



MAY 2017

(For Private Circulation)

## Message from the Provincial



### Our unique call

When we sit back and reflect on our call as Jesuits and our life and the way we carry out our ministries in the Society, we relish some of the characteristics that are unique to our Mother Society.

We have been called to a type of religious life that is deeply spiritual in its perspective and approach and at the same time highly professional in the manner in which we carry out our ministries. In order to be truly Jesuit in its characteristics, we need to grow in this process of integrating these two dimensions of our ministries.

We are called to a Universal Society with a Universal Mission and yet we need to be deeply rooted in the culture, traditions and the ethos of the people whom we serve. In other words, we are called to be universal in our outlook and perspective, yet we need to be totally rooted in the place of our ministry, regardless of whether one is located in one's own soil or in any other socio-cultural background and social-political reality.

We are called to be men of the *magis*, never being satisfied with the status quo, but with an ability to think out of the box, keeping ourselves open to the promptings of the Spirit through the realities and persons around us. This implies that we are ever awake, alert and are willing to adapt our thinking and functioning.

We are called to be monks in the market place. We are called to be contemplatives who can see the presence of the Divine in every creature, and be immersed in deep and continuous spiritual conversation with the Creator. Yet we are also called to be men of the market, where we take active part in the struggles of the people, particularly the poor, the Dalits and the marginalized, with the aim of liberating them from their economic, social and spiritual miseries and ensuring that they gradually grow in the experience of the love of Abba, resulting in the building up of a social order where there is peace, harmony, love, justice, equality and fraternity.

We are religious by our call and vocation and hence

we should adopt only religious or spiritual way of proceeding, in a manner that is unique to the Society of Jesus – our way of proceeding. This implies that we donot take to other ways that may go contrary to what we are expected to do as religious. Particularly, it is totally wrong to adopt political methods of handling a given situation – having recourse to muscle power, money power, etc. Our approach ought to be based purely on discernment, through which the will of God for our life and ministries is discovered or identified.

We have been responding, though in different degrees, to this unique call, with all these characteristics, and we have certainly made our contribution to the Church and to the society at large. We are aware of the commendable ministries we are engaged in and the good will we enjoy and experience from the people and from the ecclesiastical authorities.

At the same time, we are also aware of the negative elements and ethos that are prevalent in the province. While we should endeavor to eliminate these from our midst, too much focus on the negative side of our personal life, group life and our ministries, will only de-moralize us, discourage us and result in frustration and meaninglessness. Let us learn to be positive and constructive so that we can strengthen our strengths, while making efforts to eliminate the weaknesses. Moreover, let us have the courage to challenge those who are indulging in negativism, those who indulge in character- assassination, rumour-mongering or creating divisions among us. The courage to challenge these unhealthy approaches of our own companions is absolutely essential in order to take the Province forward in the right direction. Once we are able to challenge such individuals, the positive dimension will get the upper hand and make it easier to eliminate the negative aspects and move forward.

Finally, let us become conscious that the God of history is guiding each one of us both personally and collectively. It is in Him and through Him that we have our being and carry out our missions and ministries. Without Him nothing will happen and with Him everything is possible. With His active presence, the province will definitely march forward.

Faternally,  
*Sebasti L. Raj, SJ*  
 Provincial

## Provincial's Programme



### MAY 2017

- 03 First Vows of FSPM Novices, Coimbatore
- 12-13 With the Chinese Provincial, Fr John Lee, SJ and Fr Stephen Chow, SJ
- 18-19 Formation Meeting – Shembaganur
- 20-21 JCSA - Statutes Review Committee Meeting – ISI, Bangalore
- 30 Meeting of LS/TL/CC – New Provincial assumes office – Maduralaya
- 31 Jubilarians' Day – Beschi Illam

## Announcements

### POSA's appointment:

The appointment of **Fr Peter Xavier** (MDU) as Registrar cum Librarian at Sacred Heart College, Satya Nilayam, Chennai, was missed out in the last POSA Appointment list released on 01 April '17 - Socius to POSA.

### Left:

Sch Selvendhiran Antony left the Society on 23 April '17 and Sch A. Jose Antony on 24 April '17.

## TRANSFERS / APPOINTMENTS: List IV

NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
Br Amalraj Michael	SJC, Trichy	Ayyampalayam	Farm Manager
Fr Arockia Alton S	Supam	Arulagam, Harur	Treasurer & Staff
Fr Correya Leopold	LTI, Madurai	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Rest
Fr Diaz Vitalis	VMI, Vilangudi	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Rest
Fr Elias Maria	St. Mary's HSS, Madurai	Sri Lanka	Social Ministry
Fr Francis Xavier M	Manalur	Arrupe House, Mettupalayam	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Paul Pragash	Clive House, Trichy	SJC, Trichy	College Staff
Fr James Suresh	St Joseph's Farm Perumalmalai	Sri Lanka	Pastoral Ministry
Fr Jesu Benjamin (DUM)	Loyola College, Chennai	AICUF House	House Administrator
Fr Jesudoss Irudayam	SXC, Palayamkottai	Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur	Staff
Fr Jeyabaskaran Savariraj	Tertianship	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Minister & Treasurer
Fr Jeyaraj Boniface	Loyola College, Vettavalam	St Xavier's College Palayamkottai	Research
Fr John Britto Bonaventure	SJC, Trichy	Clive House	Act. Sup. & Dir. Rapinat Herb. (SJC)
Fr John Felix (DUM)	Dumka Province	Loyola College, Chennai	Immigrants Ministry Team
Fr Joseph Antony Samy G	Sabbatical	Besch illam, Dindigul	Acting Superior & CIS Staff
Fr Lawrence Maria Gabriel	Irudayakulam (SXC, P'Kottai)	Thozhamai Illam	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Marianathan Swamikannau	St Arulanandar HSS, Oriyur	DACA, Madurai	Pastoral and Social Ministry
Fr Rajarathinam Rathinam	Loyola College, Vettavalam	AAC, Karumthur	Staff
Sch Susaipragasam M. Packiam	Satya Nilayam, Chennai	LIS, Ranipettai	Regency
Fr Tagore Leo Antony	Besch illam, Dindigul	Loyola Academy Vadamelpakkam	Team Leader & Correspondent
Br Thomas Arulappan	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	St. Mary's, Dindigul	Minister
Fr Yagoo Y. Sandanam	St. Joseph's, Trichy	Thozhamai Illam Kanyakumari	Spiritual Ministry



## They met, they celebrated...

### *Celebrations, Functions, Courses...*

On 06 April, at the end of Fr Provincial's visitation to the **Beschi** Community, he appreciated our community life centred round the senior Jesuits, who are a source of edification and inspiration. On 07 April, the teachers of St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Dindigul, and on 08 April St Antony's College girls had a one-day Retreat in Beschi organized by CIS. Fr Ignatius Britto and Fr Xavier Alphonse directed the retreats respectively. Fr Ilanko Xavier, the Novice Master, gave a course on Examination of Conscience to the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny in Yercaud for two days.

On 19 April, we thanked heartily our outgoing Socius to the Novice Master, Fr Manuel Savariar, as he handed over his responsibilities to his successor, Fr Antony Inigo. On 18 April, the three-month Tertianship program for Sisters organized by CIS came to a happy culmination with a cultural program and a pilgrimage. On 22 April we celebrated the 91st birthday of Fr R. George with a thanksgiving Mass and dinner.

'Dhanam', led by Jerry, **Dhyana Ashram**, organized a blood donation camp as a Lenten venture. Students of Loyola College of Education, motivated by Fr Dominic Royce, participated and donated blood to very poor cancer patients of the Cancer Institute, Adyar. Frs A. Joseph, Lawrence Amalraj, Jerry together directed the retreats of the staff and students of St Bede's School, Santhome. Jerry led a special retreat for the crew of the Madha TV. He went to Malaysia on the invitation of Archbishop Joseph Ha, to give a series of lay retreats on *Laudato Si* and *Amoris Laetitia*. He travelled to Zambia for 27 pastoral programmes benefiting parishioners and youth. On 09 April, Fr Arockia Dass organized a day of spiritual orientation programme in Dhyana Ashram for the students under the care of MC Sisters.

On 29 March at Marthandam over 1400 lay leaders of the two dioceses of Kottar and Kuzhithurai listened to Jerry talking on the 'Current Challenges of Christian Discipleship'. The event concluded with a blood donation camp that received more than 100 units including that of the local Syro-Malankara Bishop. Fr Joseph, Superior, has constructed beautiful scenes of the stations of the cross around the Dhyana Ashram chapel.

**JCERT**, St Xavier's, Palayamkottai, organized a demonstration against NEET on 21 April at Jawahar grounds in Palayamkottai. About 2000 people - students, teachers, educationists,



parents - participated. Representatives of all the major political parties in Tamil Nadu addressed the meeting. It had a very good impact on conscientizing the people on the ill effects of NEET which impinges on the educational rights of poor students. Medical admissions are done till now on the basis of merit in a transparent manner in Tamil Nadu so far. We should be allowed to continue this system without NEET, the meeting demanded.

JCERT organized also the VIEW (Vacation Intensive English Workshop) to enhance the communicative competence of our school students on 22-26 April. Seven students, completing VIII standard, from our nine Jesuit Tamil medium schools, participated in the camp, held at St. Xavier's Hr. Sec. School, Palayamkottai. Fr John Kennedy organized and conducted the camp.

From **Paris**: Sch Sathya Balan was ordained a deacon on 22 April in St Ignatius Church, Paris by Bishop Olivier Leborgne of Amiens. The grace-filled celebration showcased the universal dimension of the Society in the presence of eleven other newly ordained deacons from 7 different countries.

We, the **Regents**, had our annual meet for three days at Maduralaya on 10-12 April. The three days were spent meaningfully with sharings on the documents of GC 36, the glorious legacy of the French Fathers and the treasures found in their letters and the role of a religious today from the perspective of a religious Sister. We felt enriched by sharing our experiences as Regents. We are grateful to Fr PCF, Fr Rufus, the animator of Regents, and the Maduralaya community.

**M.A. Selvam**, Rome, writes: "I was ordained a deacon on 18 April by the Jesuit Archbishop Luis F. Ladaria at our Gesù Church. The Mass was solemn and grace-filled. I did experience a profound moment in the Mass, especially while lying on the floor, seeking the intercession of all the saints. In his insightful homily, the Archbishop invited us to receive this precious gift of Major Orders with a deep sense of gratitude and humility, and he reminded us never to forget the importance of service in our priestly lives. Along with our Province men in Rome, Thayriam from London was present for the occasion. His mere presence was a gift and grace to me personally. On the following day, Fr. L.X. Jerome celebrated the Mass in the room of St Ignatius at the Gesù community. My first diaconate service took place in this Mass. Thank



you, dear Fathers and brothers, for your prayers.”

We, Juniors of **SSC, Sitagarh** staged our well-appreciated play, *Inigo* on 27 April. All of us bagged good marks in our 3<sup>rd</sup> term exam. The Way of the Cross and the other ceremonies we conducted on Good Friday in our parish church received a lot of praise. On 29 April we had our Farewell Mass and dinner along with the entire community and the Novices. On 30 we took leave of SSC that was our home for the last ten months.

Nearly 300 Dalit Catholic students of **St Joseph's College**, Trichy, benefitted from a one-day camp that inspired them to identify and build on their God-given talents. Fr Aruldoss and Prof. John from the Commerce Department were the resource persons. The services of Mr. D. Selvanathan and Mr. M. Selvaraju, our staff members, were highly appreciated at their retirement function, followed by a delicious dinner, organised by the management.

During the Lenten season various programmes were organized for the parishioners of **St Mary's, Madurai**: a pilgrimage on foot to the Shrine of Our Lady of Velankanni, Anna Nagar, a medical camp, blood donation camp, a seminar on the impact of media on the family by Fr. Irudayaraj, Director, LENS, and a pilgrimage to Tharagu Malai Matha and Sacred Heart Church, Srivilliputhur for the catechism students. The Way of the Cross on Good Friday was enacted by our youth. All ceremonies of the Holy Week were presided over by Archbishop Antony Pappusami of Madurai. The Community went on a two day picnic to Munnar and Thekkady and returned rejuvenated.

On 22 April the 67<sup>th</sup> College Day of **St. Xavier's College of Education**, Palayamkottai was celebrated on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of shifting of both the college and the hostel from St. Xavier's College campus. The college day assumed significance, as it is the first year of introduction of co-education at the B.Ed. level and also because the first batch of two-year B.Ed. and M.Ed. programmes is completing the course. Launching of 'Aasaan', an e-magazine, the release of a mobile application developed by the college and two short films produced by our students won a thunderous applause from the audience. Dr. D. Selvakumar, Principal of Meston College of Education and an alumnus of SXCE was the chief guest.

M.A. Selvam, SJ, Rome



St Mary's, Madurai



St Mary's, Madurai



St Mary's, Madurai



## They have done it!

*Something new, something good...*



Valanagam, Beschi



Valanagam, Beschi



New René Hall, Beschi

On 19 April at **Beschi** the newly-constructed René Hall and 'Valanagam' - the residence for the PDDM Sisters who are taking care of our infirmary, were blessed and opened by Fr Provincial. The function that followed the blessing was held in the new, air-conditioned René Hall. The contractor, Mr Simeon Raj and his workers were felicitated by Fr Provincial and were presented with mementos and gifts. Sr Provincial of PDDM and her team from Bangalore, campus Jesuits and the whole battalion of the contractor's assistants and labourers participated.

To prepare the students of **Loyola College, Vettavalam**, to do well in the Campus Interview, a team of ten HR personnel from Chennai, under the leadership of Mr. Irudayaraj, Head, HR, Techset & Co. offered a series of training programs for the final year UG and PG students throughout the year. Fr Alphonse Manickam and Prof Stanley Vincent, in collaboration with Mr. C. Abraham, Director, Nestor Infotech Solution and Sugham Milk, Chennai organized a 'Job Fair' on 01 April. More than 21 reputed companies from Bangalore, Chennai, Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai conducted interviews and offered appointment letters to 225 students. Graduates from nearby villages and colleges also participated in the Job Fair, which was indeed a mega event held for the first time in our Loyola Rural College. As the demand from students to do part-time jobs in the campus in order to earn money to pay their tuition fees has been on the increase, Loyola, in collaboration with Mr. C. Abraham, Chennai initiated an innovative program, which was inaugurated on 17 April. So about 100 students have begun "earning while learning" by doing the Central Government project of updating data-entry of Aadhar Cards.

Fr John Kumar and the research staff of

**Social Watch-Tamilnadu** organized state level consultations for the year 2017, on 11 April on Gender Budgeting, and Tribal and Dalit Budgeting on 18, 19 April at the seminar hall of the State Planning Commission in the Ezhilagam campus, Chepauk, Chennai. A host of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and their representatives participated and articulated their issues and concerns directly to the top level TN government Secretaries, policy and budget makers of the state government, who attended the interactive consultative sessions. These were organized in collaboration with the State Planning Commission and other departments like Department of Planning and Development, Finance, Social Welfare, Labour, Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare. The officials actively engaged with the civil society representatives. Mrs and Mr. Christodas Gandhi I.A.S and Qudsia Gandhi I.A.S, former Addl. Chief Secretaries of the Government of Tamilnadu for their help.

The highlights of this year events were that the member secretary of the State Planning Commission, Planning & Devp. Secretary, Director of Tribal Welfare Dept. and several Secretaries, Under Secretaries and HODs participated actively in this process. Fr. Marianathan, the Province co-ordinator for Social Action, Fr M.F. Kennedy and Fr. Philip Kumar, both involved in Tribal ministries, registered their active presence with their people's representation.



## New Books



*Leveil Kuritha Kathaiyaadalgal*, **A. Irudayaraj, SJ**, LENS, Madurai. Pages: 230. Price: Rs 120.

*Community College Success*, **Joseph Antony Jacob, SJ**, Asian Trading Corporation, Bengaluru. Pages: 248. Price: Rs 300.

*Anbin Geetham*, **Maria Jeyaraj, SJ**, Pages: 24. Price: Rs 20.

*Mugavayin Mugavari* by **Xavier Mampra, SJ**, Sacred Heart Centre, Beschi Illam, Pages : 112, Rs. 60.

## CORRESPONDENTS:

*Donic Raja,  
Edward Lenin,  
John Kennedy,  
John Michael,  
Lawrence Amalraj,  
Manoj,  
Michael Panimaya Raj,  
Renold Amirtharaj,  
Sam,  
Viji Bose.*

# TITUS GOPALAKRISHNAN, SJ

1939 - 2017

**B**r Titus Gopalakrishnan, SJ, towards the end of Feb 2017, had breathing trouble and chest pain. He met the Cardiologist at Meenakshi Mission Hospital, Madurai on 08 March '17, and underwent an angiogram. It revealed that there were two major blocks in the arteries. At the advice of Fr Provincial, the very next day he was taken to Madras Medical Mission (MMM) for treatment. On 11 March 2017, after the investigations, the doctors at MMM suggested surgery.

On 15 March, the day of the surgery, he was very cheerful and joking with the nurses and helpers. After a successful surgery, he was in the ICU for 5 days and then shifted to a private room. On 19 March night, he called Fr Jayaseelan, Minister, AAC, who was taking care of him, to request him to celebrate Mass. Later Bro Titus himself asked the doctors to discharge him from the hospital because he felt quite okay.

He was discharged on 22 March and taken to St Thomas Hospital, Chennai to recuperate. After three days Br Titus again had trouble breathing and he was taken to the ICU. The fluid formation in his lungs, his age and his weight proved to be big hurdles. In the first week of April he developed further problems linked to his liver and blood.

When I reached the hospital on 13 April, Dr. Sr. Rexline, Director of St Thomas Hospital, told me his condition was critical and advised me to administer anointing of the sick. But the next day, Good Friday, he looked normal and cheerful,

speaking freely with his relatives, even recalling the names of all his nephews, nieces and their wards, and conveying his wishes and blessings. Heaving a big sigh of relief, I asked him, "Shall we go home tomorrow, because you are doing so well?" Br Titus responded, "Fr Kamal, why are you in a hurry? I can go home after two days." But in the evening his condition became very critical and he lost consciousness. On 16 April, Easter Sunday, at 1.16 pm he breathed his last. That was exactly two days after he told me about going home!



At 9.30 am on the following day, 17 April, his funeral Mass was presided over by Fr Provincial at the Loyola College Church, Chennai. Fr Albert William preached the homily. Two of his relatives, a nephew and niece, shared their memories of Br Titus. Mr. Joseph, who worked with him at LTI, Madurai, testified to his commitment and his staunch faith in God. Fr Jayapathy, Rector, Loyola did the final Commendation and I said the final prayers at the cemetery.

Br Titus, a convert from a Brahmin family along with his 4 brothers and 2 sisters, worked for a few years, before deciding to become a Jesuit Brother at the age of 29. One of his brothers, Fr Joseph Sundaram, was an MDU Jesuit, who died at a young age. Br Titus made his final commitment in 1981. He worked in many Jesuit houses as Minister or assistant director of the hostel. He worked at LTI, Madurai for a total of 17 years.

- Amal Kulandaisamy, SJ

## Abide with the Lord

Fr Joseph Inchakal, SJ (KER), 84/66, on 05 May in Calicut.





## Memories

### “At Mass I am normal again”

The courageous stand in favour of the oppressed provoked thousands of conversions and won for Fr Caussanel universal respect. In 1895 after the tragic caste conflict at Kalugumalai Fr Caussanel obtained the acquittal of two Christians condemned to death and of 34 condemned to prison. The Madras High Court also blamed the lower court and the police.

At the age of 74 Fr Caussanel wrote from Kallikulam: “Since my arrival here I have worked more than I could have done 30 years ago. This is not due to my physical energy but to a singular gift of our Lord. Often I am in agony the whole night; at holy Mass I am normal again.” At the age of 76, as we find in his diary, he walked five hours in the sands to visit a village of neophytes. Longevity seems to have been a family heirloom. Fr Caussanel had five brothers (among them two priests), and three sisters two of whom became nuns. At the age of 73 Fr Adrian Caussanel wrote: “A letter from my brother who is now 89 years old makes me thank God for His Providence over mine, from my eldest brother who is now 90 or 91 to the youngest who is 70. He also tells me there are few souls on earth as holy as our sister; at the age of 86 she can still nurse the sick. This shows that all anxiety about the family is superfluous.”

- **Joseph C. Houpert, SJ**  
In *A South Indian Mission*

## Secrets

### *for Well-being and Peace*



### Roots & Wings

There are two “messages” that all human beings need to receive and record. They are the messages of *affirmation* and of *personal responsibility*. These two messages are like the two legs on which a person can walk successfully through life. The message of affirmation is this: “You are a unique human being, the one and only you. You are a real gift to this world and a person of inestimable worth.” The message of responsibility is this: “As you mature into adulthood you must take your life into your own hands. You must assume full responsibility for your life, your emotions and attitudes.”

Someone has compared these messages to “*roots and wings*.” We must give to others both roots and wings. The *roots* of any human existence are the roots of personal worth, of self-confidence, the roots of belief in one’s own uniqueness. The message that offers roots is that of an unconditional love. The *wings* of a human existence are the roots of personal worth, of self-confidence, the roots of belief in one’s own uniqueness. The message that offers roots is that of an unconditional love. The wings of a human existence are the wings of self-responsibility. Giving a person wings is the message: “You have everything needed to soar, to sing your own song, to warm the world with your presence. The direction of your flight, the song you will sing and the warmth you will bestow on this world are your responsibility. You must take your life into your own hands. You must not blame others and complain about your lack of opportunity. You must assume full responsibility for the course and direction of your life.” The message of roots says to an individual: “You’ve got it!” The message of wings says: “Now go for it!”

- **John Powell, SJ**  
In *Through Seasons of the Heart*

## Just for...



Boy: Dad, you are invited for a small get-together tomorrow in our school.

Dad: Small? How small?

Boy: Just you, me and the Principal.