



NOVEMBER 2016



(For Private Circulation)

## Message from the Provincial



### Our New Superior General

Dear Brothers,

The GC is making good progress and it will be concluded very soon. The past few weeks have been momentous in the life of the Society. They have provided deep, memorable spiritual experiences for all of us who are privileged to participate in this Congregation. The visit of the Holy Father to the Aula of the Congregation was definitely an unforgettable moment to every one of us. His very personality, the affectionate way he relates to people, his concern for the growth of the Society, his deep reflections on our life, our mission and the focus of our ministries, his insistence on hope and joy, integrated with a spirit of mercy and compassion – these are the things that touched me the most.

We are happy that God has given us a new and dynamic Superior General, **Fr. Arturo Sosa**. He comes across to me as a man who would like to move forward, with a clear vision and a definite plan of action. That should make all of us very happy and look forward to his leadership and guidance. Let me present to you some of his remarks – during his homily in the Thanksgiving Mass on October 15, '16 and his first sharing in the Congregation - as these are highly inspiring and motivating.

The best way to govern the Society is to increase its capacity to serve the Church and the peoples of the world which is our charism and mission. In order to achieve that we need the following:

1) To give priority to real universal discernment of the mission of the Society, without neglecting the daily running of the Society responding to ordinary affairs.

2) To integrate the contributions made by the Regional Assistants and Secretaries of the apostolic sectors into the Council of Fr. General.

3) To create a sense of co-responsibility of the Presidents of Conferences and Provincials in the governance structure

4) To make the financial dimension a part of the decision-making processes at different levels of governance of the Society.

5) To ensure a proper balance between apostolic discernment and apostolic planning

6) To evolve a practical set of decisions, monitoring and evaluation processes as dimensions of discernment and strategic planning.

7) To seek professional support – both internal and external to the Society -- for strategic planning of the

apostolate and training of human resources.

As regards the men in the Curia, what is important is to have a working system that allows: a) a good circulation of information coming from complementary sources (regions, apostolic areas, training, religious life ...); and b) good preparation of various types of meetings (informative, ordinary, canonically consultative, tempo forte).

The audacity that we need in order to be servants of the mission of Christ Jesus can flow only from faith. For this reason, our gaze is directed first of all to God. As the Formula of the Institute reminds us, "Let (the Jesuit) have before his eyes, as long as he lives, before anything else, God, ..."

If our faith is like that of Mary, our audacity can go even further and seek not only the improbable, but the impossible, because nothing is impossible for God, as the Archangel Gabriel proclaims in the scene of the Annunciation (Luke 1:37). Let us ask, therefore, for this faith from the Lord, so that, we, as the Society of Jesus, can also make our own the words of Mary in her response to the extraordinary call that she received: "Behold the servant of the Lord: Be it done to me according to your word."

Like Ignatius and the First Companions, like so many Jesuit brothers who have fought and who fight today under the banner of the cross, in service only to the Lord and to his Church, we too desire to contribute to that which today seems impossible: a humanity reconciled in justice, that dwells peacefully in a well-cared-for common home, where there is a place for all, since we recognize each other as brothers and sisters, as sons and daughters of the same and only Father.

The Society of Jesus can develop only in collaboration with others, only if it becomes the least Society that collaborates. We want to collaborate generously with others, inside and outside of the Church, in the awareness, which comes from the experience of God, of being called to the mission of Christ Jesus, which doesn't belong to us exclusively, but which we share with so many men and women who are consecrated to the service of others.

I invite every member to ponder over each of these inspiring thoughts and integrate these in our personal life and in our ministries.

Faternally,  
*Sebasti L. Raj, SJ*  
Provincial

## Congratulations & Welcome!

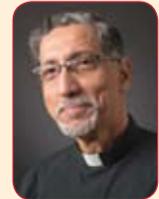
### Assistants ad Providentiam:

The General Congregation has elected these four Jesuits Assistants ad Providentiam: **Frs. John Dardis (HIB), Vernon D'Cunha (BOM), Douglas Marcuiller (UCS) and Fratern Masawe (AOR).**

### Regional Assistants:

Fr. General has appointed two Regional Assistants for South Asia:

**Fr Vernon D'Cunha (BOM)**  
and  
**Fr Lisbert D'Souza (BOM).**



## Provincial's Programme



### NOVEMBER

- 27 Consult
- 28-29 Visitation: Carmel HSS, Nagercoil
- 30 Visitation: Thozhamai Illam

### DECEMBER

- 01-02 Visitation: Xaveriana, Thoothukudi
- 03 Zonal Sharing on GC 36
- 04 Zonal Sharing on GC 36
- 05-06 Visitation: Loyola College, Vettavalam
- 07 TNBC-TNPCRI Committee Meeting, Tindivanam
- 07-08 Visitation: AHAL, Kilpennathur
- 10 Zonal Sharing on GC 36
- 11 Zonal Sharing on GC 36
- 12-16 Visitation: Loyola College, Chennai
- 15 Meeting with Brothers in Dhyana Ashram
- 17-18 Visitation: Ranipet
- 19-20 Visitation: Berchmans Illam, Chennai
- 22-23 Visitation: St. Mary's, Dindigul
- 27 Zonal Sharing on GC 36
- 28 Zonal Sharing on GC 36



# Announcements

## **New Assignment to Fr. Francis P. Xavier:**

Fr. Provincial has offered the services of Fr. Francis P. Xavier to a new Project of the Society called Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL), which will have its HO in Geneva, with Fr. Peter Balleis as the Executive President and Fr. Francis Xavier as the Vice-President for Academics and Research.

## **Sharing Sessions about GC 36:**

Some dates have been indicated for the sharing sessions of GC 36 by the Delegates. (See *Fr Provincial's programme on p.2*) Out of these 6 dates, we may have to choose 4, 5 or all the six, depending on the plan that is still under preparation. These details and the actual location for each date will be announced later. The sessions will be for a total duration of 4 hours (09.00-13.00 hours), including the Holy Eucharist, followed by lunch. You may choose to attend any one of these sessions according to your convenience.

## **Retreat for Brothers:**

Brothers' Retreat this year will take place from *06 Dec '16 night till 14 Dec '16*. *Retreat Preacher:* Fr S. Antony, SJ, (AND), *Venue:* Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. *Boarding and Lodging:* Rs. 500/- per day. Please *bring the Bible, a notepad and a pen*. *Fr Provincial* will meet the Brothers at 11.45 am on 15 Dec.

## **Course offered by CIS:**

CIS, Beschi invites all for a 3-day course on: '*Visual Wellsprings for Modern Humans.*' This course will enable the participants to incorporate and integrate the visual media into their God experience and Ignatian Spirituality. *Resource Person:* Fr. George Sebastian SJ (KER), *Dates:* 18 -20 Nov '16 (3 Days). *Venue:* Centre for Ignatian Spirituality (CIS), Beschi Illam, Dindigul. *Course Fee:* Rs 1400/- only. Please *register before:* 12 Nov 2016. *Contact Person:* Fr.N. Ignatius Britto, S.J. Cell: 94433-85840. Email: [igbri55@gmail.com](mailto:igbri55@gmail.com) or [dir.cisdgl@gmail.com](mailto:dir.cisdgl@gmail.com)

## **SAP for Scholastics:**

A Spiritual Animation Programme (SAP) for Scholastics in the southern districts of T.N. will be conducted *at St Joseph's, Tiruchy from 6 pm, Friday, 18 Nov '16 till 4 pm, Sunday, 20 Nov '16*. *Resource person:* Fr Raj Irudaya. Though primarily meant for Scholastics, others too are welcome. *Contact:* Fr Joe Xavier, PCF. Email: [pcf@mdusj.org](mailto:pcf@mdusj.org).

## **Regret:**

Two names are missing in the list of the Jubilarians in the Catalogue 2017 – **Fr James Bharataputra** among those who complete **60 years** in the Society and **Fr Francis M. Peter** among those who complete **50 years**. The error is regretted.

## **On home leave:**

**Fr Andrew Thekkekara, SJ**, who works in Harare, Zimbabwe, plans to visit his home province during his leave from Dec '16 to Feb '17. Please welcome the veteran missionary, if he visits your community.

## **Lok Manch's National Workshop:**

Lok Manch, a federation of around 100 organizations, that aims at providing a national platform to ensure the dignity and rights of the marginalized through policy interventions and improved access to entitlements like the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and other such schemes, is organizing a National Workshop *on 22 Nov eve to 25 Nov noon at JDV, Pune*. *Contact:* Sannybhai or Denzil Fernandes. *Telephone:* 011 49534162. *Cell:* 98684 76957. *Email:* [lokmanch2015@gmail.com](mailto:lokmanch2015@gmail.com)

## **Left:**

Two first year Novices have left the Novitiate - Marshelin Irudayaraj on 20 Oct '16 and Logesh Kumar P. on 21 Oct '16.

## **New:**

Fr. Arul Ravi has a new mobile number: 90034 16794.



## They met, they celebrated...

*Celebrations, Functions, Courses...*

**Amuthu**, St Mary's, Dindigul, organized a Tailoring Programme for 50 women in Porulur. On 22 Oct a Leadership Training Programme was given those who aspired to contest in Panchayat Union and Municipal Polls.

Scholastics of **Arul Kadal** directed a retreat and gave motivational talks to students of Loyola Hr. Sec. School, Kuppayanallur on 15 and 22 Oct. **Fr I.M. Joseph** offered a week-long course on Personality Development to the Pre-novices on 17 -20 Oct. **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** presented papers on 'Subaltern Healing and Reconciliation' in a seminar held at Vidya Jyothi, Delhi and another paper on 'Intoxicants from the Biblical Perspective' at a seminar at Institute of Asian Studies, Chennai.

At **Beschi** on 03-05 Oct **Fr Mathew Cyril**, Bodhi Zendo, gave a three-day course on Zen Meditation and Yoga to the Novices. On 06 Oct **Fr Sahaya Antony Xavier (SAX)**, a missionary in Zambia, shared his experiences with the novices and said Mass for them. On 12 Oct 12 of our first year Novices began their month-long Spiritual Exercises under the direction of **Fr Ilanko Xavier**, the Novice Master. The same day 6 of our second year Novices began their Pastoral Experiment in three Jesuit parishes – Ongur, Kilpennathur and Kadamalaikundu. On 28 Oct our Brothers together with Brothers from Maduralaya and St Mary's, Dindigul went on a one-day tour to Harur and Metala in view of the feast of St Alphonsus Rodriguez.

**CIS**, Beschi, is buzzing with life as 11 Sisters of the Pondy Immaculate congregation are undergoing a 30-day renewal program in view of their silver Jubilee. **Fr Ignatius Britto**, assisted by **Fr Marivalan**, is directing the program with the help of a panel of resource persons.

**ICRDCE**, Chennai formally inaugurated the English Access Microscholarship funded by the U.S. State Department. U.S. Embassy officials launched the program on 17 Oct. **Fr M.S. Jacob** presented a paper at a Conference by the Catholic University of Eichstatt,

Brothers at Mettala



Arul Kadal & Kuppayanalloor



ICRDCE



ICRDCE





Ingolstadt, Germany as part of an international research project on multicultural contexts on 11-13 Oct in the University of Eichstatt.

**IDCR**, Loyola, Chennai organized a discussion on Mark Stephen's latest novel, *Meel Veli*.



**JESIM**, AHAL organized a five-day village exposure programme at Tindivanam for students of Loyola College of Education, Chennai. It has initiated three new self-Help groups in three villages. Three new houses, built by French students, were blessed and opened by **Fr. Dominic**, the Chennai Mission Treasurer, in the presence of Frs. Gerlin and Marianathan. A seminar on National Food Security Act was organized for the community leaders and monitoring persons by AHAL on Oct 23. Fr Sannybhai, the National coordinator of Lok Manch and Sr Ruby, the programme coordinator, visited all the eight organizations involved in this project on 24-27 Oct.



Mr Cyril Fernando, Senior Vice President, TAFE, released **JIM**'s Placement Brochure for 2017. Placement for the 2015 - 2017 batch has started with nine companies visiting the campus in October.

**LENS**, LTI, Madurai conducted a three-day documentary film appreciation course for 43 college students from five colleges in Madurai. It organized a discussion on a recent, critically acclaimed film, 'Joker'. Actors Mu. Ramasamy, and Bava Challedurai, who played main roles in the film took part in the discussion.



**LIBA**, Loyola, Chennai had its eleventh edition of BEACON on 14 Oct and it focused on the theme, 'Leadership and Ethics for the Emerging Future.' LIBA organized the conference in collaboration with National HRD Network, Chennai Chapter. The Chief Guest, Padma Bhushan, Dr Mrityunjay Athreya, an alumnus of Loyola College, emphasised that 'the future is only for ethical leadership'. Mr. K Pandiarajan, State Minister for School Education, Sports and Youth Welfare, was the Guest of Honour at the Valedictory session. Convocation was held on 22 Oct for the graduating students of three batches and Graduation Day was on 23 Oct for the graduating batches of six streams of the One-year Executive Diploma programmes. Totally 167 students received their diplomas.



**LICET**, Loyola, Chennai had 'enGenia', its annual cultural fest, on 01 Oct. Its Placement Team organized the launch of bIndia's first job reference book on 101 entry level jobs, written by Mr T Muralidharan. The keynote address was delivered by Thiru K. Pandiarajan, State Minister for School Education and Sports and Youth Welfare. An international conference LICET jointly organized along with other institutions focussed on 'Engineering Solutions to medical Problems.'

Accompanied by the staff, the first year student-teachers of **LCE**, Loyola, Chennai had their week-long rural immersion programme on 25- 30 Sep at Vettavalam, Tindivanam and Kuppayanallur. The 8th Graduation Day was celebrated for the batch of 2014-15 on 14 Oct. Alumni Day was celebrated on 14 Oct. **Fr Thomas Amirtham**, presided. On 08 Oct **Fr M.A. Emma**, Director, JESCCO, directed a one-day retreat for the teaching and non-teaching staff, while Sr Christina, FSPM, directed the retreat of the first year students.

Two regents - **Arul G** from Oriyur and **John Richard** from LASAC gave the orientation to students at **LIS**, Ranipet in a creative way. On the occasion of Ayudhapooja, all Jesuits at LIS joined a prayer service led by Fr James, the Sipcot parish priest, who gave away gifts and snacks to all.

**LTI**, Madurai, organized on 18 Sep the sacerdotal golden jubilee of **Fr Leo Correya**. Jubilarians Fr Rex Pai, and Fr Mathew Moollel concelebrated the thanksgiving Eucharist along with Fr Leo. Fr. Francis Vazhlapalli, SJ, Mrs Cynthia Tiphange, and Fr Moollel felicitated the jubilarian. The Chief Guest at the Teachers Day programme was our new Priest, Fr Sahayaraj.

**PEAK**, SHC, Shembaganur organized a four-day seminar on 'Writing Skills' in collaboration with LENS, Madurai on 09 -12 Oct for 30 higher secondary students in Inigo Siruvar Illam. It also conducted 'children's parliament' for 30 children from the evening tuition centres in villages around Kodaikanal. The aim was to instil in them civic



LCE



LCE



LTI



LTI



PEAK, SHC



responsibilities. On 23, 24 Oct PEAK organized a two-day, second level Leadership Training Programme for 35 village leaders. **Sch. Joseph Alexander**, Perumal Malai, and Mr. Tamilchelvan, LENS, were the resource persons.

On 29 Oct **Fr P.S. Arul**, Parish Priest, **Ongur**, with the help of Novices Ronald and Earnest, organized a youth leadership program for the youth of the parish. **Fr Paulraj**, AICUF Advisor and his team member, Mr. Prakash were the resource persons.

On 09 Oct the Alumni Association of **St. Mary's, Dindigul** celebrated its annual day on a grand scale. The School and the Alumni Association organized the second State football tournament in which 16 schools participated.

ISRO in collaboration with **St Joseph's**, conducted a two-day exhibition in the College. Our Lady of Lourdes parish celebrated Mission Sunday on 16 Oct and raised funds for missions through various events. **Br M. Arockia Doss**, A.H.M. and his team co-ordinated a science fair and book fair in our School.

The **Tertians** of Shembaganur went on a pilgrimage "in the footsteps of St. Francis Xavier" on 27-29 Oct, visiting places connected with St. Francis Xavier's work in the Pearl Fishery Coast.

**St Xavier's**, Palayamkottai, celebrated joyfully the Diamond Jubilee of **Br Peter Arockiam** on 30 Aug '16.

After the exams at the end of the first term, we, the Juniors at **Vidyaniketan**, Thiruvananthapuram, went on a cultural tour to central Kerala. It helped us understand the rich cultural and religious traditions of Kerala. On 04 Oct we visited the Space Museum and witnessed rocket launching at VSSC, Thumba.

## PRAY FOR:

**Br I. Antony**, Beschi, who, after some days at the hospital, is being treated at home for raised levels of creatine and urea in the blood.

**Fr Felix Joseph**, St Joseph's, who is recovering after a surgery which he needed after he fell down and fractured his leg again. A metal plate has been attached to his leg.

**Fr John Meempillikavil**, Beschi, who had to be taken back to the hospital a few days after he returned to Beschi, having undergone a major surgery to set right the fracture on his left femur.

**Fr Sahaya Antony Xavier (SAX)**, Zambia, who is recovering after a heart bypass surgery at MMM, Chennai.





## They have done it!

*Something new, something good...*

The Province **Catalogue** for 2017 has been sent to all the communities. It is **Br Antony Pitchai**, Secretary of the Provincial's Office, who, every year, does most of the work systematically and carefully. I proofread and edit and take care of the cover. Fr Provincial too goes through the initial drafts carefully and makes corrections. Thanks to all those who took the trouble to express appreciation for the cover and contents. Praise be to God!

Seven scholastics of **AAC**, Karumathur, with dreams of a great harvest in the vineyard of the Lord, scoured the Madurai archdiocese, trying to meet the Catholic students for vocation promotion. This experience has strengthened their own vocation.

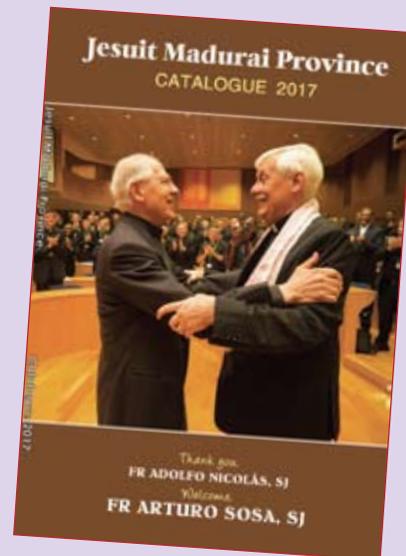
On 26 Oct **Amuthu** opened a Centre that will teach tailoring and typewriting to youth within the parish church campus of Porulur.

**Fr Ignacy Arockyaa**, Director, **LICET**, has been elected a member of Education Expert Committee for the Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), a 180-year-old premier Chamber in the country, championing the cause of Trade & Industry.

During the Puja festival **IDCR**, Loyola got up an innovative Interfaith *Golu*, an array of dolls representing major religious traditions and leaders. It was inaugurated by the former CSI Bishop, Dr Devasahayam.

In view of its Decennial Celebrations, **JIM**, St Joseph's, has redesigned its website ([www.jim.ac.in](http://www.jim.ac.in)) to cater to the needs of current and prospective students and alumni. JIM has started also a new web portal for its alumni/ae, who have been invited to attend the Decennial Congress on 25 Feb 2017 to celebrate 10 years of JIM. A flyer with information on all that has been planned for the festive year has been released. In order to enhance placement opportunities JIM has started the process of getting accredited by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).

On 8 Oct **LIS**, Ranipet, invited all the parents of their students to see for themselves how their sons are being formed at LIS. When they saw that apart from a





SEC & JCERT: Protest against NEP



AIACHE Awards



St Joseph's School

trade, their wards were taught health awareness, regulating traffic, value of blood donation etc, they expressed happiness and appreciation.

**LTI**, Madurai has been accredited by the Quality Council of India (QCI) and its affiliation to the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) has been renewed. **Fr Maria Singarayar** has been re-elected the President of Tamil Nadu Aided Industrial Schools Association for another term of three years.

**Regents** of the southern zone had their recollection, directed by **Fr Innaci John**, at VMI, Vilangudi, while those of the northern zone had theirs at St. Joseph's Industrial School, Udthagamandalam, directed by **Fr John Wilson**.

**SEC** and **JCERT** are part of the Federation for the Protection of Educational Rights, consisting of 42 teachers' organizations. On behalf of this Federation, a group of 15 educationists, led by Dr Vasanthi Devi, former VC of M.S. University, prepared an alternative education policy, as a counter to the draft of the NEP, proposed by the Central Government. Fr John Kennedy, Director, JCERT, as a member of the drafting committee, wrote on Teacher Education. This draft was released on 08 Oct by Mr. Baby, former Education Minister of Kerala, in a function at Loyola College, Chennai. About 1200 teachers, belonging to the various teachers' organizations in Tamil Nadu, participated in this release function.

Joint Action Committee against Anti Peoples



SEC & JCERT: Alternative Education Policy

Education Policy organized a demonstration in Chennai on 29 Oct against the NEP of the Central Government. About 5,000 people from major political parties in Tamil Nadu and other peoples' organizations participated. JCERT and SEC are a part of this venture too.

Three educators from **St Joseph's - Frs Xavier Alphonse, Andrew and Xavier Antony** were honoured with Life time Achiever, Best Principal and Prolific Writer awards respectively by AIACHE during its Golden Jubilee Celebration held at the American College, Madurai. **Fr Felix Joseph** has published another booklet called 'Ezhuveer Puthulagam Padaipeer,' with his reflections on his experiences in our schools .

On 04 Oct **St Joseph's Hr Sec School** installed a purified drinking water plant – a joint venture by the 1977 batch Josephites and by the Jesuit management. This novel scheme was inaugurated by **Fr Jayaraj Elankeswaran**, former Alumni Director of the school and by Mr. John Roy Thomas, a renowned auditor in Trichy. As many as 186 students, who excelled in various spheres, were given 'Iraiyadiyar Louis Leveil Muthalvan Awards'. **Fr Y.S Yagoo**, Correspondent, came up with the idea on the occasion of Fr Leveil being declared a 'Servant of God' by the Church. Fr Yagoo also launched the 'Leveil Mid-day Meal Enhancement Scheme' which arranges for nutritious ingredients to be added to the mid-day meals provided for poor students. Making every student participate in art competitions has been made mandatory this year for the Kalaivaara Vizha, a week-long cultural festival. A large number of students visited the book fair organized by **Vaigarai Pathipagam** and Anita Publishers.

On 21 Oct **St Mary's**, Dindigul community



## Abide with the Lord

**Fr Aveline D'Souza, SJ (KAR)**, 72/55, on 31 Oct '16 in Bengaluru.

**Fr Carl Dincher, SJ (JAM)** 71/59, on 10 Oct '16 in Jamshedpur.

**Fr Walter Albuquerque, SJ (KAR)** 93/72, on 07 Oct '16 in Mangaluru.

Mr Hirudayaraj, 79, brother of Fr Peter Xavier, on 07 Oct '16 in Madurai.

Mrs Florence, 82, mother of Fr Sahaya Antony Xavier (SAX), on 07 Oct '16 in Dindigul.



celebrated the diamond jubilee of **Fr. J. L. Pragasam** with a meaningful Eucharist followed by a visit to the Home for the Aged at Kurusady where the community served a sumptuous dinner to the inmates and dined



with them. 'Vision Ignatius' is another innovative initiative of St Mary's, under which the alumni of the School 'adopt' every year very poor students and take care of all their educational expenses. This year the alumni have 'adopted' 30 new students.

The formators at **VMI**, Vilangudi, visited the homes of all the Pre-novices during their September holidays. VMI harvested a good crop this year too.

#### Correspondents:

*M. Amalraj, Benitto, Frankly, Jacob, Jayapathy, John Kennedy, John Richard, Kamilas, Lenin, Leo Anand, Manoj Kumar, Richard H., Ronald, Rufus, Sekhar, Stalin Joseph, Tagore, Viji Bose, Viju, Wenisch.*

## Between the Sowing and the Reaping

**By Wendell D'Cruz, SJ**

"There's a time for sowing and a time for reaping", so says the preacher. But between the sowing and the reaping there's a time for gestation, for the seed to sprout, for the shoot to grow, for the plant to bear fruit. So where in this metaphor does a General Congregation fit?

We have, over this last month, been listening to experiences of fellow Jesuits from around the world. The seeds of God's working in our world have been sown in our hearts. When will they fructify in a text, we can share with the rest of the Society? How long will the gestation period be? Yesterday Fr. Afiawari used the metaphor of 'giving birth'. As a student of Botany, maybe I'll go for an image closer to plants.

This afternoon, many of us forsook lunch to listen to the provincial of the Near East province talk about the situation in Syria and other countries of the Arab world. We heard stories of heroic faith of ordinary people, and how as Jesuits we are irresistibly drawn towards the wounds of pain and suffering, the cross. "When will this war end?", the people ask. Pain and suffering are also moments of gestation, you can't rush them, you wait on them, embracing the wounds, trusting in God.

Back in the Aula, the gestation period between our inspirations and their transformation into texts that will inspire and govern, is a painful one, a different type of pain, but not a scratch compared to the wounds of war-torn Syria. We don't need heroics, but we do need faith.

"There's a time for sowing and a time for reaping ... a time to break down and a time to build up ... a time to keep silence and a time to speak ... a time for war and a time for peace ..." the whole gamut of moods in the Aula.

Let's heed the words of the preacher, "I have seen the business that God has given to the sons of men to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time." So let's busy ourselves whole heartedly with the work that God has given us, for between the sowing and the reaping, "it is God who gives the growth" (1Cor 3:7a). *(Blog on 4 Nov 2016 at www.gc36.org)*

## Memories

### GC 10 elected two Generals!

Here are some interesting facts about GCs in the past:

A GC could not be convened soon after the death of St. Ignatius because of a war between King Philip II of Spain and Pope Paul IV. Held two years later in 1558, this GC 1 elected Diego Laynez the General.



GC 4 in 1581 elected the youngest Jesuit General: 38-year-old Fr Claudio Acquaviva. Fr Acquaviva served as Superior General for 34 years – the longest term in Jesuit history – and presided over three general congregations.

GC 6 made obligatory a daily hour of prayer and an annual eight-day retreat for all Jesuits.

GC 10 is the only one to have elected two Superior Generals. Fr Luigi Gottifredi was elected first, but he died before the Congregation concluded. The same group then elected Fr Goswin Nickel.

GC 20, held in 1820, was the first one held after the Society's restoration in 1814. Greatly concerned that the Society should be the same as before the suppression, it reinstated the decrees of all past congregations.

## Just for...



*Response of a young man from Bihar to a newspaper ad in which a woman had said she was looking for the right man for her:*

"Madam, I am one young gentleman living only with myself in Patna. I am seeing your advertisement for marriage purpose in the daily newspaper... I am the son of my father and mother of agriculture family from inside Bihar. I having no sister and no brother. I am nice and big. My body is filled with hardness, why, because I am working hardly. I am happy always and gay also. I am not having any bad habits. I drink milk and water only. I am not chewing cigarettes or eating gutka paan. So I decide to press you with my request and I am hopping you will make the marriage with me."

## Secrets

### *for Well-being and Peace*



### Ask insistently for consolation!

*(Excerpts from Pope Francis' address to the Delegates at GC 36)*

One step forward we can always take is to ask insistently for consolation. In the Apostolic Exhortations, *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Amoris Laetitia* and in *Laudato si'*, I wanted to stress the importance of joy. Ignatius in the Exercises invites us to contemplate "the office of consolation" to his friends, which is proper to the Risen Christ [Exx 224]. This is the work proper to the Society: to console the faithful people of God and to help with discernment, so that the enemy of human nature does not rob us of our joy: the joy of evangelising, the joy of the family, the joy of the Church, the joy of the creation... Don't let him take it from us. Don't let him make us despair in face of the scale of the world's evils, and the misunderstandings between those who want to do good.

This service of joy and spiritual consolation is rooted in prayer. It consists in encouraging ourselves and encouraging everyone "to ask insistently for God's consolation."... You can't pass on the good news with a sad face. Joy is not just a decorative extra; it's a clear indication of grace, it shows that love is present and active, at work. The Jesuit is a servant of the joy of the Gospel.