



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

NOVEMBER 2014

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

WE ARE CONSECRATED PERSONS

Dear Brothers,

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2014-15 as the Year of Consecrated Life, beginning on 30 Nov '2014, the first day of Advent, and ending on 02 Feb 2016, World Day of Consecrated Life.

When I look at myself as a consecrated person, which I have done freely, I become aware of the following: As a consecrated person, I belong totally to the Lord, which implies that I do not belong to myself anymore. This also implies that I have only one agenda, one dream and one desire in my life, the will of God, which is expressed through my Congregation (Society of Jesus). This obviously implies that I cannot be a genuine religious and at the same time function according to my own personal agenda, desires or dreams.

As a consecrated person, I am a truly liberated person, through my conscious and

deliberate act of surrender. My whole-hearted surrender to the Lord has elevated me to the status of a liberated person, with nothing to hold me back in the goal of serving the Lord and His people. I am able to say like the Blessed Mother, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done to me according to thy will" and I am enabled to sing the Magnificat, because He has made me worthy of such a status – a liberated person who belongs totally to God through unconditional surrender to Him.

As a consecrated person, I am conscious and also convinced that the Lord of history is always with me and within me, walking with me and guiding me to carry out His will for His glory and for the benefit of His people. I am also aware, that I will betray Him and His people, whenever I insert my own personal agenda in my inner disposition or in my concrete action.

As a consecrated person in the Society of Jesus, I am aware that I belong to a Universal Society with a Universal mission. Hence my specific mission anywhere in the world, while remaining localized and specific, is

grounded on my universal outlook or perspective. In other words, my specific ministry in a specific locality is elevated to the level of a Universal mission, because of this outlook or perspective. Further, my Universal mission beckons me to make myself available to be located in any part of the world for any type of ministry.

Thus, as a person who, through consecration, belongs totally to God, who has liberated himself through an act of surrender to Him and thanks to the presence and guidance of the Lord of History, I am a privileged person, filled with a sense of gratitude to the Lord who has called me and has enabled me to function as His instrument for His mission. The Year of the Consecrated Life is a historical moment beckoning me to re-consecrate myself and make all possible efforts to remain faithful to Him who has called me to this life.

Faternally,
Sebasti L. Raj. SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



NOVEMBER

- 01-02 JCSA and POSA Consult – Phesama, Nagaland
- 03-05 Visitation: North East
- 06 Wenisch Centenary: Inaugural function
- 11-17 Visitation: Loyola College, Chennai
- 18-19 Visitation: Ranipettai
- 20-21 Visitation: Berchmans Illam
- 22 Beschi Illam Jubilee Day
- 23 Consult
- 24-27 Visitation: SICJ, Trivandrum
- 28-29 Visitation: Carmel, Nagercoil
- 30 Visitation: Thozhamai Illam

DECEMBER

- 01-02 Visitation: Xaveriana, Thoothukudy
- 05-06 POSA Consult – Satya Nilayam, Chennai
- 07-08 Visitation: Satya Nilayam
- 09-10 Visitation: Dhyana Ashram
- 11-12 Visitation: Arul Kadal
- 13-14 Discernment Session – PBVM Sisters – Dhyana Ashram
- 15-16 Visitation: Arul Kadal (continued)
- 18-19 Visitation: St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
- 20-21 Visitation: De Britto, Devakottai
- 29-30 Meeting of LS/TL – Maduralaya
- 30 Consult (Afternoon)

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

NOVEMBER

- 06 Fr. Wenisch Centenary, Beschi
- 11-17 Loyola, Chennai
- 12 Loyola College Governing Body Meeting
- 15 Mission Consult
- 18-19 Ranipettai
- 22 Beschi Diamond Jubilee
- 23 Province Consult
- 26 Tribal & Ceyrac Mission
- 27 AHAL, Kilpennathur
- 28 Gathering of Scholastics in Chennai Mission Area

DECEMBER

- 09-10 Dhyana Ashram
- 14 Pondy
- 15-17 Vettavalam
- 19 Mission - Christmas Celebration
- 29,30 LS/TL Meet, Consult, Maduralaya

Announcements



Superiors & Team Leaders Meet:

The next LS/TL meet will be on 29, 30 Dec '14 at Maduralaya. It will begin at 09.00 a.m. on Mon, 29 Dec and end with lunch on Tues, 30 Dec.

Fr Wenisch Centenary:

Fr Marivalan is organizing the Birth Centenary celebration of Fr Wenisch, SJ, along with the meeting of Regional Directors of APEYM on 06-09 Nov '14 at Beschi, Dindigul. For more details please contact Fr Marivalan at marivalan2010@gmail.com.

Roots & Wings:

JIGSA (Jesuits in Ignatian Spirituality South Asia) offers 'Roots and Wings 2015 – revisiting and revisioning the rich heritage of Ignatian spirituality in today's context'. Venue: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. Dates: From April 8 to May 12 (both days inclusive) 2015. Arrival: April 7 (evening) 2015. Departure: May 12 (evening) 2015.: Contact Person: Fr M. Devadhas SJ at devadhasm@gmail.com. Mobile: +91 94875 80952

Leave granted:

After discussing with his Consultors, Fr Provincial has granted one year's leave of absence to Fr Joe Arun with effect from 24 Sept 2014.

New:

Fr. Thomas Visuvasam has a new email id : tomvisu@gmail.com. Fr. Joseph Michael's new email id: joemike13sj@gmail.com

Left:

Sahaya Ravi M., a first year novice, left the novitiate on 08 Oct '14 and another first year novice, Tamil Vendan G., left on 20 Oct '14.



Events



TO PROMOTE JUSTICE

In the Sports Day organized by **AHAL**, Kilpennathur on 01 Oct in the village Kachrapattu nearly 140 students from 5 villages participated. On 03, 04 Oct the 6th-8th standard students from our study centers came to AHAL campus for a two-day Skill Development camp. Sch Lenin was the Resource Person. At a meeting on 05 Oct animators shared their views on how to promote justice in the modern society. On 02,03 Oct '14, a one-day Leadership training programme for Irular tribal children was organized by Jesuit Irular mission (JIM) in Tindivanam at Fr Ceyrac foundation girl's hostel. Sch Dhoni and Sch Regis planned the day well and got the children involved. - **Selvandhiran**

VERY QUIET

The month of October has been very quiet in **Beschi Illam** as the first year Novices are in their long retreat and the second years have gone out for their pastoral experiment to various Jesuit parishes. Fr Ilanko is immersed in accompanying the first year novices in their month-long spiritual journey. The Socius, Fr Wilson, is busy visiting the second years in their different parishes. A group of 15 Pondicherry Immaculate Heart Sisters, who are celebrating their Silver Jubilee, are here in CIS, for a course under the direction of Fr Dhanaraj, assisted by other Jesuits like Frs Rex Pai, I.M. Joseph, Bastian, Elias, Wilson, Tagore et al. Frs Bastian and Dhanaraj are busy directing retreats for groups of Sisters.

Preparations in view of the Diamond Jubilee are in full swing, the heavy rains and Deepavali having called a halt to the various works. Fr Provincial addressed the community on 15 Oct during our community meeting, to keep the community abreast of the plans to improve facilities and increase space in the Infirmary quarters. - **Leo Tagore**

UNIVERSAL FORMATION

Theology for the laity programme this year has begun with 24 participants at **Arul Kadal**, Chennai. Fr Jose Cecilio Magadia, SJ, General Assistant for formation, was with us. In his sharing he stressed the universal formation emphasizing the three aspects of an authentic Jesuit: prayer, community life and intellectual formation. On 17 Oct Mr Rangaraj Pande, the chief editor of Thanthi News Channel, in the presence of



other esteemed guests, released the book titled, "சமயங்கள் சமுதாய அடிப்படை மாற்றத்திற்காகவே" written by Fr Alangaram and translated into Tamil by Mr Antony Cruz. Fr Maria Arul Raja has been appointed the Director of Studies of Arul Kadal by Fr POSA. He succeeds Fr Alangaram whose hard work and contribution are remembered by all. The students and the staff participated in the seminar organized by the ITA

(Indian Theological Association) at Dhyana Ashram on 23-26 Oct.

- **Sarathi**

STOLE THE SPOTLIGHT

Braving the torrential rains, about 43 superiors/work directors/treasurers of the **Chennai Mission** attended the meeting held at LIBA on 19 Oct '14. The purpose of the meeting was to take stock of how effectively we are carrying out our mission and to learn from the best practices. After the Eucharist the Chennai Mission Superior (CMS) presented a historical overview of Chennai Mission. 29 presentations comprising of achievements and challenges of different mission centres bore excellent testimony to the growth and outreach potential of the Mission. In the afternoon the CMS presented a report card of what has been done after the 3rd Chennai Mission Assembly. The newly started mission Tribal and Migrant mission stole the spotlight. Major challenges and concerns were culled out and discussed at length in the open session. The need for common apostolic discernment for further development and status of Chennai Mission and local resource mobilization was repeatedly highlighted.

Jesuits engaged in social action in Chennai mission area had an interactive session on 22 Oct with Fr Patxi, Secretary for Social Justice and Ecology, Rome, his assistant, Fr Xavier Jeyaraj, and Fr Sannybhai, Secretary, JESA. The next day they paid a visit to the Chennai Mission office.

- **Dominic**

TIME OF GRACE

On 28 Sept we, the MDU Scholastics at **DNC, Pune**, were glad to have Fr Britto Vincent, the PCF for visitation. He motivated us to grow as integrated Jesuits. The visitation of Fr Provincial on 2 Oct was a time of joy and grace. His sharing helped us think radically of our mission. We felt rejuvenated by the words of appreciation and encouragement of both Fr Provincial and the PCF. Fr Jose Magadia, General Assistant for Formation, visited DNC and spoke to us on the universal mission of the Society.

- **Salomon**

MEANINGFUL MANNER

Ayutha Pooja was celebrated in a meaningful manner at **St Joseph's Industrial School**, Ooty. All the machines and tools were decorated, Bro Tony gave a message, Fr Richard blessed the machines and tools and sweets were distributed. All the students, who went home for the Diwali holidays, are back.

- **Amirtharaj**

ONE OF THE HAPPIEST

Fr Provincial, who came for his annual visitation to the **Loyola Institutes, Kuppayanalloor**, and the Chennai Mission Superior were very happy about our mission in Kuppayanallur. They pointed out that Kuppayanallur community is one of the happiest communities in the province. School: As we were one of the 25 schools selected, 45 of our XI std students wrote the 'achievement exam' conducted by the Central government. We have formed a 14-member Grama Sabha which monitors the discipline and shares in the decision making. Regular parent-teacher meetings are conducted to inspire the parents to create a conducive atmosphere at home for the slow

learners. Parish: Initiatives are taken to make people come together to pray the rosary in all the substations including the parish. To mark the Mission Sunday celebration on 26 Oct, a special magic show was performed by Fr V. Thomas. JMAADD: "Family Life" was the theme of JMAADD's Diwali gathering for which nearly 100 recovering alcoholics and co-dependents turned up. It helped them regain their synergy.

- **Lawrence**

CAMPUS REJUVENATED

Mr Gunasekaran, MLA, Sivagangai constituency was highly appreciative of the services of **De Britto**, Devakottai during the NSS Special Camp conducted at Kuthalur. A one-day retreat for Catholic students preached by our vocation promoters team led by Fr Jesu Nesaraju and a few CIC Sisters



rejuvenated our campus. Fr Yagoo, with his physical education team, successfully conducted Devakottai Educational District Sports meet on 10-16 Oct. A big contingent from our school will take part in the forthcoming Divisional meet at Kariapatti. Our student-members of Veeramamunivar Tamil Literary Association are bringing out two monthly magazines namely 'Pena Munai' and 'Samugame Endhiri' This innovative effort of our students was highlighted in an article in Puthiya Thalaimurai magazine dated 02 Oct '14. An orientation programme for SSLC and HSS was organized on 24 Oct. This was conducted by Mr Rajesh from Bangalore, a record holder on the Guinness Book of World records. This was an eye opener to the students.

- **Yagoo**

LAY COLLABORATION

GSP (Government Service Programme) was inaugurated on 10 Oct 2014 at **Loyola Academy**, Vadampakkam by Fr Provincial during his Annual Visitation. As a new initiative of lay collaboration in the administration, Ms Subha, our IT staff, has been appointed Additional Vice-Principal for the second semester of this academic year. The IX std students went on a field-trip to Aapur village near Vadampakkam and learnt about the life and problems of villagers and village administration.

- **Deva A. Stephen SJ**

ADOPTED ON THE SPOT

At the teacher's day celebration on 05 Sept at **St Mary's, Dindigul**, Mr Veeramani, an alumnus, said that he had been waiting for the honour of being the chief guest of our school function for nearly 20 years. He motivated the students to let themselves be moulded by the teachers. He also provided a sumptuous meal for the teachers in the afternoon. A meeting of the old and the new was made possible through the annual day and teacher's day celebration in the evening by the Retired Staff Association. The visitation of Fr Provincial on 10, 11 Sept energized our life and mission.

Fr Stephen Pragasam and our alumni efficiently organized the JAAT's EC meet on 12 Oct. The same evening we had the St. Mary's alumni annual day. Our alumni, Mr Kaja Maideen, who received recently the lifetime-achievement award from the Governor for religious harmony and Mr Sebastine Britto for his contribution towards water conservation were honoured. An astonishing element of the annual day was the launching of the adoption scheme through which the alumni voluntarily

offered to finance and sponsor poor students from VI std to XII std. 18 students from both Tamil Medium and English Medium were adopted spontaneously on the spot. Mr Rajendran, the chief guest of the day, gratefully remembered the values that the school taught him. A Science Exhibition conducted on 17 Oct by our science club brought to light our budding scientists.

St. Mary's Primary School bagged the best school award by winning all the competitions in Albert Memorial Cup competitions conducted by Dindigul Midtown Rotary club. The Children's Day was celebrated by AMUTHU in Oddanchatram on 07 Sept, '14. Nearly 350 children from 32 villages participated. Mrs Indurani presided over the function and Fr. Davidraj, the Parish Priest of Oddanchatram, and Mr. Ravichandren, a social activist, addressed the children and encouraged them. De-addiction programmes were conducted on 29, 30 Sept '14 at D. Pudukottai, Valayapatty and E. Kallupatty villages of Oddanchatram taluk. A team of three persons from JMAADD, Nagercoil addressed the villagers. **- Paul**

FOUR-DAY BONANZA

There was a four-day bonanza at **IDEAS-LAAS** in the month of October. On 20 Frs Patxi and Xavier Jeyaraj from Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat, Rome and Fr Stanny Jebamalai, Assistancy Secretary for Social Action met the community members at IDEAS. Fr Patxi stressed that the purpose of the meeting was to accompany our men in the Social Action sector and encourage them to move ahead with enthusiasm. It was a reassuring expression of solidarity from Rome. Fr Provincial was with us for his visitation the

next two days. His presence was informal, invigorating and sensitive. After the showers of blessing of the Visitation we went for the showers of Coutralam..

Fr Aloysius Irudayam was in Delhi as one of the seven members of the ISI-Delhi Assessment Committee which submitted its final report. Fr Stephen Muthu participated in and contributed to the Asia-Pacific Regional Consultation on 'the Role of Family Farming in the 21st Century - Achieving the Zero Hunger Challenge' by 2025, held in Chennai. The Correspondents and Headmistress of the Presentation Congregation had a one-day Seminar on "Minority Educational Rights under attack - The Challenges ahead of us" offered by Frs Jeyaseelan and Albert Joseph. Fr. Jeyaseelan gave a recollection talk on "The Spirituality of Law" on 11 Oct to the members of AAC, Karumathur Community.

- Jeyaseelan

SPIRITUALLY ENRICHED

The community of **Loyola College, Vettavalam** feels spiritually enriched by the visitation of our Provincial on 25, 26 Sept '14. Fr Felix Joseph suffered a fracture in his leg on 13 Sept and was admitted at PIMS, Pondicherry for a minor surgery. He is now at Beschi recovering and trying to walk with the help of a walker. Pia Schscfer, a volunteer from Austria, arrived on 29 Sept. Fr Dominic Royce, our treasurer, has submitted his Ph.D thesis. On 01 Oct the College celebrated its 6th Sports Day and Dr. Amuldoss, Director of Physical Education & Sports, Thiruvalluvar University, was the Guest of Honour. The Sports Committee, guided by Fr Boniface Jeyaraj, the Secretary, organized it successfully. The staff and students are busy preparing for the semester exams. **- Alwin**

FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS

On 06 Oct **Paathai Centre**, Vallam organized an ESC animators

meeting at Pattambakkam for Cuddalore District. Around 15 Teachers participated in the meeting and had fruitful discussions. On 10 Oct we had Paathai - IACM-ESC district animators meeting at DHRC in which we planned for the forthcoming silver jubilee celebrations of the ESC ministry. Coaching camps for about 40 10th std students were conducted in Sithalingamadam of Villupuram district and Devikapuram of Tiruvannamalai district. On 22, 23 Oct Frs Patxi, and Xavier Jeyaraj from Rome and Sannybhai, the JESA Secretary visited Paathai Centre and interacted with DHRC staff. On 23 we had the Chennai Mission Social Action meeting along with Fr Patxi and the CMS. On 25, 26 Fr. Dominic preached a meaningful one day recollection at Paathai to the Chennai Mission Regents. **- Regis**

BROKE THE ROUTINE

It was a time of fun and relaxation when **St Mary's, Madurai** broke the routine and went on a tour on 04, 05 Oct to Thiruvananthapuram and Nagercoil. Fr M Devadoss and the community at the SICJ had made all the arrangements meticulously. Fr William Christopher guided our sight-seeing tour. Frs Antony Arockiam, Sahaya Wilfred and Carmel community at Nagercoil were generous hosts. Fr G.Packiaraj preached three retreats to clergy in Goa, Chandwa and Indore. Sr Jayamary gave a much-appreciated talk on health and hygiene to the hostel students.

The Bible Sunday was celebrated on 12 Oct with various competitions for the children and other parishioners. There was a good response for the Mission Sunday food festival on 19 Oct organized by the

various movements and pious associations of our parish.

- **M.A. Leo Anand**

CHALLENGES

Fr Victor of **LIS, Ranipet** preached an eight-day retreat to Sisters from various congregations at Nagamalai, Madurai. Fr Ignacy Arockia gave a five-day seminar to CIC Sisters on challenges that Religious face in the new media world. We had both Ayudha Pooja and Deepavali celebrations in LIFE and LIS when students came up with meaningful cultural programmes.

- **Manick**

YOUTH RETREAT

Arul Vazhvu Dhyana Centre at **Thozhamai Illam** conducted a three-day youth retreat for the school and college students on 03- 06 Oct and about 70 students received counselling from Fr. Josephraj. Fr Francis Sales gave a 6-day retreat to Bon Secours Sisters at Mudichur and animated the CRI groups of Kottar Diocese. Fr Arockiaraj gave a 6-day retreat on the Joy of the Gospel to a group of sisters and Franciscan brothers..

Thozhamai Illam hosted the 20th National Convention of Christian Journalists and the General Body Meeting of the Indian Catholic Press Association in our premises on the theme "Prophetic Challenges before Media Today," on 23- 25 Oct. Many eminent persons spoke at the convention attended by 60 journalists. Fr M. Charles celebrated the Novena Mass

of St. Michael the Archangel at Puthugrammam, near Kanyakumari on 27 Sept.

- **G. Arockiaraj**

LOT OF HARD WORK

We, the **Clive House** Community, went on a pilgrimage to St. Thomas Church at Malayadipatti on 02 Oct and paid homage to the tombs of our forefathers. Fr PCF began his first visitation of Madurai Scholastics from the Clive community and it was a grace-filled



moment for all of us. He appreciated us for putting in a lot of hard work in making the renovated Clive House a haven for the future Scholastics. The PCF of Darjeeling province too visited his two Scholastics. Now we are busy preparing for our semester exams.

- **Zenith**

BONDING & BINDING

St Xavier's, Palayamkottai organized, for the first time, a get-together of Jesuits from four communities - Xaveriana, Carmel, Thozhamai Illam and St. Xavier's with the motto of 'Bonding, Binding and Being' on 15 Oct. On this joyful occasion Superiors /Team Leaders and directors of works shared about the achievements and success stories of their communities and apostolic institutes. Br Britto, Minister, Br. Arockiasamy and Sch. Vasanth coordinated this long-

awaited gathering in an excellent manner. For the last two years a group of African students of our college keep coming to our Domestic Chapel for the Sunday Mass celebrated by Fr Maria Augustine who attends to their spiritual needs.

College: St. Xavier's has become a 'star college' - a prestigious status awarded by the Ministry of Science and Technology that announced this on 13 Oct. This will bring a grant of Rs 58 lakhs to the college towards promoting interdisciplinary scientific research. Fr Gilbert has published his doctoral thesis as a book titled, "Nadine Gordimer: A Champion of Freedom and Equality." The book was released by Dr. Mu. Ramasamy, former Head of the Department of Drama, Tamil University, Tanjore.

XIBA: In Sept-Oct '14 we had a Faculty-Corporate Expert Interface conducted by Dr. V. Jebamalai Vinanchiarachi, former Advisor to UNIDO; a one-day workshop on "Technology and Knowledge-based Entrepreneurship"; management games organized by XIMHAA, the HR club of XIBA, aimed at nurturing coordination and communication skills, team work, and logical thinking; Poverty Day, when the Charity club of XIBA collected contributions to be given to the poor; XIBATE 2014, the Management Meet which drew 133 students from 20 colleges; and a presentation by Mr Jeya Muthu Magesh, HR Manager- GHCL Ltd, Madurai on

Abide with the Lord

Fr Corral Jose Antonio (GUJ), 74/55, passed away on 13 Oct 2014 at Baroda.

Mr Visuvasam, 86, father of Fr Thomas Visuvasam, passed away on 01 Oct 14 at Royapuram.

Mr. Albert, 60, brother of Fr Pavulraj Michael, died on 07 Oct '14 at Michaelpatty.

Mrs. Ranjithammal, mother of Fr A. Anbarasan Savariraj, died on 12 Oct '14 in Madurai.

Mr. Vinoth Kumar, 24, younger brother of Sch George Raja, died on 13 Oct '14 in Thavasimadai.

Mr Siluvaimuthu, father of Fr Mariadoss Siluvaimuthu, died on 01 Nov '14 at Thondaimaanthurai.



“Reverse Mentoring.”

B.Ed. College: A two-day UGC-sponsored National Seminar on Inclusive Education was organized in which 83 scholars and college teachers participated. The highlight of the seminar was an interactive session with educationists from the USA through Skype. The Student Council was inaugurated on 11 Oct and Fr Arulanandam addressed the subject club of the B.Ed. programme. School: Two of our students won cash awards in elocution competitions. Fr Ignacy and his team successfully organized the 15th State Level Inter-School Volleyball tournament. Our school team lifted the Rolling Trophy.

- Arul H. William

AFFECTIVE MATURITY

The second term began at **Vidyaniketan**, Thiruvananthapuram with a three-day cultural tour of central Kerala. This gave us a good exposure to the spiritual, religious and cultural aspects of Kerala. The evaluation of the first term has brought some newness in the Juniorate routine. We were delighted to have here with us the fathers and brothers from St. Mary's, Madurai, who came here for their annual community excursion. The Psycho-Sexual Integration course by Fr Jossy Rodrigues (KAR) has helped us to grow in affective maturity and the Current Sciences course by Fr. Jerome Manyahi (AOR) has stimulated us to develop a scientific bent of mind. The interaction with Frs Patxi, Jeyaraj Xavier and Stanislaus Jebamalai on 18 Oct enlightened us on the involvement of Jesuits in social action and ecology ministry. It was also an occasion to showcase our talents in singing, dancing

and acting. Our appreciative audience included, in addition to these three, 17 Jesuits from Thiruvananthapuram.

- Karthickraj

FAVOURABLE JUDGEMENTS

As the Coordinator of **Higher Education** of the Province, I'm happy to inform that as regards the release of salary for the staff appointed in the permanent vacancies in Jesuit Colleges, the High Court of Madurai Bench of Madras High Court has already directed the Department of Collegiate Education to disburse the salary for the 24 teaching staff



appointed on 18 June 2012 for St. Joseph's College, Trichy. The Court has issued also a Contempt of Court notice to Madurai Kamaraj University for not approving the qualification of 16 teaching staff appointed on 18 June 2012 and directed it to do so at the earliest. Similarly the cases of St. Xavier's College and St. Xavier's College of Education have been filed and the hearing will be completed soon.

Similarly the Consortium of Christian Minority Higher Educational Institutions has obtained the release of salary from the respective Regional Joint Directorate of Collegiate Education for the non-teaching staff from the date of appointment for Holy Cross College, Nagercoil and Fatima College, Madurai in August 2014. Hence the Secretaries of Jesuit Colleges can do the same without further delay based on the selection process submitted to them. I thank all those who have been praying for

a favourable judgement in these cases.

- G. Pushparaj, SJ

COURAGE & CONVICTION

The second term of this academic year began at **VMI, Vilangudi** on 06 Oct with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr John. It was a moment of joy to have eight of our regents at VMI for their recollection. Fr. Robinson inspired them by citing the example set by courageous lay Catholics like Mr Sagayam, IAS and Judge John Michael D'Cunha. With the aim of promoting leadership in the parish Fr Bellarmine is organizing meetings for the women and youth of the parish. The youth of the parish are given career guidance once a month. Four youth of the parish bagged prizes in the Bible competitions held at the vicariate level in Pullambadi.

- G. S. Thyriam

ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE

At the beginning of this month, we, Juniors at **XTC, Belgaum**, were busy with our First Term exams that ended on 08 Oct. Fr Jose Magadia SJ, the General Counsellor for Formation, visited XTC on 16 Oct. In his talk to the Juniors and the Novices, he stressed the importance of spiritual and intellectual formation in the novitiate and the Juniorate. A cultural tour of 3 days to Badami, Aihole, Patadakal and Bijapur greatly enriched our understanding of other religions and helped us to appreciate the architecture of the temples built by Chalukyan and Mughal emperors. The enjoyable experience knit us more closely together. On 26 evening we began our Triddum for Renovation of Vows on 29 Oct evening, which will be a perfect end of our first term.

- A. Prasanth



SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

We are called to give ourselves, not only in life, but in death as well. As the Beloved Children of God, we are called to make our death the greatest gift. Since it is true that we are broken so as to be given, then our final brokenness, death, is to become the means to our final gift of self. Dying is the gateway to the complete experience of being the Beloved.

The fruitfulness of our little life, once we recognize it and live it as the life of the Beloved, is beyond anything we ourselves can imagine. One of the greatest acts of faith is to believe that the few years we live on this earth are like a little seed planted in a very rich soil. For this seed to bear fruit, it must die. We often see or feel only the dying, but the harvest will be abundant even when we ourselves are not the harvesters.

How different would our life be, if we are truly able to trust that it is multiplied in being given away! Imagine that, in the centre of your heart, you trust that your smiles and handshakes, your embraces and your kisses are only the early signs of a worldwide community of love and peace! Imagine that your trusting that every little movement of love you make will ripple out into ever new and wider circles – just as a little stone thrown into a still pond.

You and I have to trust that our short little lives can bear fruit far beyond the boundaries of our chronologies.

- **Henri Nouwen**

(from *The Best of Henri Nouwen*, by Robert Durback)



New Releases

“சமயங்கள் சமுதாய அடிப்படை மாற்றத்திற்காகவே” - முனைவர் ஆ. அலங்காரம், translated into Tamil by Mr Antony Cruz. நியு செஞ்சுரி புக் ஹவுஸ் (பி) லிட். சென்னை pp.226. Rs. 180.

“ரெய்மொன் பனிக்கரின் வாழ்வும் வாக்கும்” by Anand Amaladoss, Vaigarai Publications p. 218, price: Rs 120.

Memories

HISTORY OF ST MARY'S, MADURAI

The arrival in Madura of the first Fathers of the new Madura Mission took place in 1838. After a splendid reception by the Catholics, on 21 March 1838, the Missionaries were 'requested' to leave the premises of the Holy Rosary church at the dead of night, on the eve of Passion Sunday. Frs. Martin and du Ranquet left for Tuticorin and Fr Bertrand with Fr Garnier retired to Calladithidel where 10,000 Catholics had gathered to welcome them. There they decided to remain until better days.

Whenever they had to come to Madura on an urgent call to the Doctor or to answer court summons, the Fathers took shelter in the Travellers' Bungalow, but had to content themselves with the corner-room under a staircase when some Official happened to be camping. After a few months the need was felt for a permanent place. The idea first crops up in a letter from Fr Bertrand of February 1839, and an informal consult held at Calladithidel (12 May 1840) approved of it. In October or November of the same year, after some two months of hard bargaining, a large plot of ground was acquired on the outskirts of the town 'where three roads meet'. It was an empty and waste land with an unlucky name - 'akkiini moolei' (fire corner) they called it. No sooner was the deed settled, cash paid, and fencing begun, than opposition arose. Passers-by claimed the right to take short cuts through the ground, would-be co-owners crept in to have their share of the money paid, and undertakers for that ward brought along their dead, as they had been doing for years, they said, to be cremated on the spot. The Father appealed to the Collector for protection - it was Mr. Blackburne of Madura fame. He came in person, inspected the land and confirmed the Fathers' right.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1943)

Just for...



The man had come to the monastery for the first time and was put up in the monastery guest-house. The next morning a monk tried to wake him up with an early knock on his door and the customary greeting: 'Dominus Tecum!' (Lord be with you!) The puzzled man asked, "What is it?" The monk said again, "Dominus Tecum!" The man said, "Thank you. Whatever it is, just keep it down. I'll pick it up later."