



# JANUARY 2010

(For Private Circulation)

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### January

- 16-17 Chennai: Visitation: Dhyana Ashram
- 18-19 Chennai: Visitation: Arul Kadal
- 20 AM Chennai: Visitation: Satya Nilayam
- 20PM-21 Chennai: Visitation: Berchmans Illam
- 23 Dindigul: Consult with Finance Commission and Asst Treas. General
- 27-30 Kanyakumari: TNPCRI Regional Assembly
- 30-31 Dindigul: Beschi: TVET Commission GBM

### February

- 06-07 Dindigul: Beschi: Formation Commission GBM
- 08-14 Tiruchi: Visitation: St. Joseph's College
- 12 SUPAM
- 13 Tiruchi: AICUF House: Youth Commission GBM
- 15 Tiruchi: Visitation: Clive's House

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- \* **Father General** has appointed **Fr. Miguel Cruzado Silveri** Provincial of the Peru Province.
- \* **Transfers:**
  - Fr. Paul de La Gueriviere** from ISI, Delhi, to SXC, Palayamkottai
  - Fr. Chacko Valiaveetil** from Thozhamai Illam to Beschi Illam, Dindigul
  - Fr. Sahaya Wilfred** from Vallam to Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
  - Fr. Mark Stephen** from Mettupalayam to Loyola College, Chennai (in charge of Loyola Academy, Vadampakkam)
- \* **A special programme for our domestic workers** is planned and organized jointly by Youth Commission and IDEAS in IDEAS from 23rd Jan. (9.00 a.m. to 24th 4.00 p.m.) Kindly encourage

### Golden Jubilee of Berchmans Illam

We, the Juniors of Berchmans Illam, Loyola College, Chennai, will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Illam at the end of February 2010.

We gratefully remember and pray for all those who stayed and passed out from here in the past 47 yrs.

We invite you all to be with us and share the joy with us.

Besides, we propose to bring out a Souvenir of the Jubilee. We would be happy to publish your greetings and reflections, reminiscing your stay in this house. Kindly send them before 15<sup>th</sup> of January to: [krisjkumar2000@gmail.com](mailto:krisjkumar2000@gmail.com), [berchjournal@gmail.com](mailto:berchjournal@gmail.com)

### Vaigarai Publishing House

### Silver Jubilee Celebrations

Sunday, 21st February 2010 at 10.00 am  
St. Mary's, Dindigul. All are welcome.

our domestic workers to take part in the programme. Contact: 94434 78751 & 9943190056.

- \* **Fr. Stephen Rodrigo** is in the Province for his holidays.
- \* **Br. Alangaram M. Arockiam** ceased to be a member of the Society from 31.08.2009
- \* **SRI LANKA: The Province Curia is shifted to Negombo from Colombo.** New Address: The Provincialate, St. Xavier's Institute, Akkara Panaha, Negombo - 11500, Sri Lanka. Telephone Number: 0094 - 11 3150611; Mobile: 07778 74242
- \* **St. Mary's H.S. School, Dindigul** has a new Fax no: 0451-2441314.

## NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

### LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

**Fr A. Victor** was at LIBA on 6 December and gave the Christmas Message. LIBA students shared their joy by contributing Rs 55,000 towards helping the four organisations working with the marginalised.

**Shri Venu Srinivasan**, President CII, was the chief guest at the LIBA Convocation held on 31<sup>st</sup> October. As LIBA completes 30 years of service, **Fr K. Amal**, Rector honoured its past directors **Fr N. Casimir Raj**, **Fr K.C. George** and **Fr Louis Xavier** on that day.

LIBA Students in consultation with business magnates designed and neatly executed *Insight '09*, now an eagerly expected annual event. The inputs on the topic this year '*Riding the new wave: Emerging new business models*' were inaugurated by **Shri C.K. Ranganathan**, CEO and MD, CavinKare.

LIBA received Mehta Business School Award on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009 on two counts: Meritorious awards were presented to eight winners at a pan-India Business plan competition organised by the Entrepreneurship cell (E-Cell) at LIBA and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiEcon), Chennai on November 27, 2009.

At Mumbai LIBA was awarded the 17<sup>th</sup> Dewang as the best Business School that encourages Leadership as a part of the Curriculum and also for its Best Academic Input (Syllabus) in Finance.

**Fr Francis P. Xavier** was invited to conduct a workshop on 'Soft-skills in Education' for the educators of the Congregation of JMJ in Hyderabad.

**Dr. Baldev Raj**, Distinguished Scientist at Kalpakkam delivered an endowment lecture in LIFE on 'An Approach to Energy Sustainability'.

Two significant events this month kept RACE Loyola ticking. The annual day celebration was clubbed with the Convocation in an eventful ceremony. Fr. Victor our Regional Superior gave the convocation address.

Right to Learn English [R2LE] was the theme of a consultation we had with some NGOs running schools in the neighbouring country side, ELT content developers and Media support persons. The idea was to enable and ensure State Board children learn English comprehensively. Two practical outcome of this consultation are a) Class-in-a-box: a media supported, activity based, communicative approach to English and the second b) Talk time English [TTE] where anyone, anywhere, anytime can call a toll free number to learn, address queries or merely interact in English. The leg work for this project has begun; we welcome anyone interested in this project to be part of the process.

**Fr. Francis Peter** conducted his by now well known 'Teacher Development Workshops' at Kolhapur, Mumbai, Surat and Bhopal.

A. G. Leonard

### LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

We have started the second semester with renewed vigour and zest on 7th December. On 15th December we organized a one-day seminar on "Impact of Globalization with special reference to Special

Economic Zones in India". **Sch. Poondirajan** looked after the arrangement of the seminar. Also a one-day life orientation programme was conducted by Arul Kadal Scholastics for all the students on 19th December.

The inter-departmental cultural festival "LOYOFEST '09" inaugurated by **Fr. Ignatius Amalraj** was impressively celebrated. The local panchayat presidents were invited and honoured during the valedictory function held on 22nd December.

We had a meaningful Christmas celebration with the staff and the students on 23rd December. **Msgr. Joe Lourdasamy** delivered the Christmas message. He was appreciative of our works.

Congrats to **Fr. Elias**, Principal of the college, for the efforts taken to start computer literacy course in our campus to the school dropout students with the help of Government Welfare Board.

Poondi rajan

### LOYOLA TRAINING CENTRE, RANIPET

Our sports day was celebrated on 5th December. It was marked by a lively march past; the finals for the 100 metres, 400 metres, 800 metres relay, volley ball match etc. were held.

Our school had Christmas celebration on 22nd December. It was presided over by **Fr. Francis P. Xavier**, from Loyola College Chennai. On that occasion we had the blessing and commissioning of the safe water unit in the campus, thanks to the generous donation of our German friends **Mr. Turgay** and **Ms. Mary**. They are teaching English and Air Conditioning in our centre.

I. Vedanayagam

### JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

Pre-novices had lively Community Celebrations NEST '09 for ten days. This instilled in them team spirit and they learnt to work together. **Fr. X. Savarimuthu's** presence added joy to the community on the day of the culmination of NEST '09.

Our Superior's strenuous efforts saved the crops from being inundated by the flood. **Schs. Clement** and **Viji** motivated the X std. students of St. Joseph's High School at Pattukottai.

The Parish church at Thirumanur had a record number of devotees at the Christmas vigil Mass. Kudos to **Fr. Baskar** who worked round the clock to tend his parishioners.

Viji Bose

### DNC, PUNE

From 16th to 20th of November Fr. POSA visited JDV and DNC. His visit helped us renew our vigour and zeal. On the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the newly ordained priests who had been staying in DNC celebrated a solemn Mass for the community. On the same day **Fr. Robin** joined DNC community after having successfully completed his assignment in Harare. We gave him a warm welcome. On 4th December, the entire JDV with its past and present students mourned the demise of **Fr. Joseph Neuner**. The funeral Mass, was presided over by the **Most Rev.**

**Albert D' Souza**, the Archbishop of Agra. We are now in the midst of our Xmas vacation. We heartily wish everyone in the Province a joyous New Year.

*James Raja*

## BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

On 22 December **Fr. Ambrose** gave the Christmas exhortation to the Beschi Community. The St. Mary's Jesuit Community, Dindigul also attended the exhortation. On 23 December, the Community had the Christmas Tree along with the co-workers. **Fr. Paulraj**, the vocation promoter gave the Christmas message. The novices made the occasion alive through an interesting cultural performance.

*A. Leo Pereira*

## ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

St. Mary's Alumni Association conducted a one-day spiritual renewal camp for all our IX std. students with the help of experts from *Vazhga Vazhamudan* group. This was an opportunity to introduce yoga to our students.

All the staff members of St. Mary's Primary School and Hr. Sec. School had a combined Christmas Day celebration on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. The teachers of the primary school rose to the occasion and organised a meaningful and memorable celebration.

*S.M. John Kennedy*

## LATI, MADURAI

A penitential service ending with the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation was conducted for the boys of Loyola hostel by **Fr. M.S. Bastian**.

Christmas was jointly celebrated by LATI. A short play "Environment" got a thunderous and rapturous applause from the audience.

Sports day of Loyola ITI was a great success; the students participated enthusiastically in athletics, indoor and outdoor games. **Fr. Basil** delivered a lecture on "Hell is the other" – Sartrean Existential Anthropology. He also presented a paper titled "Thirukkural Epistemology" on 8 Dec in a seminar organized by the School of Religion, Philosophy and Humanist Thought in MKU. He organized a one-day awareness programme for Arunthathiyar Research Scholars on 10 Dec to commemorate Human Rights Day. **Mr. Ezhil Elangovan** was the resource person.

On invitation **Fr. Stephen J. Muthu** presented a paper on "Soft Skill Training" at a workshop organized by IGNOU.

Our hostel boys celebrated Christmas with the inmates of the Home for the Aged run by Missionaries of Charity **Sch. Berkman** and **George** were behind the show.

*I. Inigo*

## ST. ARULANANDAR, ORIYUR

The Madurai CIC Novices and Novice Mistress did spiritual ministry in all the stations of Oriyur parish for one month. The parishioners took out a procession from Oriyur to Vellaiyapuram highlighting the pitiable plight of the Sri Lankan Tamils. Leaders of various religions and like-minded men and women also participated.

"Bible Week" was celebrated in all the stations of the parish to promote the daily Bible reading habit.

The feast of Christ the King was observed as "Leadership Day" in our parish. All the Functional Groups, with their leaders were honoured and their services duly recognized.

The people of Puliur, one of our sub-stations, have put up a small chapel dedicated to Arockia Madha.

*Victor Desoza*

## XAVERIANA, THOOTHUKUDI

St. Francis Xavier's H.S. School celebrated post-centennial Silver Jubilee on a grand scale. On 1st December Environmental Festival was organized in our school campus. **Fr. John Kennedy** Coordinator, Secondary Education presided over the function. **Thiru. Nammalvar**, Natural Agro Scientist, the Chief Guest of the day, delivered a speech on "Preserving Natural Resources". His talk was very educative, practical and lucid.

On 2nd December **Fr. Oswald**, VG of Thoothukudi Diocese, was the chief celebrant of the Thanksgiving Jubilee Mass.

The Alumni Association arranged a friendly gathering of the former Headmasters and Superiors, Jesuits and old students at 10.30 a.m. **Fr. Lourdu John** and **Fr. K.A. Augustine** were the chief and special guests. Some of the former students and teachers shared their reminiscences and a memento was given to each participant.

The Final Celebration was at 6.15 p.m in the Cathedral campus. The **Most Rev. Yvon Ambrose** presided over the function. **Fr. I. Arul** Superior welcomed the gathering. **Fr. Ignacy**, Headmaster presented the Annual Report. The cooperation of the entire community deserves praise.

Fr. I. Arul conducted an eight-day retreat for the Servite Sisters in St. Mary's College. **Fr. Francis Sales** conducted "Time Structuring" classes for 2000 students of St. Joseph's and St. Anne's H.S. Schools, Tiruchi.

**Fr. Albert Joseph** organized a one-day retreat for Catholic Students and a one-day orientation programme for the staff of Beschi Hr. Sec. School, Ulundurpet. The Christmas Day celebration was organized on 5th December. Fr. Arul, delivered the Christmas message at St. Thomas Mat. Hr. Sec. School.

Our students **Selvan Nijanthan** won a Silver Medal in the Dodge Ball National Level competition held in Chandigarh; **J. Pradeep**, won a Gold Medal in Taek Wondo Regional Level competition held in Goa and L. **Deago Fernando** won Gold Medals held in Regional and State levels.

*Francis Sales*

## ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

On 7th the Director of the hostels gathered the eco-club members and asked them to suggest various ideas as a preparation for Eco-Drawing Exhibition.

The UGC and Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology sponsored the MCA

department of our college to organize a two-day national level seminar on "Data Mining and its Application" held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December.

The GBM of higher education was held on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> on the theme of "Higher Education 2020". **Dr. Thangamuthu**, former Vice Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, **Dr. Palani Durai** and **Dr. Anandavalli** spoke on good and objectionable aspects of higher education and the existing challenges today. **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** presented the implications of a unitary university and the corporate agreement with our colleges was made known by **Fr. Andrew**. The revision was facilitated by **Mr. Isac Mohanlal**, an expert in Minority Educational Rights. **Fr. Provincial's** talk was read at the GBM by **Fr. A. Victor**, Chennai Mission Superior. NSS volunteers pedalled nearly 95 km to promote awareness on climate change.

The Women's Forum organized a one-day seminar on "Women's and Domestic Violence" to increase consciousness in women of self-help groups and villagers in collaboration with the local NGOs. Also a workshop on "Women's Rights and their legal implications" was conducted.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> the Fine Arts Association won the rolling cup in the competitions conducted by UPAKAR, an NGO on the theme "Rain".

The Vincent de Paul Society made Xmas celebration meaningful to 15 families from neighbouring villages by offering needed materials and clothing to children and aged people. **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj**, the Superior and **Fr. Baskar**, the advisor distributed the Christmas gifts. Christmas tree in both boys' and girls' hostel was celebrated simultaneously on 22<sup>nd</sup> evening. A new kiosk designed by Fr. Baskar, the hostel director, was inaugurated and blessed by Fr. Michael Jeyaraj.

The birth of Jesus was celebrated on 23<sup>rd</sup> with a soul-stirring message delivered by **Sch. Anton Robert** who spoke on the acute condition of Sri Lankan Tamils.

The scholastics guided by **Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier** staged a programme for the prisoners in central jail in Madurai on the eve of Christmas.

*Antony Anand*

## ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The three institutions of St. Xavier's jointly organized Eco Awareness Rally on 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, and it made a great impact and on the students' community. Kudos to **Frs. Amaladoss** and **Anbu** who took much effort to make it successful. The Centre for Experiencing Socio-Culture Interaction (CESCI) organized a ten-day workshop on National Music and Festival in which Fr. Britto Vincent was invited to handle a session for half a day on "Music making by Subaltern people" on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov. It was an enriching experience for the scholastics to celebrate Christmas in the Juvenile Home. By their cultural programme they made the children in the home feel the birth of Jesus amidst them. Thanks to **Frs. Anbu** and **Rufus** for their contribution.

Fellowship Day was celebrated in SXHSS on 27<sup>th</sup> Nov by the Alumni Association. **Fr. Yagoo**

accompanied the five-day carol service to all his Staff members' houses along with the adjacent educational units. Alumni association celebrated Christmas with 300 orphanage children in the Child Jesus convent.

The UG students of SXCE have returned after an enriching experience of teaching and learning for a month; The PG and M.Phil students have resumed their classes after three weeks of data collection. The staff had a day of outing to Kalikesam Falls on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. We had the celebration of the Eco-Human Solidarity Day on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec the Day of Human Rights. The inauguration of the Subject Clubs was held on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec. **Fr. Danis Ponniah**, Vice Principal of the SXC, was the chief guest and he invited the students to exploit the opportunities, provided by the College so that their horizon of thinking was extended. **Dr. Francis**, Principal of V.O.C. College, Tuticorin inaugurated the students' council on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. and asked the students to ponder over the practice of Democracy in both their personal and public life. **Fr. Britto Vincent**, Rector, congratulated the council members, wishing the best in their ventures. Our students celebrated Christmas with 150 mentally challenged children and 20 aged people. The students and staff shared their joy by distributing gifts and entertaining them with a cultural programme.

The Dept. of English organized a National Conference on "New Literature in English" **Dr. S. A. Dasan**, Professor of English, University of Mysore, gave the keynote address. About 400 staff members from different colleges participated and presented about 150 research articles. To mark the Human Rights Day on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec the Dept of Economics organized a one-day workshop on Human Rights Education for college students. At the request of the Vice chancellor of MS University, the Principal of the College organized a two-day workshop on "Personality Development and Effective Communication" on 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> December. About 270 professors from various colleges took part. Fr. Vincent Britto was one of the resource persons for the session on Personality Development. From 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. students from different colleges took part in an inter-collegiate festival organized by the various departments and inter collegiate carols competition "SERPHIM 2009". More than 3000 students from various colleges of south Tamil Nadu participated. The culmination of the festivities was the Xmas celebration on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec in which **Dr. V.M.A. Surendra**, Dean of College Development Council, MS University, inspired the audience by his Christmas message. An awareness campaign was organized by Judge Joseph Clinical Lab for 80 persons in and around Palayamkottai. **Dr. Palaniappan** M.D (Micro), Advisor, **Dr. Lawrence Wisely** (Diabetologist) and **Dr. Ayyanar** (Siddha) were the resource persons who delivered lectures. Coaching for NET/ SET examinations were conducted for 20 days on Saturdays and Sundays for the benefit of 27 students of our College and outsiders also.

*M.F. Kennedy*

## ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The different units in the campus, had their Christmas celebrations at different times to suit their convenience with messages from chief guests. What was done by JIM students stands out in a singular way. Thirty thick blankets were distributed to the poor

pavement sleepers. Fifty orphan children from SOC SEED run by Sisters of the Holy Cross, were given gifts and meals, also by JIM students.

**Fr. Joseph Antonysamy** gave lectures on the history of the Society of Jesus to the tertians in Shembaganur. On the occasion of the Human Rights Day on 10th Dec. **Fr.P. Susai**, the Rector gave an endowment lecture on “Human Rights in the context of Eco- Human Solidarity”.

The campus witnessed a gala festival of talents, songs, skits and dances to mention only a few, known as INDEP 2009, a competition among various departments from 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> December. The JIM students stole the show and were adjudged overall winners with several firsts and seconds to their credit. The final day was graced by film Director **Mr. Jananathan** of “Peranmai” fame.

The members of the JIM went on a pilgrimage most of them walking to Poondi on 19th Dec., seeking Our Lady’s blessings ahead of campus placement interviews. The Parent – Teacher interface on 5th Dec., after the publication of results for all I UG students was a resounding success as the administrators gave inspiring inputs to the parents and dispelled the doubts raised.

The College is geared towards academic audit and as a first step a model was demonstrated to a select number of staff and administrators. Our College athletic teams are the winners in the Inter Collegiate Athletic Meet of the University. Our Fine Arts team won the Best Team title at a State level Cultural festival held at Anbil Dharmalingam Agricultural University.

In the 42nd National Library Week Competition for elocution, our student from the School, **Azhivendan**, bagged the first prize.

On 5th Dec. an eco awareness was given to 150 parishioners by **Fr.S.M. Kennedy**. Twenty-two parishioners led by their pastor **Fr.M. Arulanandam** went on a pilgrimage to the Shrine of St Francis Xavier at Goa and the Shrine of Infant Jesus at Bangalore from Dec. 11th to 16th.

The mega event in December was undoubtedly the XII South Zone Congress of Alumni/ae on 27th and 28th. In a glittering function the deliberations were such that one thought of it as a mini Copenhagen Climate Summit. Fr.P.Susai, the Rector, extended a warm welcome to all the delegates. It was a Conference focused on the theme of “Eco restoration and Human Solidarity”. **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Fr. Edward Mudavassery** (POSA), **Fr.A. Victor** and **Mr. Napoleon**, an alumnus addressed around 500 delegates drawn from four Southern Jesuit Provinces. Though the Provincial, **Fr. Devadoss**, could not make it to the conference because of his ill health, his key note address in the form of a Powerpoint presentation came alive thanks to **Fr.John Britto**. Though the speakers were varied they all spoke in unison and the entire focus of the conference was on sustainable development and harmonious living with nature and one another. The interactive session with the former President of India was quite interesting and he pitched for integrity and hard work. All credit goes to **Fr. Mariadoss**, the convener of the Congress, for his

meticulous planning of every aspect of the Congress with the unstinted co-operation of his collaborators.

*Sebastian Anand*

## ICRDCE, CHENNAI

An eight member expert committee on curriculum development headed by **Fr. Xavier Alphonse**, travelled to Papua New Guinea (PNG) and conducted a three-day workshop on the curriculum development for all the officials of the PNG Education Department during the first week of December. ICRDCE team helped in evolving curriculum for fifty trades that will be taken up by twenty Community Colleges. ICRDCE was also very much involved in the selection process of twenty Community Colleges and the training of the teachers for the immediate take off.

*Xavier Alphonse*

## IDEAS, MADURAI

Come to think of our social action centres becoming very dynamic and desiring to become more effective and efficient in their mission! Post-consultation of 22 Directors and Lay Colleagues initiated by **Fr. Michaelraj** as Coordinator on 20 and 21 Oct. in order to seriously consider the emerging new challenges of today and accordingly conduct Participatory Strategic Planning (PSP) sessions in each social centre, the Jesuits and the lay staff of IDEAS and LAAS met together at LAAS campus from 14 to 16 Dec. Alternating between common and separate sittings, they underwent gruelling workshop sessions in order to formulate their respective institute’s new vision and mission, articulate the strategic goals and broad strategic objectives, delineate the short, medium and long term planning and work out the detailed action plans. As prelude and interlude to their deliberative process, they identified the critical issues to be responded to, underwent SWOT analysis and GAPS analysis, took stock of core competencies, listed the core values and core principles of their centres and assessed what task areas should be given more or less attention in future. Our hearty thanks to **Fr. Joe Xavier**, who perceptively, patiently and perseveringly led the participants into this arduous and strenuous but at the same time exciting and fruitful process. IDEAS team met again on 22nd, and will do so once more on 11th Jan., to complete the exercise before the next meeting in mid-January of those social centres involved in this exercise. This gathering is meant to get an overview of the entire strategic planning process and results of these social centres. A little ahead of IDEAS and LAAS, 19 members from KARISAL and 5 from DASTEC, representing their respective people’s movements and staff, had common and separate sittings at IDEAS campus on 08 and 09 Dec. to have a share in this ‘social action aggiornamento’ exercise of the Province social centres.

Other happenings of December on the campus were: on the 19th Thedal Arangam, a social documentary screening-cum-reflection programme organized periodically by **Fr. Stephen** for the benefit of the Madurai-based lay, religious and diocesan clergy, drew the interest of 20 women and 24 men. The day being 6th Dec., it was found opportune to screen documentaries related to the destruction of the

Babri Masjid. Two other noteworthy events were the training of trainers conducted from 11-13 Dec. by Fr. Eugene and attended by 35 coordinators of evening study centres, school teachers and teaching religious Sisters and the first time gathering at IDEAS campus of 24 male and 6 female Arunthathiyar students of M.K. University and others belonging to the Progressive Students Movement – while the former programme helped the trainees in the skills and methods of learning process, the latter helped the students to discover IDEAS as a friendly campus for them to gather together, share experiences, exchange ideas and establish bonding among themselves.

**Frs. Eugene and Aloysius Irudayam** were away in Bangalore on 19th and 20th to participate in a consultation of teachers and coordinators involved in Human Rights Education in schools in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The good news is that both of them have been roped in to join the two teams that will write new text books for VI and VII std. students.

*Aloysius Irudayam*

## AICUF

Ambedkariam Fest-2009 started with pomp, pageantry, colour and gaiety. The State full-timer **Mr. Sundar** explained to the gathering why we have this great kalai vizha called Ambedkariam Fest-2009, its significance and the need for promoting **Dr. Ambedkar** as a great national leader. The chief guest **Mr. Christhudos Gandhi**, IAS in his inaugural speech spoke about the Indian budget in relation to Dalit Personality. In his speech he touched upon current issues and the usefulness of the budget to Dalits and gave a critical understanding of the budget.

On the first day competitions like writing poems, drawing, goulash, street play, folk dance, mime and singing were held and at the end there was an orchestra on awareness songs by the famous folklorist **Mr. Guna**. Kudos to the Ex-co members and the LOC of Holy Cross and St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi.

*Arul Ravi*

## ARIYAMANGALAM PARISH

On the 10<sup>th</sup> morning during the school assembly, social evils were brought to the attention of the pupils through speeches, street plays, group songs and skits. At the end the students took an oath to fight these evils and build a new heaven and a new earth.

On a Sunday, after Mass, parishioners gathered in front of the presbytery when **Fr. M. Asirvatham's** photo was unveiled, for he is remembered for building up the people of the village. During Advent the Cluny Sisters took the statue of Child Jesus to all the houses singing and praying. The children went around singing carols and drew a lot of crowd. The students with the money collected from the onlookers and their pocket money bought new dress for 10 poor children in the school.

## YOUTH COMMISSION

A group of women come together every month from November to share the negative and positive experiences of their problems. These women, mostly deserted widows are from different villages in and

around Dindigul. Some guidance like counselling and legal aid are provided. Around 40 of them took part in the first month and the number is growing. Many expressed that this coming together gave them a lot of meaning and strength to face their life situation with courage and hope. **Fr. Philomin Raj** took part in a consultative meeting called for by the Diocesan Youth Commission in view of the forthcoming Year of Youth 2010. On 10.12.2009, he addressed 50 women in a meeting organized by the NILAM organization at Kumarappanvayal near Avudayarkoil and motivated them to be united to assert their rights in their day-to-day life. On 12 December 2009, he spoke to a gathering of 200 young men in Coimbatore on the theme "Socio – Political Scenario of Tamil Nadu" in a programme arranged by the Salesians in view of creating awareness among youth. At the end of the programme a core group was constituted to address the social issues in and around Coimbatore. On 20 December 2009 a seminar on "Media Education" was organized in Sayalkudi, for the youth in which **Mr. Salo** gave a good analysis on the media. The same day an orientation programme was conducted for a group of 200 women in Palani who want to organize themselves as a people's movement. Periodical training programmes in the forthcoming months have been designed for this group in collaboration with the Holy Cross Sisters.

*Philomin Raj*

## From Jesuits around the world

### AUSTRALIA: Collaboration with laity

The Australian Jesuits have launched a new cross-ministry program to offer to people involved in the apostolic work of the Province a better understanding of their role within the whole apostolic effort of the province. The program strives to deepen understanding of the story of the mission of St. Ignatius, and how his insights continue to shape the way the Society of Jesus and its companions engage in ministry all over the world. It will offer an overview of Ignatius' foundational insights, and the notion of spiritual accompaniment as a way of relating with and supporting others. The program is designed so that people can bring their own perspectives to the Ignatian story. "We all have our own stories and our own journeys. What we'll be doing is outlining what Ignatius got from his journey, then asking how that fits with the insights we have from our journey," said *Loyola Institute* Director Martin Scroope, in his presentation of the program. Twenty four staff from different Province ministries will present the program to new staff members joining Province works, new and recent volunteers, and new board and council members.

### COLOMBIA: For a Mine-free World

From the 29<sup>th</sup> of November to the 4<sup>th</sup> of December over a thousand people gathered in Cartagena, Colombia, for a Summit on a Mine-free World. The summit was organized by the United Nations and was the Second Review Conference ten years since the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention entered into force. Participants came from around the world and

included landmine activists, survivors, and government representatives. The Jesuit Refugee Service, which is a founding member of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, made four explicit requests: for increased support for people affected by mines and cluster bombs and other explosive remnants of war along with their communities; for a more rapid clearance of mine affected areas; that more states be encouraged to sign and ratify the Mine Ban Convention; and that more states be encouraged to sign the Oslo Treaty on Cluster Munitions. Only six more signatories are needed for it to become international law.

### **DENMARK: Jesuits at the UN Climate Change Conference**

José-Ignacio Garcia and Jacques Haers participated as NGO-observers, members of the "Franciscans International" delegation, in the COP15 negotiations at the Bella Center in Copenhagen. As collaborators in OCIPE's team on environmental issues and challenges they have set up a web blog to report and reflect on the unfolding events in the Danish capital, as well as to stimulate the coming into existence of a worldwide ignatian network on ecology. The COP15 negotiations on the continuation of both the Kyoto Protocol and the UNFCCC convention on climate change were crucial to build up a sustainable worldwide strategy to mitigate the human impact on climate change and to unlock the means and funds for adaptation to the consequence of global climate change, particularly in the poor and developing countries that suffer the most, although they have contributed the least to the current crisis. Worldwide climate change and the struggle for just and equitable life patterns on our planet are intimately linked and represent a challenge to the Jesuits and the wider Ignatian Family to make good use of their diverse and universal capabilities. Weblog: <http://ignatianeconet.wordpress.com/>

### **ITALY: 'Custom Corridor' named for Matteo Ricci**

The first 'Custom Corridor' for goods in the Mediterranean Sea moving between China and Italy will be named after Father Matteo Ricci. Submitted at the end of November to the Department of Economic Development, the project anticipates a logistic platform between Genoa and Tianjin. The initiative, said Vice-minister Adolfo Urso, will bring "enhanced employment levels to the Genoa dock system and encourage commercial exchange, especially in regard to our exports." At the same time "it will allow Italy to control the goods and will be useful in the struggle against disguising and disloyal competition." The project will start officially on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. Father Federico Lombardi, director of the Holy See Press Office, said that the work is "an original and challenging idea. Along with Marco Polo, Matteo Ricci is the best known and appreciated Italian personality in China. To title this initiative after him demonstrates a commitment, not only to the commercial, but also to cultural and spiritual fields with the same teachings Ricci left us: friendship and dialogue between the two people." The chance to create a preferential custom

corridor between Genoa and Tianjin follows the customs agreement Italy and China signed on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **VIETNAM: The end of Dalat's Seminary**

Dalat's Pontifical College in Vietnam, will be demolished and the place converted into a public park. For almost twenty years the Jesuits taught in the college which served as a central seminary for the Church in Vietnam. Around the Seminary was one of the best botanic gardens in the whole Asia, built by Italian missionary Brother Muò. In 1975, with the so-called "liberation" of South Vietnam by the communist, the seminary was seized by the government. At the end of November the Vietnamese Episcopal Conference President announced that "he and other bishops including the archbishops of Hanoi, Hue and Hochiminhville, had failed to stop the demolition." After listing all petitions made to Vietnam government during the years, he added: "The Collegium Pontificium is so dear to the heart of bishops and priests in Vietnam. It's a living memory of many. 14 priests who have graduated from here were ordained as bishops and many of them are still governing dioceses in Vietnam."

### **ZAMBIA: AIDS remains a priority**

Connected as it is to the fight against poverty and unfairness, AIDS remains a high priority for the Jesuit Province of Zambia-Malawi (ZAM), said Fr Alex Muyebe SJ, chairman of the Social Apostolate Committee. Considering the fact that rates of infection remain steep and, as of the end of 2008, 58% of those infected in low- and middle-income countries were still in need of antiretroviral therapy and still did not have access to the treatment, a seemingly growing indifference to the fact of HIV and AIDS is alarming. Millions of Africans are still fighting every day against the pandemic, poverty and lack of opportunities for a better living. According to Father Muyebe the parish is a privileged place to fight HIV and AIDS and many other problems confronting society. "The work of the parish is not only administering sacraments and celebrating the Eucharist," he said. "Parishes are increasingly becoming the focal point of the social apostolate. As time passed, we have seen a shift in parish AIDS ministry from helping those infected to die honourably, to helping them to live a dignified life, giving priority to women and children, the first victims of the pandemic." To do this many parishes involves groups of volunteers in programs of income-generating activities and for the education and care of orphans.

### **ABIDE WITH THE LORD**

**Gerald (Jerry) Rodrigues** 74/52 (GOA) on 23 December.

**Lionel Mascarenhas** (PUN) 89, died on 28 December.

**T.C.Mathew**, 70, nephew of Fr. George Thottungal.

## NEW RELEASES

**Live like the Roses!** Fr. M. A. Joe Antony, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp.132; Rs. 75/-

**நடந்த கதை சொல்லவா?** Fr. M.A. Joe Antony, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp.200; Rs. 70/-

**திருமறைக் குருத்துவம்** Fr. R.J. Raja, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp.72; Rs. 25/-

**கிறித்தவ ஆய்வு மையம்** Fr. Mani Valan, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, pp.169; Rs. 90/-

**Indian Voices in ELT**, ed. Fr. Francis Peter, Viva Books, New Delhi, pp. 259

**Wake up Call** (A Green Retreat Manual) Fr. Jerry Rosario, Vaigarai Pathippagam, pp. 72; Rs. 25. A copy of *Wake up Call* is being sent to all the Madurai Jesuits for reading, reflection and redoubling of efforts to protect our Mother Earth. Two prayers from the Manual are reproduced below.

### AN OPENING PRAYER ON ECOLOGY

O God,

Enlarge within us a sense with all living things,

Our brothers and sisters the animals,

to whom you gave the earth as their home

in common with us.



We remember with shame

that in the past we have experienced

high domination with ruthless cruelty,

so that the voice of the earth,

which should have gone upto you in song,

has been a groan of travail.



May we realise

that they live not for us alone

but for themselves and for you,

and that they love the sweetness of life.

**ST. BASIL**

### CONCLUDING ECO-PRAYER

A MODERN VERSION OF

THE PRAYER OF **ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**

FOR GENEROSITY

**Dearest Jesus,**

◆ Teach us to be creatively generous  
toward the total Creation.

◆ Teach us to be radically human  
by taking care of our Mother Earth.

◆ Teach us to break ourselves for the poorest  
and not to count the cost.

◆ Teach us to protest all eco-injustices  
and not to heed the wounds.

◆ Teach us to stand for the dignity of universe  
and not to seek for rest.

◆ Teach us to toil for the growth of cosmos  
and not to look for return.

◆ Teach us to experience through all the above  
the right relationship with You.

◆ Forever and ever.

**Amen.**