



# MNL



## Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

**MARCH 2015**

*(For Private Circulation)*



### MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

#### AN INSPIRING SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IN CAPTIVITY

Dear Brothers,

Our Brother, Fr. Alex Premkumar is back with us, after his captivity for over 8 months. It is a moment of joy for the whole Society. More particularly, all of us in the province are extremely happy and we give thanks to the Almighty for this great miracle. We are grateful to the Prime Minister and others in the Central and State Governments and many persons who have contributed to the release of Fr. Prem. We are grateful to the thousands of persons – Bishops, priests, religious, laity -- who have been praying incessantly all these months.

When he met the Provincials of South Asia in Mumbai, during the JCSA Meeting, Fr. Premkumar shared his spiritual experiences he went through during these months of captivity. In spite of certain deprivations, emotional and physical suffering, he was filled with deep spiritual experiences. That has kept his spirit strong and firm. He was able to experience the power that comes from God. The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius and his devotion to the Blessed Mother were sources of great strength. This is how he was able to withstand the loneliness and sufferings, and even build personal rapport with some of his kidnapers.

Several of us were highly inspired by the way he has perceived and coped with this hard and cruel experience. He was able to see something positive and something spiritual in whatever he had to go through.

Thanks to his unfailing faith in the Lord of History, these painful and traumatic experiences have made him a better human being, who has come closer to God, closer to the poor and the marginalized people whom he loves to serve. We can boldly assert that now he is more spiritual, more committed to God and to the Society of Jesus and he is willing to continue his services to the most needy people.

In fact, his traumatic experiences have some lessons to teach each of us – unfailing faith in the Lord of History, the fruitfulness of seeing even negative and painful experiences from a spiritual perspective, deep realization that even amidst loneliness a person of deep faith is never alone, as the Lord is always there, the ability to take things as they come, when we are caught up in situations where we experience total powerlessness, etc. While we thank the Lord for giving back to us our dear Brother, Prem, let us learn from this event, something deeply spiritual that can transform our personal life and commitment to the Lord.

Fraternally,  
*Sebasti L. Raj, SJ*  
Provincial



## Provincial's Programme:



### MARCH

- 01 POSA Consult: Mumbai
- 03 LICET Convocation: Loyola College, Chennai
- 04 Visitation: Arul Kadal, Chennai
- 07 GB Meeting: ISI Bangalore
- 08-10 Workshop for JMJ Sisters: Mangalagiri, Guntur, AP
- 14 Counseling Centre Consultation: Maduralaya
- 14-15 Consult
- 17-19 Visitation: Salem and Dharmapuri area
- 21 Tindivanam: LUMEN Institute Valedictory Function
- 23-26 Visitation: Ooty-Mettupalayam-Makkampalayam
- 28-31 Personal Retreat (Holy Week)

### APRIL

- 01-05 Personal Retreat (Holy Week)
- 07 Last Vows of Fr. Mathew Cyril: SHC, Shembaganur
- 10 --> Province Congregation: Maduralaya
- 18-19 Consult
- 25 CRI Meeting: Coimbatore
- 26 Final Vows of Fr. C. Marianathan: AHAL, Kilpennathur
- 28 Workshop for OFM Fathers: Kodaikanal
- 30 National CRI Executive Meeting: Bangalore

## Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

### MARCH

- 2 Meeting the Archbishop, Chennai
- 3 LICET Convocation
- 6 Loyola Hostel Day
- 7 Mission Consult
- 11 College Day, LCV, Vettavalam
- 12 Karumpakkam
- 14-15 Province Consult
- 17-19 Salem & Dharmapuri
- 21 Writers' Forum, Kodai
- 23 -26 Ooty, Mettupalayam & Makkampalayam

### APRIL

- 10-14 Province Congregation, Maduralaya
- 18-19 Province Consult
- 26 Final Vows of Fr Marianathan, Kilpennathur

## Announcements



### Fr Cyril's Final Vows:

Fr Mathew Cyril Antony will pronounce his Final Vows at a Eucharist at 11 a.m. on Tue, 07 April at SHC, Shembag. Those who would like to attend should inform the Minister, SHC before 31 March.

### Vocation Camps:

*12th Std Vocation Camp:* April 07 eve to 17. Place (for Southern Dioceses): IDEAS, Madurai. (for Northern Dioceses): Aicuf House, Chennai.

*10th Std Vocation Camp:* April 13 eve to 18. Place: LTI, Madurai

*College Students and others:* May 03. Place: Maduralaya, Beschi, Dindigul.

Vocation Promoters request all Jesuits to send capable, enthusiastic and willing candidates for these camps.

### Creation Retreat:

Gujarat Jesuit Ecology Mission (GJEM) is organizing a 6-day 'Creation Retreat' in English at the cool, green Panchgani. *Retreat Guides:* Frs Lancy D'Cruz, SJ & Rappai Poothokaren, SJ. *Dates:* 30 April PM - 07 May AM. *Venue:* BEL-AIR,

Panchgani, Satara Dt, Maharashtra. To register and for other details *contact:* Rappai Poothokaren, SJ, Xavier Technical Institute, Sevasi, Vadodara 391 101. Email: rappaisj@gmail.com. Mobile: 094263 0 4943.

### Books on Dialogue:

The proceedings of three seminars on interfaith dialogue have now been published as books: *Windows on Dialogue* (Rs 225). *Dialogue in the Pluralistic World* (Rs 250) and *Interfaith Spirituality: The Power of Confluence* (Rs 150) To order your copies contact: Victor Edwin SJ, Vidyajyoti, 23 Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi 110 054. Email: victoredwinsj@gmail.com

### New:

Br Kulandairaj Antony's new e-mail id: klrjjs@gmail.com.

Sch John Michael, V. (France)'s new email id: johnviyagappansj@gmail.com

Arrupe Illam, Mettupalayam has now an email ID: arrupeillam@gmail.com

Phone number: 04254 - 221115.

## Members of the Province Congregation

### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Fr Sebasti L. Raj (Provincial)  
 Fr Albert Muthumalai  
 Fr Arockiasamy Periyannayagam  
 Fr Britto Bonaventure  
 Fr Danis Ponniah  
 Fr Jayapathy Francis  
 Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj L  
 Fr Joe Antony M.A.  
 Fr Selvanayakam Diraviam

### ELECTED MEMBERS:

Fr Aloysius Irudayam A.	Fr John Irudaya Kumar K.
Fr Alphonse Manickam	Fr Joseph Antony Samy G.
Fr Amaladoss Michael	Fr Joseph Michael
Fr Amal Kulandaisamy	Br Kulandairaj Savarimuthu
Fr Andrew Francis	Fr Ilanko Xavier M.
Fr Antoniraj Perinbam	Fr Maria Arul Raj A.
Fr Arockiasamy Xavier	Fr Maria Joseph A.
Fr Aruldoss Selvaraj	Fr Marianathan Swamikannu
Fr Arul P. Stanislaus	Fr Mark Stephen S.M.
Fr Arul Sivan M.	Fr Michael Alosanaya
Fr Britto Peter A.	Fr Michaelraj Lourdu Ratinam
Fr Britto Vincent	Fr Pai Rex A.
Fr Christie P. Maria Joseph	Fr Paul Michael Raj C.
Fr Devadoss Mudiappasamy	Fr Pavulraj Michael
Fr Francis Xavier Perianayagam	Fr Raj Irudaya
Fr George C. Joseph	Fr Thomas Amirtham
Fr Henry Jerome V.	Sch Vargheesh Antony M.
Fr Jerry Rosario	Fr Victor Arulappan
Fr Jeyaraj Donatus	Fr Xavier Vedam
Fr Jeyaraj Michael	Fr Yesumarian Lourdunathan

### APPOINTED BY FR PROVINCIAL :

Fr Amalraj Chinnappan  
 Sch Anton Robert  
 Fr John Peter Bellarmine  
 Fr Stephen Lourdu Pragasam V.  
 Br Thomas Arulappan

## Status of Scholastics - List II (2015-16)

NAME	FROM	TO	SUBJECT
<b>Regency/UG Studies</b>			
John Peter A.	St Mary's, Madurai	SXC, P'Kottai	B.A. Eng.
<b>P.G/Special Studies</b>			
John Paul G	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Loyola, Chennai	B.Ed
Lawrence Arockiasamy	Loyola HSS, Kuppay.	Anugraha	P.G.Dip in Counselling
Manickam Periyannayagaraj	LIS, Ranipet	Loyola, Chennai	B.Ed
Maria Then Amirtharaj G	SJIS, Ooty	SXC, P'Kottai	B.Ed
Paulraj Arockiasamy S.	SJC, Tiruchy (Regency)	SJC, Tiruchy	M.Sc Phy
Pon Ruban C	SAHSS, Oriyur	SJC, Tiruchy,	M.Sc Maths
Raphael Alexander G	PEAK, Shembaganur	BH, Chennai	M.Sc Maths
Regis Antony Christopher S	Paathai, Vallam	Loyola, Chennai	M.Sc Phy
Selvendhiran Antony	AHAL, Kilpennathur	SXC, P'Kottai	MSW

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
<b>Regency I Year (New)</b>		
Alexander Gnanapragasam	Sathya Nilayam, Chennai	Paathai, Vallam
Amalraj Mariasingam	DNC, Pune	SAHSS, Oriyur
Anto Arputha Raja P.	Sathya Nilayam, Chennai	LC, Vettavalam (JRS)
Arun Kumar J.	Sathya Nilayam, Chennai	Kohima
Felix Sahayaraj	DNC, Pune	AHAL, Kilpennathur
John Kamilas T.	DNC, Pune	VMI, Vilangudi
Joseph Alexander R.	DNC, Pune	Perumalmalai
Manojkumar Tharmam	DNC, Pune	JIM, Kilpennathur
Maria Annaraj K.	DNC, Pune	Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur
Rajasekaran A.I.	DNC, Pune	LA, Vadamelpakkam
Salomon Antony Samy	DNC, Pune	De Britto, Devakottai
Vijin Antony Raj	Sathya Nilayam, Chennai	Myanmar

### Theology

Arul Henry William	SXC, P'Kottai	AK, Chennai
Deva Arockia Stephen	LA, Vadamelpakkam	AK, Chennai
George Stephen Thayriam A	VMI, Vilangudi	Heythrop, London, UK
James Raja P.	Loyola, Chennai	AK, Chennai
Joseph Arockiasamy	Perumalmalai	AK, Chennai
Leo Pereira A	Myanmar	AK, Chennai
Mag Bay De Lawrence	JRS, Vettavalam	AK, Chennai
Vasantha Kumar I	SXC, P'Kottai	Saint Severe, Paris, France
Velankanni Arockiasamy S	SXC, P'Kottai	AK, Chennai

## Status of Fathers and Brothers – List I (2015-16)

### APPOINTMENTS:

Fr. Provincial has made the following appointments:

Fr. Maria Augustine Sunderraj A. – Director of XIBA, Palayamkottai

Fr. Thomas Visuvasam -- Headmaster of Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur

Fr. Victor Arulappan –Team Leader of Loyola Academy, Vadamelpakkam

Fr. Yesumarian Lourdunathan -- Team Leader of Paathai, Vallam

### APPROVED FOR TERTIANSHIP:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>
Fr John Wilson J	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Goa
Fr Arockiasamy Antony S	Makkampalayam	Goa
Fr Ignacy Arockiasamy	LIS, Ranipet	SHC, Shembaganur
Fr Arokia Dass J	Paathai, Vallam	SHC, Shembaganur
Fr Maria Packiam S.	Loyola, Chicago, USA	SHC, Shembaganur
Fr Innaci John V.	VMI, Vilangudi	Sri Lanka
Fr Paul Benedict S.	St. Mary's, Dindigul	Hazaribagh

## OTHERS:

NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
Fr Alphonse William	SXC, Palayamkottai	SXC, Palayamkottai	Counseling and Teaching
Fr Ambrose Arockiasamy	St. Paul's, Trichy	Christ Hall, Karumathur	Spiritual Father
Fr Antony Markus	SUPAM	Paathai, Vallam	Minister and Treasurer
Br Arockiaraj Irudayasamy	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Minister/Administrator
Fr Arockiasamy Xavier	Clive House, Trichy	St. Joseph's College, Trichy	Teaching
Fr Arul Oli S.	St. Joseph's, Trichy (PP)	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Ph.D Studies
Fr Arul Ravi S.	St. Joseph's, Trichy	St. Xavier's College, P'Kottai	Staff
Fr Britto Vincent	SXC, P'Kottai	Maduralaya	PCF
Fr Cyril Suresh	Belo Horizonte, Brasil	Amazon, Brasil	Missionary
Fr Dhanaraj Raphael	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Arrupe Illam, Mettupalayam	Retreat Ministry
Fr George Vedamuthu	St. Arulanandar HSS, Oriyur	St. Mary's, Madurai	Staff
Br Irudayasamy Sebastian	St. Mary's, Madurai	SHC, Shembaganur	Food In-charge
Br John Britto Silverius	SXC, Palayamkottai	St Joseph's College, Trichy	Minister
Fr Joseph Royappan	Rayapuram Parish	St. Mary's, Madurai	Rest and Spiritual Ministry
Fr Mark Stephen SM	LA, Vadampakkam	Loyola College, Chennai	Sabbatical
Fr Philip Kumar G	SUPAM	Makkampalayam	Parish Priest
Fr Puthiadam Ignatius	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Coll. of Nursing, Kottar Diocese	Staff
Fr Raju Michael S	St. Mary's, Dindigul	LTI, Madurai	Spiritual Father
Br Sathanandam R	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	St. Xavier's, P'Kottai	Minister



## Events



### PASTORAL PRAXIS

The **ARUL KADAL** community went for a picnic to Rameshwaram. Visiting the traditional churches and the ghost town of Dhanuskodi was a rich and refreshing experience. Sch. Alton had the joy of organizing the picnic and hosting a sumptuous dinner at his house. Fr Arul Raj, Parish Priest, Pallavaram, who taught us a course on Pastoral Praxis, took us to different parishes to have a first-hand knowledge of the struggles and challenges of pastors. Fr Maria Arul Raj

presented a series of papers on Subaltern Hermeneutics at NBCLC, Dharmaram, Vidya Ksheram, Bangalore, and Pontifical Institute, Aluva.   
- **Baskar**

### PASSION FOR THE MISSIONS

On 24 Jan Fr Varapasadam, a former Provincial and now a pioneer missionary, met the novices here at **BESCHI ILLAM** and ignited in our hearts a passion for the missions. On Republic Day, Samroy Terrance, a first year novice, gave a thought-provoking message. Sr Sahayam, the guest of honour, hoisted the

national flag. On the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we had a candle light procession that started at St Mary's Press, and passed through Maduralaya and JRS Office to reach the grotto. It was followed by Mass celebrated by Fr Amalraj, PP of Kadamalaikundu. In his homily Fr. Joe Antony emphasized that only the Blessed Mother can fulfill our heart's ceaseless longing for a mother's love. Fr Amalraj of Kadamalaikundu taught us a course on electricity.

Fr Wilson gave a talk on

consecrated life to the Sacred Heart Sisters of Vellore on 14 Feb. The Social Analysis course by Fr Arockiasamy Antony of Makkampalayam made us feel that our mission is to work for the downtrodden. On 08 Feb Fr Marivalan organized a one-day prayer meeting for 'MODELS' members in which Fr Tagore, Fr Wilson and Fr Marivalan spoke on consecrated life based on the letter of Pope Francis. On 19 Feb we had a community Mass for the dear departed of our Fathers. Fr Bastian preached an eight day retreat to the DMI Sisters at Chennai and Fr Dhanaraj is busy with the Tertianship program of the FSJ Sisters in Chennai.

- **M. Anthony David**

### **ELEGANT, NEW ENTRANCE**

**DE BRITTO**, Devakottai looks very elegant now with a beautiful new entrance, sponsored and inaugurated by Fr Felix Raj, SJ (CCU), principal, St Xavier's, Kolkota and an alumnus of our School on the feast of our patron St John De Britto. Valluvar Peravai of Karaikudi honoured Fr Yagoo, Headmaster, De Britto, with 'Kalaikavalar' award for his contribution to promoting Tamil literature and Mr Stephen Michaelraj, our Tamil teacher for bringing out his third book, மூலம் மந்திரம். The Staff and the students organized a mega function to felicitate Fr Yagoo on his sacerdotal silver jubilee. After the Eucharist there was a festive dinner for the local religious and the alumni.

Fr Leo Tagore, former Superior, and Fr Stephen L. Pragasam, attended a function to release a book of Mr Poondi Jeyaraj, our Drawing Master. Mr Marimuthu, our sweeper, received the first copy of the book, titled,



ஒருகிய வானத்தை நேற்று தான் மாற்றினோம். The members of the Alumni Association shared their joy with the students on the school's Annual Day. Dr Puthiavan and Dr Cyril addressed the gathering. - **Yagoo**

### **FULLY INVOLVED**

**DHYANA ASHRAM** hosted a 6-day national meeting of directors of juniorates and pre-novitiates and vocation promoters. There were 50 participants. It was organized by the ADF, Fr Raj Irudaya. The highlight was a course given by Fr Peter Francis on effective methodology of teaching English to our young men. Fr D. Jeyaraj is fully involved in giving two long retreats - one for the Holy Cross Sisters in Nagarkoil, another to Pondy Blue Sisters in Dindigul. Fr Thambu is on his mission to Kuwait for 2 weeks going to different parishes. Jerry inaugurated the year of Consecrated Life in the diocese of Madras-Mylapore organized by CRI. He also addressed the Jesuits of Bangalore and the staff and students of St Joseph's College.

He did the same at Loyola, Chennai. Fr Xavier Irudayaraj did Lenten pastoral ministries in several parishes in Madras and Chengalpattu dioceses.

- **Xavier Irudayaraj**

### **THE UNCONFERENCE**

Unlike the usual conferences, the unconference was really a confluence of invitees who wrestled with "Sustainable Futures and Spirituality". In mid-February, **LOYOLA**, Chennai received 60 people from 10 countries spread across 4 continents. They were academicians, activists, journalists, priests, medical practitioners, documentary film makers etc. They all shared a common ground. All of them are engaged in evolving alternatives to the present mode of development that is set to consume the resources of the earth unsustainably. The occasion was an international dialogue on 'Sustainable Futures and Spirituality' organized by Loyola in partnership with the Global Centre for Study of Sustainable Futures and Spirituality, Malaysia. The event was supported by a few other partners like Loyola University, Chicago, USA, DCLI, Paris and Shikshantar/Swaraj University, Udaipur, India and Public Media Agency, Malaysia. The unconference raised the following questions: Can the present mode of development that is seeking to raise the comfort level of societies through the use of earth's resources without any limit

sustain itself? Can the Finite Earth match the infinite desires of human beings? Will not the earth with finite resources give way at some point of time and destroy everything on the planet? Shouldn't spirituality, not limited to any religion, be considered an integral part of our understanding of human development? The unconference avoided monologue presentation by experts. Instead, it was a series of dialogue among participants to generate a holistic view on the theme. The dialogue still continues through a platform in the internet with the objective of strengthening the alternatives being attempted in different parts of the planet by these participants.

Fr Ignacimuthu was the chief guest at the international conference on Biology and Ethics held on 23 Feb at Sri Sathya Sai Baba University, Andhra Pradesh. He also was a special invitee at the Golden Jubilee celebration of Madurai Agricultural College on 27 Jan.

The President of Fairfield University (USA) visited LICET and LIBA for interaction with the faculty members and students interested in going over there for higher studies. LICET Tournament, extended to the staff members of the Loyola Institutions, went off well with active participation from faculty members from LC, LCE, and LICET. LICET emerged as the winner. In the second LICET Tournament leading Engineering Colleges

took part – LICET is the winner in Tennis (Women) and runners up in Cricket. LICET, in collaboration with UNESCO (Bangkok), organized an international training program for the Ethics Teachers. Participants were from India, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Laos, Nepal, Bhutan, and Iran.

In the first semester exams of Anna University conducted in Nov-Dec 2014, LICET has got 91.5% overall results. In the Industry Meet organized at LICET more than 130 HR personnel from various industries participated.



On 24 Feb LISSTAR organized a Symposium on 'UN Convention on Statelessness' (Refugees and Forced Migration) at the LICET Auditorium. The symposium was designed to provide a comprehensive picture on 'statelessness' to the students at the global level. The inputs included a historical perspective on 'statelessness', its present manifestations, forced migrations and the Asian and South Asian scenario. Students and Research Scholars from various colleges in Chennai participated in the symposium. The Chief Guest was Prof. Ramu Manivannan, University of Madras. Ms. Parikrama Gupta of UNHCR delivered the inaugural address.

The JRS Story was told by Fr.

Stan Fernandes. The sharing by a panel of six refugees and migrants from Africa, Tibet and Sri Lanka anchored our perceptions. The principal, Fr Joseph Antony Samy, delivered a passionate speech about the plight of Refugees and presided over the valedictory function. Fr Louie Albert, proposed a vote of thanks.

- Francis Jayapathy

### **MEDIA MELA**

Visit to the AVIN Milk Centre in Vellore gave our students at **LOYOLA ITI, RANIPET** a good learning experience. Our hostellers had a one day trip to Golden Temple and Rock Fort in Vellore. We went for a community pilgrimage to Vailankanni to thank God for all that He had been to us. 'Media Mela 2015' was held on 21 – 23 Jan. More than 130 students participated and learned how to use the camera and take short movies. The immediate outcome of the Mela was a short movie made by the students.

Fr Stephen, the new member of our community, preached a five-day retreat to Montfort Brothers in Dindigul. The first batch of NCVT Students wrote their first semester exam successfully.

- Manick

### **KAUSHAL KENDRAS**

**ICRDCE** organized a seminar on 'Prospects & Challenges of Community Colleges' in view of the decennial celebration of St Joseph's Community College, Bangalore on 30 Jan followed

by 'Waves' - an inter-college cultural competition for the Community Colleges in Karnataka on 31 Jan.

The UGC has announced a new scheme called 'Kaushal Kendras' to be established in universities and colleges for developing skills in youth and increasing their employability. The scheme consists of Community Colleges, Bachelor of Vocational Degree (B.Voc) and M.Voc and its budget is Rs 5 crores per college. Many colleges are approaching ICRDCE for guidance regarding the scheme.

- **Xavier Alphonse**

### **CYNOSURE - 2015**

On 14 Feb 2015, the Regents in North Zone had a one-day recollection at Trincal Illam, **LOYOLA ACADEMY**, Vadamelpakkam. 'Cynosure - 2015', an ECA (Extra Curricular Activities) Talent Show was held on 25 Feb '15, in which the students kept the crowd spellbound by exhibiting their talents. Fr Gnanaraj efficiently coordinated this programme.

- **Deva A. Stephen**

### **VETTRI NAMATHE!**

The renovation of the refectory and construction of new rooms at the Jesuit

residence here at **LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM** are in full swing. The construction of the college hostels has also begun. We were happy to have Fr Durairaj Sanjivi from Tindivanam for a recollection. Fr Arul Prabhakaran, the parish priest of Avoor, celebrated the Eucharist on Ash Wednesday and Fr Dominic Royce preached the homily. A group of experienced professors conducted a one-day Career Guidance for all the III year students to prepare them for the TNPSE Exam. State-level seminars and inter collegiate competitions were organized by all the departments. The third year students of mathematics and computer science went on a Cultural Tour to Ooty on 21 Feb.

On 22 Feb Fr Eugene organized a one-day training session named 'Vetri Namathe' for 12<sup>th</sup> std students of the neighbouring villages to help them prepare for the public exam. 22 NSS students from LICET were in a nearby village, Olaijadi, for their NSS service camp. The community joined them for the valedictory function on 24 Feb.

- **Alwin**

### **FOR AN IMMERSION EXPERIENCE**

**IDCR**, Loyola, organized a two-week programme for students from Canisius College, Buffalo, USA. It was an immersion

experience into contemporary life in Chennai and its poverty and religious pluralism. The students had relevant inputs and exposure to Dalit contexts with the help of the Jesuits in Loyola Institutes, Kuppayanallur. Fr Frank Clooney SJ, from Harvard Divinity School, Harvard, gave the prestigious Westcott-Teape lectures at IDCR and Philosophy Department of the University of Madras. The lectures were attended by a large number of scholars. IDCR concluded the 1-year research on 'Interreligious Marriages in India: How they affect Religion and Life.' The project undertakers presented their final report in the presence of a group of experts. A panel of scholars spoke on how interreligious marriages are viewed by their religious traditions. IDCR plans to publish their insights into two books.

Vincent Sekhar was invited to give lectures on ecology from religious and spiritual perspectives at the University of Mascareignus, Mauritius. The Jesuits in Mauritius remembered fondly the link between Mauritius and Madurai Province and were eager to know the developments in our Province.

- **Vincent Sekhar**

## **Abide with the Lord**

Br Geo Pulickal (DEL), 63/41, on 04 Feb '15 in Jaipur.

Sch Johna Karaiba (KHM), 25/06, on 09 Feb '15 at Shillong.

Bishop Thomas Bhalerao, SJ (PUN), Bishop emeritus of Nashik, 82/63, on 13 Feb '15.

Br Michael Thannivelil (KER), 67/47, on 09 Feb '15 in Calicut.

Ms Antoniammal, 79, aunt of Fr Anthony Samy, on 02 Feb 15 at Hosur.

Mr Victor, 70, elder brother of Fr John Britto Bonaventure on 09 Feb '15 in Madurai.





## MARCHING IN...

After a whole year's wait, the saints have come, thank God, and taken their place at **MADURALAYA**. St Joseph, patron of the Society, stands right at the entrance. The two big Jesuits - dear friends and great saints - Ignatius and Francis



Xavier - stand at the lobby facing each other. When you come in, facing the lawn stands Our Lady, with an inviting, maternal glance.

Ordered by Fr L.V. Kumar, the statues were made by skilled sculptors in Thrissur,



Kerala. Our Minister, Fr Babu Vincent, did everything needed to have them installed. On 05 March, Fr Provincial prayed and blessed the statues. - **MAJA**

## TO FACE THE EXAMS

On 01 Feb, **PAATHAI CENTRE**, Vallam conducted coaching camps in Sithanangur for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std students, to help them face the exams with ease. On 8 Feb we organised a similar camp for the students of Sethiathope Taluk in Palayamsernthakudi. On 22 we conducted a seminar for 12<sup>th</sup> students in Arulavadi of Villupuram to guide them in their higher studies. Around 200 Students benefitted from the educational programs. On 12 we inaugurated a new ESC in Koovam village of Tiruvallur with 40 students. - **Regis**

## FOR GOLD MEDALS EVERY YEAR

Festivals at substations keep the Parish Priest and his two Assistants here at **ST MARY'S, MADURAI** very active. Sebastiarpuram, one of the substations, had a grand car procession on 15 Feb, preceded by a weeklong novena in honour of St Sebastian. The season of Lent began with a large gathering of our parishioners on the Ash Wednesday with our Archbishop presiding over the liturgy. The Parish is also organizing special study hours for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std students of our Parish, an initiative that has been much appreciated. Our Higher Secondary School celebrated the Bible Day on 07 Feb. Though it was a holiday the active participation of all our Catholic students made it very grand. Fr Anandanathan, Chief Guest, taught different techniques to remember the life-giving words of the Bible. Fr Albert

Joseph, the Correspondent, organized the programme. The alumni of 1964 batch have donated Rs 2 lakhs to be spent in awarding gold medals to the best outgoing students of 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> stds every year.

- **G. Packiaraj**

## WITH LIGHTED CANDLES

On 11 Feb, we celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes here at **ST JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, OOTY** with a solemn candle light procession in the evening. The procession began from the chapel and ended in front of the grotto at the hostel. Br Tony, our Treasurer and campus Minister, organized it. Our hostellers walked with lighted candles, praying the Rosary and singing hymns. Fr Richard gave a message and Fr Freddy, our superior, gave the final blessing. Students in the Welding section wrote their semester exams on 20 Feb. We are encouraging those students who are ready to write again their higher secondary exams as private candidates. Fr Freddy is helping a group of CMI Fathers learn Portuguese.

- **Amirtharaj**

## ROWING IN THE RIVER

The **SUPAM** meet for the theo-reflection sharing was held at Mettur Dam parish on 12 Feb. This meet saw surprise release of a few parish magazines and *Arul Thedal*. We were enriched by the sharing of joys, successes, spiritual

experiences, challenges and struggles. We shared also our creative pastoral plans for the season of Lent. The timely intervention of our staff during our sharing and planning helped us. During a picnic to the Dam we rowed a *parisal* in the river Kaveri, which thrilled us as it was the first experience for many. We were elated by the warm hospitality of Fr Alaguselvam, the Parish Priest, and Fr Thanga. - **Seba**

### FOR THE FIRST TIME

*College:* The 89<sup>th</sup> Graduation Day of **ST XAVIER'S** was held on 06 Feb '15. Dr A. Amudeswari, Director, Centre for International Cooperation in Science, Chennai, was the Chief Guest. She emphasized that the fruit of education should be living by human values. The Parent-Teacher meeting, held on 07 Feb, helped the parents interact with the teachers on their wards' academic performance. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the non-teaching staff, Mr P. Sahayaraj and H. Sankar, 96 students from Shift II have been awarded Adi-Dravidar welfare scholarships to the tune of more than Rs 9 lakhs for the first time in our history. Around 60 students and two staff volunteers took part in GRACE 2015 organized by St Joseph's College, Trichy and they returned with deep joy and gratitude.

*XIBA:* Club days were organized in XIBA on 04, 05 Feb. Rotarian Past District Governor, Mr Arumuga Pandian was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function. Facebook for XIBA

was launched at the function. On 05 Feb Mr C. K. Kumaravel, CEO, Naturals, Chennai delivered a guest lecture on "Success the Natural's way- Being a Successful Entrepreneur". A one-day STAND Programme, organized by II MBA students on 07 Feb at Thottakudi village, showed their solidarity with the poor. Fr Arockia Doss from Vallam guided a one-day Retreat for the students.

*B.Ed College:* The month began with a seven-day long educational tour on 02-08 Feb to Gujarat and Rajasthan. Our students spent four days on 12-15 Feb in a small village called Samathuvapuram in Nellai Dt. The community camp was an eye-opener for our students and helped them experience the plight of the poor villagers. Intramural cultural competition was conducted on 20 Feb. The parents of our students were here on 21 Feb for the Parent-Teacher meeting.

*School:* A new school building was blessed and opened by Fr Provincial on 12 Feb. It was a joyful occasion for the sixth standard boys who longed to have a proper class room. - **William**

### IN FULL SWING

Fr Francis Sales of **THOZHAMA ILLAM** gave a 6-day retreat to Bethlehemite Sisters. He is helping the Kottar CRI Unit raise funds for activities they have planned for the Year of Consecrated Life. Fr Josephraj is guiding a 4-day healing retreat for a group of lay people at Arul Vazhvu Retreat Centre, Kanyakumari. Fr M. Charles, Treasurer, is at his desk completing the 9-month statement of accounts and preparing the new budget proposal. The renovation of

the kitchen and whitewashing of Nobili Block are in full swing under his rigorous supervision. Fr G. Arockiaraj guided the Presentation Sisters at Colechal during their recollection on the Year of the Consecrated Life. 14 Holy Cross Tertians are making a long retreat here prior to their final commitment. Fr M. Devadhas, from Arrupe Illam, Mettupalaym, is guiding them.

- **G. Arockiaraj**

### ON VALENTINE'S DAY

The ecological awareness course in Shembag made us - Juniors of **VIDYANIKETAN** - learn from nature in the light of Ignatian spirituality, thanks to Frs Britto and Ranjith. On the way we enjoyed the warm hospitality of LTI, Madurai and visited Meenakshi Amman Temple and Mahal. St Mary's community made us feel at home during a brief stay.

On Valentine's Day we celebrated 'Balamela' with 160 children from neighbouring parishes. After fun games in the morning we had a cultural programme in the afternoon. Fr Roy, PCF of Sri Lanka, paid a short visit and spoke to us about Pope's visit To Sri Lanka, mission in Pakistan and the ministries in the Island nation. Hectic preparations are on for the academic day on 07 March. - **Amalan**

### ORDAINED DEACONS

It was a grace-filled moment when 29 of us from **VIDYAJYOTI**, Delhi, including 6 Maduraians, were ordained deacons by Archbishop Anil Couto of Delhi at the Millennium Hall, St Xavier's School. With

his soul-stirring homily, the Diaconate ceremony was very meaningful. A large gathering of faithful along with a few PCFs and Jesuits witnessed the celebration on 14 Feb. As recent activities of the Hindutva forces call for an appropriate response, Vidyajyoti organized a National Seminar on 16, 17 Feb on "Witnessing to the Gospel in a Polarized India." The speakers included Mukul Kesavan, an Indian historian and author of the novel, *Looking Through Glass*, Rudolph Heredia, SJ, Ambrose Pinto SJ, and Jacob Parappally, MSFS.

- **Benedict Santosh**

### MONTH OF VISITATIONS

February was the month of visitation for us Juniors at **XTC, BELGAUM** as the PCFs of Pune, Goa, and Sri Lanka Provinces came to visit the scholastics of their provinces. During the visitation of Fr Rosario Rocha, the Provincial of Goa, we shared with him the strengths of our Juniorate and the areas that could be improved. During his visit, Fr. Arul Soosaimanikkam, the Regional Superior of Kohima region, conferred the minor orders upon the first year Novices and five Juniors. A three-day course on street plays given by Mr Juran and Mr Maxwell helped us to prepare and put up a play to create awareness among the people of nearby villages and motivate them to fight social evils. We are busy preparing for our annual play "Passion and Glory" scheduled for 12 March. - **V. Karlin Viju**

## Prayer & Friendship

*Sunday, September 3, 1995*

Last night was full of the wildest and most chaotic dreams, dreams about not making it on time for a meeting, not being able to keep up with all my obligations, and not finishing anything that I was supposed to finish. My dreams were full of people who were angry with me for not doing what they asked me to do, and full of letters and faxes that urgently needed responses. Every time I woke up between my dreams and found myself in the quiet, peaceful, guest room of my friends, without any plans for today, I laughed. The only thing I could say was that simple prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on me."

Prayer is the bridge between my unconscious and conscious life. Prayer connects my mind with my heart, my will with my passions, my brain with my belly. Prayer is the way to let the life-giving Spirit of God penetrate all the corners of my being. Prayer is the divine instrument of my wholeness, unity, and inner peace.

So, what about my life of prayer? Do I want to pray? I remember fondly my teenage years, when I could hardly stay away from the church. For hours I would stay on my knees filled with a deep sense of Jesus' presence. Prayer was so intimate and so satisfying. It was during these prayer-filled years that my vocation to the priesthood was shaped. During the years that followed I have paid much attention to prayer, reading about it, writing about it, visiting monasteries and houses of prayer, and guiding many people on their spiritual journeys. By now I should be full of spiritual fire, consumed by prayer.

The truth is that I do not feel much, if anything, when I pray. There are no warm emotions, bodily sensations, or mental visions. None of my five senses is being touched – no special smells, no special sounds, no special sights, no special tastes, and no special movements.

Whereas for a long time the Spirit acted so clearly through my flesh, now I feel nothing.

Maybe, part of this darkness and dryness is the result of my over-activity. As I grow older I become busier and spend less and less time in prayer. But I probably should not blame myself in that way. The real questions are, "What are the darkness and the dryness about? What do they call me to?"

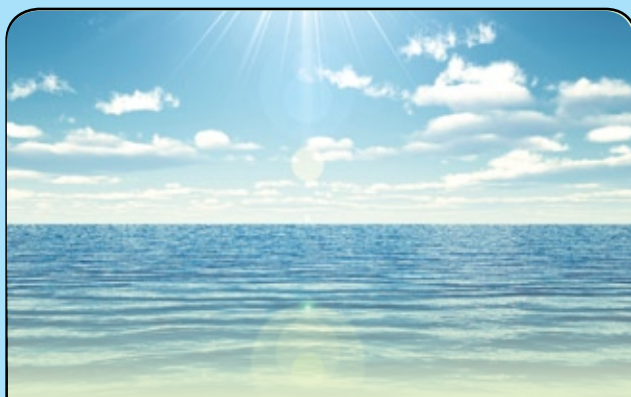
*Monday, September 4, 1995*

As I reflect on the year ahead, I realize that friendship will be as important a concern as prayer. Maybe, even more important. My need for friendship is great, greater than seems "normal". When I think about the pains and joys of my life, they have little to do with success, money, career, country, or Church, but everything to do with friendships. My friendship with Nathan and Sue proves that clearly. The moments of ecstasy and agony connected with both of them mark my nine years at Daybreak.

I have felt rejected as well as supported, abandoned as well as embraced, hated as well as loved. All through it I have come to discover that friendship is a real discipline. Nothing can be taken for granted, nothing happens automatically, nothing comes without concentrated effort. Friendship requires trust, patience, attentiveness, courage, repentance, forgiveness, celebration, and most of all faithfulness. It is amazing for me to realize how often and how easily feelings of jealousy, resentment, anger, and depression came over me.

In this respect, my struggle with prayer is not so different from my struggle with friendship. Both prayer and friendship need purification. They need to become less dependent on fleeting emotions and more rooted in lasting commitments.

- **Henri J.M. Nouwen**  
from *Sabbatical Journey*



## SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

Our peculiar tendency is to want what we don't have until we have it, and then not to want it! Why is it that we so often don't enjoy our moments and persistently neglect the here in the favor of there?

So many of us suffer from this malady of not being fully immersed in the present, yet the present is the only place we can fully immerse ourselves. Why do we use up the present moments of our lives, the very precious currency of life, consumed with a longing to be someplace else? Why do we use up our present moments in feeling guilty about the past or apprehensive about the future, or in anticipating being anywhere but here?

We do so because we are living our lives with an attitude of depreciation rather than appreciation. And the way to resolve this dilemma is so simple that it eludes almost everyone. That is, live your life in a state of appreciation rather than depreciation.

I practice the habit of appreciation for everything around me. I look out at the scenery and say thank you for these surroundings. When I am home and the children are running about and there seems to be no end to the confusion, I push out all thoughts of elsewhere and practice being in a state of appreciation. I even feel appreciative of the most obvious things we often take for granted, such as the refrigerator, the pictures on the wall, and the barking dogs. It is all about shifting to appreciation and out of depreciation.

Notice when you are wishing you were somewhere else and bring yourself back to a state of appreciation for where you are.

- Wayne W. Dyer  
(in *Wisdom of the Ages*)

## Memories

### 'MADURA STREET BOYS'

Born leader of men, Fr Trincal knew how to await patiently the occasion and then make the best of it. Visitors to Madura must have looked with a shrug, if not with pity, at the Madura street boys and the run-away lads from the country he had admitted without any testimonials in his school and orphanage. The street boys are the grand-fathers of part of the Catholic Showrastra community and the village lads became, as he himself testifies, 'his best catechists'. The unexpected kindness they had found in him was to be the pass-word into many a village where Fr Trincal was about to bring the good tidings of the Gospel.

Two years later Fr Trincal left Madura to Fr Labarthere, exchanging his string of titles in the catalogue - pangooswamy, procurator, consultor, admonitor - for the shorter one that was to be his until his death, 'Missionarius excurrens'. At the time of his taking charge 9 years earlier, there had been only some 600 Catholics attached to Madura; their number now was over 2,500.

Fr Peter Labarthere, born administrator, took care that the properties left by Fr Trincal be kept and enlarged. The church premises at Madura were increased by buying away encroachments; Condamari became a paying concern; Rayapuram estate, to which the Father gave his name, and Vandiyur were acquired. To him we owe the first girls' school (1 Feb 1881) entrusted to the Viagula Madha Nuns, Trichy.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1943)

## Just for...



A boy with a monkey on his shoulder was walking down the road when he passed a policeman, who said, "Look here, young fellow. I think you had better take that monkey to the zoo." The next day, the boy was walking down the road again with the monkey on his shoulder, when he passed the same policeman. The policeman said, "Hey there, I thought I told you to take that monkey to the zoo!" The boy answered, "I did! Today I'm taking him to the cinema."