literary Association in the school was inaugurated on 19th September.

Sebastian Anand

LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

A team of 50 students of Eco Club participated in a two-day seminar conducted by Anglade Institute of Natural History in Kodaikanal on the 1st and 2nd Sept. With the input gained from the programme a campus cleaning programme was performed by the Eco Club on 28th, the Green Consumer Day.

Teachers' Day was celebrated on 7th as a mark of reverence and gratitude to the valuable contribution rendered by our staff in shaping the career of students. On the same day a warm welcome was extended to **Ms. Catherine**, a volunteer from Germany to teach English.

On 23rd **Fr. Royce** presented a paper on ELT in a State level seminar conducted by the Department of English, Sacred Heart College, Tirupathur. Departments of Mathematics and Commerce organized seminars on the 27th and 29th respectively.

Fr. Michael Doss organized a one-day Orientation Programme for boys and girls separately on 30th of Sep and 1st of Oct. Theologians from Arul Kadal handled the programme and guided the students with life-oriented skills.

Poondy Rajan

SJF, PERUMALMALAI

Fr. S. Arockiam took time off from his agro-dairy farming operations to direct an 8-day retreat from 1 to 9 September for the (Coimbatore) Presentation Sisters at Madurai. Just before the Orissa floods, **Fr. Devadoss** facilitated a consultation of Jamshedpur Jesuits working for/in Orissa on 3 and 4 September at XIM, Bhubaneswar. The outcome of the consultation was an unanimous appeal to Father General to establish the Odisha Jesuit Mission which could be re-designated within the next three to five years as a Dependent Region. Draft Statutes providing for the administration of the Odisha Jesuit Mission within the Jamshedpur Province were prepared and unanimously endorsed by the participants for submission to Fr. General. On his way back, in Chennai, Fr. Devadoss was happy to join an African get-together with the visiting Rwanda-Burundi Regional Superior **Fr. Augustin Karekezi** whom he accompanied in his visit to Dindigul and Madurai. On 13 September, he took part in a meeting at Kochi of a Commission set up by the Kerala Provincial to study the feasibility of starting an Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Kerala Province.

On 15 September, the last day of his visitation of our houses in Kodai Hills, the Provincial met all the Estate Jesuits at Manalur. He flagged a few issues which would be taken up soon in a special meeting of our Estate managers. His sharing was followed by a Eucharist and a tasty meal. **Fr. AMA** returned to Bodhi Zendo, Perumalmalai, on 28 September after his yearly visit to his students in Europe.

M. Devadoss

DHYANA ASHRAM CHENNAI

In connection with the year of Catechesis **Fr. Thamburaj** animated around 400 youths of Chingleput diocese at the Shrine of our Lady of Mazhai Malai, in Acharappakkam. All of them youthfully and enthusiastically participated in this programme. On the occasion of the birth-centenary of Mother Teresa he gave a recollection to St. Paul's Seminarists in Tiruchi. On 17 and 18 he initiated the youth into the 19th Annotation Retreat in Dhyana Ashram. **Frs. Jerry** and **Henry Jerome** gave a course on 'Creative Faiths for Youth Leaders' in Loyola College. On 3 Sep. DHANAM Workshop was conducted by Fr. Jerry and TRANSACS for health workers. It was an eye-opener for the laity.

Selvaraj

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

After three months of ministry in Seychelles, **Fr. Edward Jeganathan** is back home. As we are approaching the forthcoming local body election in our State, a few candidates of PEAK attended leadership training at Deepam centre in Batlagundu. On 28th September the tertians came back after their one-month Ignatian experiment.

S. Manickam

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

ICRDCE is in the process of reviewing the Community Colleges in order to enhance their quality. The North Central India Workshop was conducted at Ranchi on the 17 and 18 Sept. in which there were 46 participants belonging to six States.

DACA, MADURAI

Frs. Antoniraj and **Rajarithinam** attended the workshop organized by Cure 2 Children Foundation on September 5 and 6 on Thalassaemia Cure and Prevention. Fr. Antoniraj presented a paper on 'Education and Empowerment of Young Women: The experience of the Madurai Jesuit Downtrodden People's Welfare Trust'. Our Ceyrac Hospital Nurses won the First Prize in the quiz competition conducted on Thalassaemia workshop.

DACA focuses on economic development for poor women through Micro Finance Assistance. This month 15 poor Dalit women in 9 Self-Help Groups were financially assisted with Rs.10000 each for the purchase of 9 cows and 12 goats. These poor women earn Rs.100 daily through sale of milk while the goats have become assets for the other women.

The Madurai Corporation has again sanctioned two skills training centres on Computer Hardware and Software and Embroidery Fashion Design Technology to DACA. Forty girls in each skill are trained for six months.

Fr. Rajarithinam and **Mr. Samson** trained 18 Animators of Madurai City Conservancy Workers. TNCWC and TAAMS (Tamil Nadu Adiandra Saba) conducted the State level Consultation, etc., on 20 and 21 Sept at Chennai. Many recommendations were documented for the rightful claims of conservancy workers. Central government officials promised to implement and present the documents to the Prime Minister and the National Advisory Council at New Delhi for follow-up.

Rajarithinam

LATI, MADURAI

Students of Loyola-IGNOU Community College (LICC) attended a three-day workshop organized by Anglade Institute. 'Keep Clean and Green' is the aim set by the students for themselves. The LICC nodal officer inaugurated the soft skill training programme. A one-day workshop on the dangers of drugs and alcoholic drinks was conducted here. Tree saplings were recently planted in the campus by **Br. Ignacy**, the staff and students of ITI.

Fr. Stephen J. Muthu addressed the National Conference at IGNOU Community College for Sustainable Livelihoods. The entire staff of LATI attended a two-day training on *Capacity Building* at ISI, Bangalore followed by a city tour.

Fr. S. Arockiam from Perumalmalai preached a recollection to the community in preparation for the

Feast of the Birthday of Our Lady on 8 Sept. **Frs. Gabriel Lawrence** and **Boniface** preached retreats in Vadipatti and Thanjavur respectively.

Boniface

KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

Kalankarai staff and the leaders of the Widows' Movement had a two-day review and evaluation in Dhyana Ashram, Chennai of the strategic plan evolved in 2008. **Mrs. Beulah**, director of ECOMWELL, guided the group in the process of self-introspection.

Ten members of the Widows' Movement took part in a two-day training programme organized by a women's network called 'IWID' in Chennai on natural collective farming. Becoming aware of the importance of organic farming, the participants of the programme are making efforts with the help of Kalangarai to obtain land for lease in eight places, minimum of one acre in each place and do natural farming collectively, as women / widows.

A legal training for two days was organized for the abandoned women at Nagapattinam. **Mr. Thiyagarajan**, a lawyer from Poombugar came down to the level of the ordinary women and conducted lively sessions for them.

Two Sisters from Salesian Missionaries of Mary Immaculate (SMMI) had their immersion for two months. Also, thirteen novices of the same Congregation came from Bangalore to Kalangarai for ten days of rural exposure programme. While sharing their experiences among themselves on the last day, they said that the experience was an 'eye-opener' to the reality around and threw quite a bit of challenges to their religious life.

Fr. A. Irudayaraj took sessions on Special Economic Zones (SEZ) to the Sisters of St. Anne's of Madavaram in Chennai and **Fr. Paul Mike** facilitated a daylong meeting of the social activists of the same Congregation in Thanjavur.

A. Irudayaraj

LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RANIPET

Towards the end of last month, there was an orientation programme for our hostellers conducted by **Mr. Regis** from LTI Community College Madurai. His motivating talk helped our students grasp the importance of acquiring skills in the trade of their choice.

On the 15th September the inmates assembled before the altar of God in order to invoke the blessings of the Holy Spirit. **Fr. Lourdusamy**, the correspondent of St. Joseph's Matriculation School, Vepore, presided over the Concelebrated Mass and stressed the need to acquire the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our day-to-day life.

Sch. James of LASAC gave an orientation seminar to our students in the school for a half day on 16th September. His talk helped our students to live

their lives with a purpose and strive to realize this purpose.

Vedanayagam

PAATHAI HOUSE

DHRC and Paathai Centre have jointly facilitated a three-week-long immersion experience to **Sch. John Paul** from Arul Kadal. His stay and contributions in terms of imparting education to children of Sithlingamadam village and its surroundings in Villupuram district were highly remarkable. It was a two-way process; he learnt lessons from the people for his theology; also our tuition centre was revived. At the end, a cultural evening was organized to reveal the talents of the children. He enthused the people by his presence. The children have picked up the culture of evening study in an organized manner.

We conducted an intensive coaching camp for 10th std. students at Devigapuram in Thiruvannamalai district on Sept 18. **Fr. Arockia Dass** and **Sch. Robinson** animated the students.

As a preparation for the local election, seminars were organized on panchayat election at Paathai Centre on Sept 18 and 25 respectively. **Fr. Yesumarian** was the resource person; around 250 participants were benefited from these seminars.

Robinson Antony

IDEAS

September has its own special thrill to offer us, for that is the month of the annual tour of our Jesuit and lay staff, LAAS and KARISAL: This year on 20 and 21 Sept. Mysore was the destination for 25 of us. **Fr. Augustin Karekezi**, Regional Superior of Rwanda-Burundi Region, was our privileged guest this month. On 29 Sept. our co-workers were briefed on the policy guidelines and practical changes in the revised pay scale. At the Social Action Commission meeting called for by Coordinator **Fr. Michael Raj** on 14 Sept., **Fr. M. K. George**, Director of ISI-B'lore, sought suggestions for productive collaboration with South Zone JESA to make outreach programmes of ISI more effective.

Acting on the recommendation of the Social Action Commission, **Fr. Michael Raj** led a five-member team, including **Fr. Jebamalai Raja** and **Fr. Sahayaraj**, to Idinthakarai in support of the fast of 127 women and men against the Koodankulam atomic power plant. He organized also at Batlagundu on 24 and 25 Sept., 45 panchayat election candidates from Kodaikanal, Ottanchatram, Sivakasi and Sattur taluks. They were grilled through various exercises to develop their skills in leadership, negotiation, bargaining and decision-making. On 10 Sept., **Fr. Stephen Martin** guided his Media Education Trainers' Team to impart media education to 200 girl students at Little Flower HS School, Nagamalai-Pudukottai. On 17 Sept., he spoke on *Women-Media Consumerism* at a seminar for 60 women organized by the Women's Commission of

Dindigul Diocese. The following day, his latest book *Moontraam Paarvai* was released at a public function in Dindigul organized by Vettrimozhi Publications.

As one of the juniors among the seniors, **Fr Michael Jeyaraj** agd 73 enjoyed the meeting of 70 + years Jesuits. He took part in the one-day consultation of the MMSI Sisters (Medical Mission Secular Institute) to plan for their Interim Assembly. He was invited by the SCAD Group of Institutions to address their 30 Principals and Directors at a one-day seminar on *Personal Effectiveness*. **Fr Aloysius Irudayam** was a resource person at ISI-Bangalore for a course on *Basic Research Methodology for Social Advocacy* from 13 to 18 Sept.

Top on our training list this month was *Social Analysis* conducted for 15 NGO animators and movement cadres from 1 to 10 Sept. Thirty eight students from the Kodai Community College came to IDEAS to get trained in *Personality Development* from 14 to 17 Sept. On 18 Sept. VIDYAL group, 20 Dalit women and men from Devakottai had the support of IDEAS regarding *Local Governance and Elections*.

Aloysius Irudayam

JRS NEWS

JRS-TN heartily welcomes **Fr. Stany Fernandes** (Pune) the newly appointed South Asian JRS Director who has succeeded **Fr. Louis Prakash** on Aug 12 in a meeting attended by **Frs. Peter Balleis** and **Edward Mudavassery** at ISI, Delhi. Tirelessly and unstintingly Fr. Louis Prakash worked for the cause of refugees at the regional and international arenas. His life and deeds gave visibility and vibrancy to the objective of JRS: 'To Show the compassionate face of God to those waiting for deportation'. We arranged a befitting farewell party at Beschi Illam; during the function the refugees expressed their gratitude and love.

The JRS staff and students were brightened up by the encouragement given by **Fr. Louis** during his camp visits to Nellai and Thiruvannamalai zones.

Based on the needs, the following courses were arranged for refugees: counselling course for the JRS coordinators at Beschi by **Fr. Britto Peter** and **Sch. Richard**; Refresher course for the JRS counsellors at Sirumalai by **Fr. Stanislaus** CSSR; Five-day English Training for the college students at Beschi by **Sch. Philip Kumar**; Course on The Rights of Refugees at St. Xavier's school, Palayamkottai and Beschi by **Fr. Stephen Kulandai**.

The quarterly teachers' training programme also was conducted in all the Zones.

Raja

M.S. JACOB WRITES FROM THE USA...

I made my maiden visit to the USA alone. I arrived in Houston safe and sound on the 5th of August, 2011.

I have been fortunate enough to travel to a number of cities like Houston, Florida, Iowa, Chicago, Milwaukee, San Francisco, New York, Boston and Washington D.C. I have visited so far 11 community colleges across the USA. They are almost like our university colleges in India with more than 12,000 student population in each community college. In terms of infrastructure, students' success and support and other facilities, our university colleges have a lot to learn from these community colleges. Nearly 54 per cent of the enrolled population of the students in the USA, go through the community colleges now. When there is a downturn of economy, the enrolment in the community colleges goes up just because many people are laid off their jobs. They go to community colleges to update their knowledge and skills.

I was very happy to celebrate weekday and Sunday Masses for about a month in the parishes of Woodlands, Texas and Daytona Beach, Florida. It was a great experience for me to partake in the Catholic faith of the American people. I sat at the confessional too. It was highly pleasing to see many faithful still making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation as a beautiful exercise of purification and preparation. The church is fully packed for all Masses on Sundays and still very much vibrant with Catholic devotion in all these parishes. The lay participation is stunningly marvellous.

Wherever I went, I noticed it was green all over, clean and serene. Everything is moving, everything is alive and time does not matter at all. I really succumbed to its brilliance and beauty everywhere. We think of ourselves as a young country, the New World, but travelling through America made me realize that we are a lot older than we think. Even at the age of 80 plus, the people here including the Jesuits (I was mostly driven by the Aged Jesuits) drive cars and trucks, do their own cleaning and washing. There is no luxury of having many workers. I was touched by the warm reception and hospitality of the American Jesuits. I also met a few Indian Jesuits who took me around a few places and restaurants.

I am also invited by the CCID – Community Colleges for International Development to attend the US – INDIA Higher Education Summit, 2011, as a follow-up of Obama - Singh Educational Initiatives on 12 and 13 Oct 2011 in Washington D.C. It is a great opportunity for me to attend this summit as nearly 300 invited educational experts from the US and India will be attending the same. I remain greatly grateful to our Province for this blessed opportunity. It is a great honour and joy to be a Jesuit. I will be back at Loyola on 17 October.

ARIYAMANGALAM PARISH AND SCHOOL

August 15 was marked with twin celebration of the Assumption of Our Lady and the Independence Day of our country when a statue of Mother Mary was erected in the school premise and saplings were planted. **Fr. John Britto**, the Rector graced the

occasion. Each teacher with a few 6th to 8th class students is entrusted with the responsibility of taking care of the plants.

Fr. Rex Pai and **Br. Joe Natarajan** were with the school teachers and students on the occasion of the Teachers' Day held on Sep 5th. In his beautiful address in Tamil, Fr. Rex, invited the teachers to be committed to the cause of children's growth. An orientation programme for the school teachers was held at Mullaikudi on 11th September. The task of whitewashing the school building has been completed by **Fr. Felix Joseph**.

A wellspring now called Annai Arul Ootru which supplies drinking water to the whole village of Ariyamangalam was purified and special Mass is being offered every 3rd Saturday of the month. **Frs. Thomas** and **John Michael** were here on 3rd July and gave a fillip to the faith of the people. On that day our parishioners started their annual pilgrimage to Vailankanni on foot.

Two chapels in the substations have been completely renovated. As part of formation, **Sch. Tony** from Arul Kadal was here at Sircarpalayam. An orientation for life was organized for the youth of the parish; thirty youths participated in it and requested us to conduct a session on career guidance.

About 170 children and adults are getting ready to receive Confirmation. Catechism classes are conducted by the Seva Missionary Sisters and Cluny Sisters. The catechist volunteers met the Bishop and he gave them guidelines.

K. Arockiam

SUPAM MEET - 04 - BESCHI

It was a rejuvenating experience for the eight deacons to come together and share their rich pastoral encounters after nearly two months in their respective SUPAM places. **Fr. Jerry**, the SUPAM Coordinator, ably and creatively animated the sharing which rightly culminated with a meaningful Eucharist. The Socio-Pastoral analysis report of each supamite was indicative of the committed involvement and exploration of the new mission area to reach out to the people of God. The presence of **Fr. Britto Peter**, PCF, was very heart-warming and encouraging. He appreciated our way of proceeding with innovative responses even in unfavourable situations. It was also a time of grace for us as we had a fruitful interaction with Fr. Provincial for improving the ambience for varied apostolates in the Province with special focus on formation.

Victor Roch

JESUIT WRITERS' MEETING

The JESCOM southern zone organized a two-day meeting for the Jesuit writers of South India on 24 and 25 September at Ashirvad, Bangalore. The objective of the meeting was to bring together the Jesuit writers to share their experiences and to plan

for the joint ventures at different levels. Twenty-four Jesuits - one from Andhra, seven from Karnataka, three from Kerala and thirteen from Madurai - participated in the meeting. The members shared not only their experiences of writing on various issues but also their joys and sorrows of publishing their writings. They encouraged one another to continue this mission of writing for the transformation of society and for the greater glory of God. Apart from sharing, they planned many joint ventures including entering into secular media, using website and other electronic media for promoting their writings, creating a mechanism for translation of their publications, special writing workshops for those in formation, concentrating on booklets for children and publishing a directory of Jesuit writers. It was decided to organize such meetings at the Province and National levels and continue the Zonal meetings once in three years.

Maria Singarayar

VAIGARAI PATHIPPAGAM

Vaigarai is restructured with the following modifications: Hereafter instead of the Vaigarai Board which also served as the Trust members and Province Censor Board, there will be the Vaigarai Editorial Team to select, edit, process and publish the manuscripts of Vaigarai only. The TRUST members will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the units, accounts and submitting returns to IT, planning and development of the units.

Our sincere thanks to the Board Members, starting from Fr. Joe Antony who was our Chairman for several years and Fr. Joe Arun, Secretary and all the Members: **Frs. M. Amaladoss, V. M. Dasan, Sebastian Anand, Eugene Sebastine and Stephen Martin**, for their services and contributions to the growth and expansion of Vaigarai in all the possible ways especially in the selection and editing of the manuscripts.

Fr. Provincial has appointed the following members for the Editorial Team: **Frs. Raj Irudaya, Jebamalai Irudayaraj, Arockiasamy Xavier, Stephen Martin, Vima Dasan, Xavier Antony, Irudayaraj A. and Maria Singarayar**. The following are the Trust members: **Frs. Provincial, Socius, Maria Singarayar, Royappan, Raj Irudaya, Stephen Martin and Marivalan Rayappan**.

Singarayar

NEW RELEASES

உன்னோடு கடவுள், சேவியர் இருதயராஜ், an adaptation of *Inspiring Messages for Daily Living*, pp. 56, Rs.40

Insights and Outlooks: Vol. I, Mathew Moollel, pp. 36

Human Rights Education & Manitha Urimai Kalvi (two text books for VI & VII stds. in English and Tamil separately), by Aloysius Irudayam, Cyril Antony *et al*, published by Mithra Foundation, TNP-CRI & IDEAS, 2011, Rs. 35.

FOR OUR ENLIGHTENMENT

Books that you have read and found useful may be recommended to the MNL readers in this column.

Editor MNL

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Br Varghese Nedungatt (KER), 82/59, expired on 13 Sept at Pariyaram

Mr. Nicholas Nithianandam (75) elder brother of Br. Sathanandam on 8 Sept

Mrs. Maria Muthu (92), grandmother of Sch. Leo Anand on 12 Sept

Mrs. Pragasiammal (89) mother of Fr. Francis Sales on 15 Sept

Mr. Savarimuthu (82) elder brother of Br. M. Joseph on 5 Oct

LOVING EVERY PERSON

The most amazing application of the Golden Rule I have ever come across is in the book by Dr George Ritchie, *Return from Tomorrow*. Ritchie was a doctor with the American troops in World War II. He took part in the liberation of the holocaust victims in the infamous concentration camps of Nazi Germany, where these victims and many others were kept in subhuman conditions.

In a camp near Wuppertal, Ritchie explains that he became acquainted with a Polish prisoner, a lawyer with an “unpronounceable name” nick named “Wild Bill Cody” by American soldiers because of his long, drooping handlebar mustaches. “Wild Bill” was one of the inmates, but because he just radiated health - shining bright eyes, an erect posture, boundless energy - Ritchie assumed he had been brought to the camp shortly before liberation. Fluent in a number of European languages, Wild Bill became an unofficial camp translator, helping the Americans in their numerous tasks. Despite fifteen and sixteen hour days with a staggering workload, he never showed any signs of weariness. His compassion for the other inmates was endless. Every ethnic group in the camp - between whom there were numerous hate-filled antagonisms - looked upon him as a friend.

So Ritchie was dumbfounded the day he learned that the Polish lawyer had been in the camp since ... 1939! He was a medical miracle - totally unexplainable in medical terms, at least at that time. For six years he had lived in disease-ridden barracks, eating nameless stuff called “food”, surviving in conditions that had either killed or reduced to skeletal vestiges of humanity thousands of others. Yet here he was, in glowing health, without any sign of mental or even physical deterioration. What was his secret?

At the beginning of the war, he was living in the Warsaw ghetto with his wife and five children. One day, the Nazis arrived on their street, lined everyone against the wall - except the lawyer, because he spoke German - and opened fire with machine guns, killing everyone, his wife and five children included. Right in front of his eyes. In vain, Wild Bill had pleaded to be shot with his family.

He paused, perhaps seeing again his wife and five children. “I had to decide right then,” he continued, “whether to let myself hate the soldiers who had done this. It was an easy decision, really. I was a lawyer. In my practice, I had seen too often what hate could do to people’s minds and bodies. Hate had just killed the six people who mattered most to me in the world. I decided then that I would spend the rest of my life - whether it was a few days or many years - loving every person I came in contact with.”

An interesting point in this amazing story is that the lawyer’s decision to forgive and love was not made on “religious” grounds, in the traditional sense of the word, not as a reply to some religious command or ethical imperative. It was based simply on his observation of life, and the understanding that love regenerates, while hate destroys - starting with the one who does the hating.

(Courtesy: *The Gentle Art of Blessing*, Pierre Pradervand, St Paul’s Publications, pp.79-81)