



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

NOVEMBER 2013

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

OUR 'MAGNIFICAT' AND OUR 'FIAT'

Dear Brothers,

We have begun the commemoration of our twin-Jubilee in the spirit of a pilgrim. Let us recall to our mind the thoughts and reflections shared by some of us during the inaugural Mass on 26 October at St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai, and ponder over these points at the personal level. Our twin-Jubilee is definitely a time of joy and gratitude – a time to sing our own *magnificat*. We rejoice because of the wonderful things the Lord has done for all of us and to our Province and the people whom we serve through our ministries. The Lord has been indeed bounteous to us all these 175 years. His presence and actions were visible through the French missionaries and through our Indian Jesuits who worked in our province throughout this period. We remember vividly all that the Lord has done through us to thousands of people and

to the Church in Tamilnadu. We also rejoice at the fact that the God of history has made our Province a missionary province by sending our men to various parts of the world to proclaim His good news.

The Lord is still doing great things through each one of us, in different ways in spite of our weaknesses and failures. So, at this time of the Jubilee, we acknowledge with a great sense of humility the fact that on many an occasion, we have been disloyal to Him who is so faithful and we have been pursuing our own agenda at the cost of His plans. This is the time for us to examine ourselves, both individually and collectively, become aware of our own shortcomings and in response renew our commitment and re-dedicate ourselves to His service. It is the opportune time for us to pronounce our *fiat*, i.e., our willing and unconditional surrender to the Lord. With our *fiat*, we are sure that the God of history can do marvels through each one of us and through our different ministries. Let our sense of joy and our deep experience of gratitude inspire each one of us to

pronounce this *fiat* generously and whole-heartedly!

Our *magnificat*, combined with our *fiat*, inspires us to explore the possibilities of rendering greater and more effective services to the people in general and to our option people in particular. It is true that we have been rendering such services all these years. Yet, on this occasion we need to explore if we can intensify it further and reach out to more people, particularly those who are in the remote villages and hills, with hardly any access to education, health-care and other basic facilities. Hence, on the occasion of this twin-Jubilee, we need to come up with some concrete plan of action that will be directly beneficial to the option people. Let us reflect over this point seriously in our communities and plan out concrete action plans that will be implemented during the twin-Jubilee year and later.

Fraternallly,
Sebasti L. Raj. SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



Announcements



NOVEMBER

- 01 Last Vows of Fr Darwin
- 03 Visitation: LAAS
- 04-05 Visitation: DACA
- 05 IDEAS: Meeting with MISEREOR Representatives
- 06-09 Guwahati: Golden Jubilee of National CRI
- 12-19 Visitation: Loyola College, Chennai
- 20 Visitation: Ranipettai
- 21 Visitation: Berchmans Illam
- 23 LS/TL Meet
- 24 Consult
- 25-27 Visitation: SICJ, Thiruvananthapuram
- 28-29 Visitation: Carmel School, Nagercoil
- 30 Visitation: Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari

DECEMBER

- 01 Visitation: KARISAL
- 05-07 Visitation: Oriyur
- 08-09 Visitation: De Britto, Devakottai
- 11-13 Visitation: Arul Kadal
- 14-17 Visit to Mauritius
- 18-19 Visitation: Dhyana Ashram
- 21 Meeting: Headmasters and Correspondents – St. Mary's, Madurai
- 22 Meeting: Principals and Secretaries - St. Joseph's, Trichy
- 28 Consult

Fr General has appointed:

Fr Benoît Malvaux (BML) the next Procurator General of the Society, who will assume duty after September 2014.

Fr Cristian Del Campo Simonetti the Provincial of Chile Province (CHL).

Fr José Minaku Lukoli the Provincial of the Central African Province (ACE).

Restructuring of Provinces was one of the issues considered by Fr General and the Presidents of the Conferences of Provincials at their meeting held in Rome on 16 - 19 Sept. Of the planned changes, two have already been put in place. Firstly, it has been confirmed that a single Province of Spain will be established on 21 July 2014. Secondly, the new Province of Central and Southern United States (UCS) will combine the Provinces of New Orleans and Missouri. Fr Ronald Mercier, of the New England Province, will be the first Provincial of this new Province.

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

November

- 02-03 Vinayalaya, Mumbai
- 05-06 Meeting with Misereor, Madurai
- 07-08 Makkampalayam
- 09-10 Reflection & LS/TL Meet (Mission), Dhyana Ashram
- 12-19 Loyola, Chennai
- 13 Loyola Governing Body Meeting
- 16 Chennai Mission Consult
- 20 Ranipettai
- 23 Superiors' Meet, Dindigul
- 24 Province Consult

December

- 07 Resource Mobilisation Committee
- 14 Researchers' Meet
- 18-19 Dhyana Ashram
- 28 Province Consult

PCF's Programme

November

- 02-03 Vidyanketan, Trivandrum
- 04 St Mary's, Madurai
- 05 Vocation Promoters' Meet, St Mary's, Madurai
- 07-10 Formators' Counselling Course, Anugraha, Dindigul
- 11-21 Scripture Classes at Arul Kadal
- 22 Co-ordinators' Meet, Beschi
- 23 LS/TL Meet, Beschi
- 24 Province Consult
- 25 SUPAM Meet, Elanagar Parish, Salem diocese
- 28-29 VMI, Vilangudi

December

- 02-04 Satya Nilayam
- 05-07 Visit, Arul Kadal
- 08 AHC, Loyola Chennai
- 09-12 Berchmans Illam
- 13 Vallam
- 16 Vadamelpakam
- 18-21 Integration Paper Presentation, Arul Kadal

Applied for Diaconate:

Schs. Antony Markus, Berchmans Maria Joseph, James Antonysamy, John Paul K., Philip Kumar G., Sebastian Crossian, Sebastin Thangadurai and Viji Bose have applied for their Diaconate Ordination. Those who have relevant information about them are requested to contact either Fr Provincial or Fr PCF.

Email & Phone:

Br John Bosco:
mudanganbosco@gmail.com.

Fr Dhanaraj: dhanaraj43sj@gmail.com

Vinny Joseph's (Myanmar)
phone: 0095 9250167492.



Events



JUBILEE INAUGURAL CELEBRATION

The inauguration of the Province's celebration of the two Jubilees - 175 years of the New Madurai Mission and 200 years of the Restoration of the Society - took place in a quiet, serene atmosphere at **ST MARY'S, MADURAI** on 26 Oct '13. About 260 Jesuits gathered in front of the St Mary's Jesuit residence and at 10.30 a.m. went in a procession to the cathedral. While the Province Consultors and Fr A. Victor stood on both sides of Fr Sebastia L.Raj, the Provincial, who was the chief celebrant, former Provincials stood in the next row at the altar. In his introduction at the beginning of the Mass, Fr Jebamalai Raja, Chennai Mission Superior, recalled the historical events and personalities associated with the Jubilee events. Br Jeyaraj and Sch Sarathy read the Scripture readings and Fr Rex A. Pai, former Provincial, read the gospel reading.



Christ, he said. He invited everyone to sit in front of our Mother, the Society of Jesus, and ask ourselves, 'Who am I? For whom am I? What have I done for my mother, the Society? What does she expect of me?' Fr Paul Michael sang the preface and former Provincials - Frs Francis P. Xavier, Devadoss Mudiappasamy and Michael Jeyaraj - and Fr Francis Jayapathy took turns in praying the Eucharistic prayer.

Fr Provincial, who spoke at the end of the Mass, said he was compelled to shift the venue of the Mass from the Pondicherry cathedral to St Mary's cathedral, Madurai but was happy about this Eucharistic celebration held in a



Fr A. Victor, former Superior of the Chennai Mission, in his spirited homily, said, "This is an occasion to be filled with a sense of wonder and gratitude thinking of all that God has done and is doing for us and to offer ourselves at His feet once again." He recalled the marvelous service of the missionaries - from the four French Jesuits who arrived here in 1838 upto Fr Pierre Ceyrac, who died last year - and the heroic sacrifices they made. Their strength came from the Spiritual Exercises that gave them the mind of

serene, spiritual atmosphere. He thanked the organizers, specially the core team of Frs Arockiasamy, K. Amal and Singarayar and the choir led by Fr Danis Ponniah that sang with enthusiasm the compositions of Jesuits. He said this was not merely a time for celebration but a time to renew ourselves and resolve to continue the mission of our Jesuit pioneers. After the Mass a simple, vegetarian but tasty lunch nourished the participants, before they left with a sense of satisfaction and gratitude for the successful celebration.

- M.A.J.A.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES PROJECT (GSP): A NEW VENTURE

Government Services Project (GSP) is a new initiative of our Province when we celebrate the 175th anniversary of the New Madurai Mission. The GSP is to motivate the bright youth of our schools and colleges to write the Civil Service Examinations (CSE) and prepare them to do it successfully, so that they become Indian Administrative Officers with the values that Jesuit Education imparts. Fr Rajarathinam, who was appointed by Fr Provincial the director of GSP, visited all the schools and colleges, publicized the new initiative and recruited local coordinators of GSP. The first Coordinators' Meet was held on 06 Oct '13 at St Mary's, Madurai. There were 29 participants - 15 lay staff and 14 Jesuits - from our schools and colleges. Fr Arockiasamy, Rector, welcomed the gathering. Fr Rajarathinam explained the purpose and dynamics of the meeting. Mr. Rajaboopathy, alumnus of St Joseph's College and the Founder, Radian IAS Academy, Chennai, explained the importance of UPSC and TNPSA Examinations and gave practical tips to motivate and prepare the students for these exams.

In his address, Fr Provincial explained the vision behind the initiative of the GSP and expressed the hope that this will help our students, especially the marginalized - Dalits, migrants, first-generation learners, and rural students from poor families to be the future leaders of our country. He emphasized that we should identify students who come from poor, rural backgrounds who are potentially smart and nurture them. We need to inculcate in them human values like justice, fairness, truthfulness, harmony, impartiality etc. In our mission of creating future leaders who will be men for others, we might not achieve 100 per cent

success. Even 30 per cent of success would be good enough, he said.

After his speech, coordinators from different schools and colleges shared their views on how to run this project effectively. Coordinators from colleges and those from the schools formed separate groups and discussed the methodology to be adopted. Later Fr Provincial met the Jesuit participants, asked for feedback about the meeting and told them to put their minds and hearts together to make the new venture a fruitful one. He encouraged the Jesuits to implement this project with what we already have at hand in terms of resources, infrastructure etc. A core committee was elected to evolve a common methodology to implement this project effectively. The members are: Fr Rajarathinam – Coordinator, Fr Sahayaraj – St Xavier’s, Palayamkottai, Fr Arockiasamy Xavier – St Joseph’s, Trichy, Fr Joe Xavier – St Xavier’s, Thoothukudi, Fr Paul Benedict – St Mary’s, Dindigul and Fr Simon Raj – St Joseph’s HSS, Trichy.

- C. Marianathan

SCIENCE EXHIBITION

Dr Lal Mohan, Nature Scientist, addressed the students at the inaugural function of a science exhibition held on 18 Oct '13 at **CARMEL, NAGERCOIL**. A number of varieties of herbs were exhibited. A cancer awareness programme helped the students know the possible causes of this dreaded disease. Chief Minister chess competition (Divisional Level) was held at Carmel on 05 Oct '13. Mr. A.S. Radhakrishnan, CEO, Kanyakumari and District Inspector of Physical Education, Mr. S. Sathish Kumar graced the function. 54 students from various schools participated in the competition.

- Vincent Amal Raj

TO AJANTA AND ELLORA

We, the first and second year Philosophers at **DNC, PUNE**, successfully completed our semester exams, and went to Ajanta, Ellora and Goa for our academic tour. We returned refreshed and revitalized. Fr M.J. Victor travelled to Tamil Nadu to preach a retreat to Apostolic Carmel

Sisters. Later he joined the people of the Madurai archdiocese in their pilgrimage to Oriyur on 2 Oct.

- Kamilas

FROM THE FAMOUS COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Alumni Day at **LOYOLA, CHENNAI** was celebrated on 02 Oct '13. The 12th Graduation Day of PU-LC Twinning Program was held on 06 Oct and Loyola College had its 85th Graduation Day on 12 Oct. Mr Oscar Fernandes, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, graced the function and delivered the Graduation Day address. To the joyful surprise of everyone present, he entertained the audience by playing a song on his mouth organ.



Two Professors from the famous Columbia University Business School, USA, addressed our LIBA students for three hours on 01 Oct '13. This rare opportunity for our students was made possible thanks to the generosity of Mr V. A. George, CEO of Thejo Engineering Ltd, and his brother in the U.S. On 18 Oct LIBA organized a Finance Conclave, in which currency volatility, turmoil in commodity markets and the various challenges were discussed. After a week-long engagement of our students with various homes for the destitute children and aged in the city, the LIBA Radius Club had the 'Joy of Giving' celebration on 26 Oct which entertained and inspired 350 children at LIBA. Mr. Sylendra Babu, IPS and Mr. Emerson Andrews, the Company Secretary of Tidel Park motivated the children. Two final year students of mechanical engineering at LICET have published a research paper in an international journal of science and technology. LICET has come second in Anna university zonal sports and stands third in cricket in Anna University.

Fr Ignacimuthu has been appointed by the Governor of Tamil Nadu a member of the Planning Board of Bharathiar University for a period of three years.

- Emma

HAPPY ABOUT THE PROGRESS

Fr Louie Albert, **JRS** Director, TN and Fr Wilson, the Socius to Novice Master, directed a recollection on 23 Sept to all the JRS field officers. On 17-18 Oct the CRS Pudu Vazhvu Phase VI planning was held in Madurai to decide new activities for the next year. Ashis Antony, Programme Officer in South Asia JRS, Delhi, inaugurated a new Complementary Education Center on 18 Oct in Vaazhavanthankottai, Trichy. Officials from JRS Regional Office, Delhi visited TN JRS on 15-19 Oct to finalize the 2014 budget. They were happy about the progress that JRS TN has made and its administrative strategies. A three day Environmental Exposure was organized for Trichy Mullaikudi Girihini students in Kodaikanal by Fr Arul Sivan.

- Mag Bay

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS DAY

At **KARISAL, ALANGULAM** we celebrated the Children's Rights Day on 01 Sept at Meenampatti with a rally in which 250 Arunthathiyar children from 30 villages of Sivakasi Taluk participated. On 25 Sept this celebration was at Rengappanayakkanpatti and 350 Arunthathiyar children of Sathur Taluk took part in the rally. We organized Children's Training programmes on 26-28 Sept on the topic "Siruvargalin Unarvugalai Valapadutthum Payirchi" at Ragland School, Satchiyapuram in Sivakasi Taluk and on 29 Sept - 1 Oct at St Stanislaus' High School, Sathur Taluk. 50 selected Arunthathiyar children representing 30 villages from each Taluk actively participated.

Fr Manuel Savariar, Vocation Promoter, directed a one-day retreat to the 10th and 12th Std Catholic students of St Xavier's Hr.Sec.School, Palayamkottai on 12 Oct '13.

- Arockia Selvam

FOR CHILDREN OF WIDOWS

75 children of widows and deserted women took part in a three day motivational training organized by **KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM** in September. It deepened the bond

between them and their mothers and motivated them to be responsible sons in today's context. They also resolved to fight for the rights of widows along with their mothers. An ecological awareness tour to Kodaikanal was organized for the staff and leaders of our widows' movement. Fr S. Arockiam, Perumalmai, enlightened the group through his sharing while the Jesuit community at Shembaganur offered them hospitality.

- S. Velankanni

EQ TO STUDENTS

Fr Alphonse William and Sch Francis Xavier took a group of students of **LOYOLA, KUPPAYANALLOOR** for an educational tour to Tuticorin, Kanniyakumari, Madurai and Trichy. Jesuit communities in these places extended to them generous hospitality. Sr Clare, ICM, with the help of Ms Bala and Fr Suresh, gave a course on 'Emotional Quotient' for 10, 11 and 12th std students on 4 - 6 Oct. The JMAADD resource team held awareness sessions on 'The Disease Concept of Alcoholism' to our students. Our junior JMAADD cultural troupe made use of the Pooja holidays for training and street theatre performances in our neighbouring Dalit villages, in order to motivate the people to seek treatment for alcoholics in their families.

- Lawrence

ALUMNI CONVENTION

On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the ITI at **LTI, MADURAI** an Alumni Convention was held on 20 Oct '13 in which 304 members from all over Tamil Nadu participated. Dr Arumairaj delivered the key note address. Fr Joseph Kennedy, Joint Director of JAAT, shared his experiences at WUJA and Fr Maria Singarayar, the unit Alumni Director, stressed the important role of alumni in our ventures. The Executive Committee Members were elected for the first time and the members promised to contribute to the growth of the institute in all possible ways. Fr Pavulraj Michael gave an orientation to our staff on the skills to deal with the youth today and directed one of the IGFA retreats for a group of

Sisters from different congregations. Fr Lawrence Gabriel, Coordinator of Madurai IGFA, directed the fourth IGFA retreat for religious on 20-27 Oct '13.

Fr. Maria Singarayar, who has been elected the President of Tamil Nadu Aided Industrial Schools Association (TAISA), hopes that efforts of the association will help the ITI students receive whatever the Government has promised them.

- Lawrence Gabriel

ASSISI FLOWER GARDEN

We celebrated an Ecology Day as part our Golden Jubilee celebrations at **ST JOHN DE BRITTO, ORIYUR** on 7 Sept. Fr Joseph L. Pragasam presided over the function. We had a cycle rally in the morning to create environmental awareness and we planted neem saplings and created Assisi Flower Garden in the school campus. All these were organized by Fr Wilson. On 19, Alumni Day was organized by Fr Xavier. Fr L. Francis Xavier presided over the function and gave an inspirational talk to the students. The temporary Parish Council and its executive committee are functioning well. They are cooperative and offer good support to the Parish Priest in resuming Masses at sub-stations. - Robinson. A

JUBILEE AT JIM



The Jesuit community of St Joseph's, Trichy went on a pilgrimage for the third time on 12 Oct to old Jesuit mission stations of Konalai, Kalpalayam where Beschi had stayed and built a chapel. This was also the headquarters of Jesuits working beyond the river Cauvery. The community assembled in Purathakudi parish for the Eucharist attended by a large number of parishioners. We felt strengthened by praying at the tombs of four Jesuits who died after the suppression which are still venerated by the villagers. As a part of the Twin Jubilee celebrations, the Departments of History and Tamil

jointly organized a two-day national seminar on 'Foundational Inspiration of the Mission and its Resurgence in the New Madura Mission'. Quite a few of our Province men actively participated and presented papers.

On 02 Oct St Joseph's Institute of Management (JIM) celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its Founder, Frs Louis Xavier (50 years as a Jesuit priest) and former Director, Antony A. Pappuraj (50 years in the Society). About 50 Jesuits and 60 former students attended the function along with the staff and students. A newly constructed third floor and lift were inaugurated on the occasion. While Fr Louis Xavier presided over the Jubilee Mass, Fr Pappuraj preached the homily. The Mass was followed by felicitations. The whole programme was efficiently organized by Fr M. Charles, the Administrator of JIM.

- Jesu Nesam

SELECTED FOR THE STATE

During the quarterly holidays, 12 std Catholic students of **ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL** had an inspiring retreat preached by Frs Roch, Robin and Gnanaraj and the non-catholic students had motivation sessions conducted by Dr Selvam, professor at Anna University, who surprised everyone with some interesting historical anecdotes on our school. The visitation of Fr Provincial on 28-29 Sept was a time of rejuvenation and his appreciation boosted our morale.

A good number of our staff and students attended a special rosary procession organized in the campus on the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Rosary. After the quarterly exams, we had a special meeting for the parents of the 'low achievers' and guided them regarding their accompaniment of their sons. The parents were grateful. Students, who were taken in batches to the book fair organized by the Tamil Ilakiya Kalam in the first week of October, purchased books with their own savings. The stall from Vaigarai Publications attracted many readers. At a multi-departmental exhibition on 18 Oct the students presented their inventions mostly done out of

waste materials. Our headmaster, Mr David Xavier, is gearing up the school for the inspection.

Guided by our physical education team headed by Fr Marianathan, our foot ball, volley ball, hockey, ball badminton and chess teams have qualified themselves for the State level competitions. One of our students, Kabilan, has been selected for the State Foot ball team. Our cultural team too was selected for the state level competitions.

On the Alumni Day on 06 Oct, guided by of Fr Stephen, a good many of our alumni were deeply moved when they shared their experiences. They came up with the idea of opening Chapters of our Alumni Association in Chennai, Bangalore and other cities. A new website for the school sponsored by the Alumni was inaugurated on the day.

The students of St. Mary's Primary School lifted the Albert Memorial Trophy and won the Best School award at the district level cultural competitions conducted by Mid-town Rotary Club. More than 80 youth from 22 target villages participated in a one-day seminar on Legal Rights, organized by AMUTHU at Palkadi, near Ottenchatiram, on 22 Sept '13. The three well-known water diviners in our community - Frs Marianathan, Arockiaraj and Br Amalraj - are quite busy extending their services to many free of charge.

- Paul

'CONTRIBUTE TO THE WORLD AROUND'

A Science Exhibition at **ST MARY'S, MADURAI** drew a lot of competitors from our school. The young 'scientists' filled the Amalorpavanathar Hall with their inventive experiments that were much admired by the visitors. Br Kulandairaj and his crew organized it very efficiently. Fr Felix Joseph took part in the Ramzan and Bakrith festivals in the mosque with a view to promote inter-religious prayer.

On Britto Hostel Day the students made their parents and teachers proud by displaying their talents. Fr Loyola, the Hostel Director and Br Stephenraj, Assistant Director, organized it effectively. The Chief

Guest, Mr S. Gunasekar, an alumnus and industrialist, encouraged the hostellers to contribute to the world around. On 13 Oct a 'Blood Donors Bank' was established in the parish to help the poor and needy. That day more than 350 parishioners donated blood. On 20 Oct a meaningful Eucharist, food-mela, games, and cultural programmes marked the Mission Sunday celebrations. The parish team, especially Fr Victor Roch, worked hard to organize these events successfully.

- Felix Joseph

POWER TO AWARD DEGREES

On 04 Oct '13 Fr Danis Ponniah, the Rector of **ST XAVIER'S, PALAYAMKOTTAI** was the main celebrant at the Jubilee Inaugural Mass. Through his homily Fr Thomas Alex made the students and the staff understand the meaning of the Twin Jubilee celebrations. On 10, 11 Oct Fr Alphonse Manickam, Vettavalam, talked about the Restoration of the Society to the staff of all the institutions. The college celebrated the Library Week in which a one-day seminar on E-Resources was organized for the research scholars. On 07 Oct Fr Gilbert and Fr Thomas Alex participated in the meeting of the principals of the Autonomous Colleges in Delhi, organized by the University Grants Commission. During the deliberations, the Ministry of Human Resource Development announced it would confer on 45 autonomous colleges - including ours - the degree-awarding status by amending the UGC Act in the Parliament.

XIBA organized its first annual Management Meet called XIBATE '13. More than 200 participants from 24 MBA institutes in southern Tamilnadu took part in different competitions. Lady Doak College, Madurai won the Best Manager Award. Aiming at 100 per cent job placement for the first batch, XIBA has begun with a one-day workshop by Mr Jeyam Kumar, Country Manager, Bopp & Reuther, a German company.

At the Teacher's Day celebrations in our B.Ed College in the presence of the Joint Director, Collegiate Education, Dr. P. Annamal, Tirunelveli. 7 institutions participated. The inauguration of subject clubs was held with a thought-provoking address by Prof John De Britto on 30 Sept.

The 14th inter-state volleyball tournament was conducted at our School on 09-11 Oct. Among the 16

school teams our School won the championship. At the culmination of the tournament, Mr Vaiko, the leader of MDMK, inspired the students by his speech and distributed the prizes to the winners. On 17 Oct Mrs. Vijila Sathyananth, Mayor of Tirunelveli Municipal Corporation, distributed free cycles to our students who have just completed their 12th std.

- Baskar

POOJA FESTIVAL AT OOTY

The trainees and staff members of **ST JOSEPH'S ITI, OOTY** celebrated the Pooja festival in a friendly atmosphere on 11 Oct. The whole campus wore a festival look with colourful flowers everywhere. Fr Irudayaraj, our campus treasurer, conducted a short prayer service and gave the feast day message where he invited the students and staff to develop a sense of respect towards their work and tools. After the blessing of the vehicles and class rooms, the traditional puffed rice and other edibles were distributed. Fr Richard arranged a similar celebration and blessed the heavy equipments at St Joseph's workshop at Kakkathoopu.

- Richard

FOLLOWING THE SAINT'S FOOTPRINTS

We the **TERTIANS** are back at **SHEMBAGANUR** with a rich experience after a month-long Ignatian Experiment throughout September. We spent a month working in Homes for the aged, Cancer centres, HIV centres, Homes for the Street and Vulnerable Children, Homes for the Mentally Retarded and Homes for the Destitute. Five Tertians directed retreats for Sisters of different Congregations in Goa, Kerala, Thanjavoor and Kodaikanal. We also went on a pilgrimage tracing the footprints of St Francis Xavier to Palayamkottai, Tutricorin, Palayakayal, Alanthalai, Manapadu, Uvari, Kanyakumari, Kottar and Aaralvaimozhi on 17-19 Oct. It was an experience that spurred us on to faith and zeal. Eleven Tertians made a separate pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Vailankanni and Poondi on 26, 27 Oct. They also visited Kalangarai, Nagapatinam, Vilangudi, Elakurichy, St Joseph's College and

Beschi Illam. We were touched by the warm reception and hospitality at every Jesuit community we visited and are very grateful to Frs Paul Mike, I. Arul, Britto Bonaventure and Paulraj Packiam. - **Kingsley**

AFTER THE EXAMS

After the first term exams at **VIDYA JYOTI, DELHI**, in September we the MDU scholastics went on a cultural tour to Dharamsala, Jaipur and Jammu Kashmir in different groups. The moments we spent with Fr Provincial when he came for



the Visitation and the JCSA meeting were moments of joy, grace and encouragement. He was very much appreciative of the atmosphere that VJ has created - so conducive for the spiritual and intellectual growth of our young men - when he thanked the community at the dinner it hosted for all the Provincials of South Asian Assistency.

On 16 Oct Fr Leo gave a much-appreciated talk titled, "Restoring the Old, Inaugurating the New" on the suppression and restoration of the Society to the Jesuit Provincials and Regional Superiors during their JCSA meeting at Delhi. On 21 Oct he addressed the Jesuits of the Delhi province on these historical events with special reference to Mughal Mission of the Old Society of Jesus, the forerunner of the Delhi Province of today. - **Antony Markus**

HARVEST IS RICH...

The Pre-novices returned to **VMI, VILANGUDI** on 1 Oct after their

home visit to begin their second term enthusiastically. Fr I. M. Joseph, SJ offered a week-long course on Personality Development and helped the candidates to discover their self. It was a moment of joy and gratitude to God as we reaped a rich harvest this year. Frs Bella, John Innaci, Robin and Sch Thayriam preached a meaningful retreat to the first year students of LICET on 12 Oct. - **G. S. Thayriam**

CULTURAL TOUR OF KERALA

We the Juniors at **VIDYANIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM** were busy with our exams on 16-23 Sept. On 16 Sept our three staff members went to Belgaum for the Juniorate Staff meeting. On 20 Sept we went to the city to watch the Onam procession and were delighted to see various floats depicting the cultural traits of this State. On 25 we began our three-day cultural tour of Kerala and visited Barnaganam, Kerala novitiate at Aluva, and the ICTA (Institute for Counseling and Transactional Analysis) where Fr Paul Vadakel briefed us about the institute and its ministry. From 30 Sept we had a 3-day course on Art Appreciation. - **Lazar John**

GUIDELINES TO PARENTS

The vocation promoter of Andhra Province came to **XAVERIANA, THOOTHUKUDI** to speak to our 10th and 12th students. The parents of 12th std students were given guidelines on how to help their sons prepare for the government exam. Fr Joe Xavier took a group of students to the Science Exhibition at Tirunelveli. The Shembag Tertiars were our guests at breakfast on their way to Xaverian places along the fishery coast. - **Rajan**

Ministry to sojourners from Africa

This is a ministry which does not appear in the catalogues but it is as important as all other ministries. This is the ministry to sojourners. Ever since I came to Loyola, Chennai, I have always involved myself in this ministry. When I was doing my undergraduate and post graduate studies in the 90s, I worked along with the AICUF team to help the refugee students from South Sudan and Tibet. This ministry was successful because of the commitment of everyone involved. As a result, most of the student refugees who studied at Loyola College were resettled in the US, Canada and Australia.



This time i.e. since 2008, the context is a bit different and therefore the ministry to foreigners has taken up a different shape. This is because the number of foreign students especially from Africa has increased manifold and they are scattered in different parts of India. Moreover, we have seen in the recent past the growth of medical tourism to India. Many foreigners now come to India for medical treatment. In Chennai we see most of them at Apollo General Hospital, Apollo Special Hospital, Madras Medical Mission and MIOT Hospital to mention but a few. It is unfortunate that the chaplaincy to these hospitals is not well-organized and developed, though the need is immense.

My ministry is first helping foreigners get admissions in Jesuit Colleges in India. Secondly, I visit African students in other colleges whenever I am invited for some spiritual ministry. Thirdly, I go to celebrate Mass for foreigners every Sunday at Apollo Cancer Hospital and Apollo Main Hospital. Fourth, I help foreigners in the process of getting admitted at Apollo Hospitals for treatment and also have established a working relationship between Apollo Hospital in Chennai and Bugando Catholic Hospital in Mwanza - Tanzania.

I am grateful to the Rectors and Principals of our colleges in Madurai Province, specially Fr Francis Jayapathy. The needs of those who come to study or for treatment are many. So we can always do more! - **Jerome Manyahi, SJ**

Abide with the Lord

Fr Patrick D' Lima, SJ (PAT) 82/60 on 4 Oct.
Fr Terence Lobo, SJ (GUJ) 78/ 50, on 23 Oct.
Mr. Antonysamy, 87, uncle of Br Benjamin, on 23 Oct.
Mr Mariadoss, 84, father of Fr Stanislaus Mariadoss on 01 Nov.





SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

Seven years after the death of my mother, I woke up suddenly one night, went outside, and saw the moon shining brightly. At two or three o'clock in the morning, the moon is always expressing something deep, calm, and tender, like the love of a mother for her child. I felt bathed in her love, and I realized that my mother is still alive and will always be alive. A few hours earlier, I had seen my mother very clearly in a dream. She was young and beautiful, talking to me, and I talked to her. Since that time, I know that my mother is always with me. She pretended to die, but it is not true. Our mothers and fathers continue in us. Our liberation is their liberation. Whatever we do for our transformation is also for their transformation, and for our children and their children.

One autumn day, I was practicing walking meditation. The leaves were falling just like rain. I stepped on one leaf, and I stopped, picked it up, looked at it, and smiled, realizing that leaf has always been there. Every autumn the leaves fall, and every spring they re-manifest themselves. They stay throughout the summer, and then in autumn they fall to the ground again. They are playing hide-and-seek, pretending to die and to be reborn, but it is not true. When I looked deeply into the leaf, I saw that it was not just one leaf. The leaf was everywhere. I asked the leaf to call back all its manifestations. Because the leaf was free from notions of birth and death, it was able to do so. When I picked the autumn leaf and looked at it, I could smile, because I saw the leaf calling back a multitude of her bodies in the ten directions. Then I looked at myself, and saw myself as a leaf, calling back countless bodies of mine to be with me at that moment. We can do that by dissolving the idea that we are only here and now. We are simultaneously everywhere, in all times.

- Thich Nhat Hanh
- in *Cultivating the Mind of Love*

Memories



AS TIME PASSED OUR FEARS GREW

For the Anawim experience during our novitiate, my novitiate companion Philip and I were sent to a village called Vadagaraiparai in Kodai Hills. We stayed with a poor tribal family. The only work we could do was to go deep into the forest and collect *paasam* (a gum-like substance found in trees and used in pigments). When we finished the day's work and walked back, we realized we had completely lost the way. As time passed, our fears grew as we had heard about the dangerous animals in the forest. After roaming for some time, we finally found two paths. But we didn't know which of the two would take us out of the forest and to the tribals' house where we were staying. Recalling what we had been taught about discernment, we prayed for a moment and Philip stood in front of me, raising two fingers of his right hand that represented the two paths in front of us. I closed my eyes and touched one of his two fingers. We walked on the path it represented. To our great relief, it turned out to be the the right path! When we came back to the Beschi novitiate and narrated this to Fr Simonraj Antony, our Socius, he said, "You've imitated our Father St Ignatius who once followed a donkey to make a discernment. So you are true sons of Ignatius!" - Sebastian Thangadurai

Congratulations



to Frs Arockiasamy Perianayagam, Fr Amal Kulandaisamy and Fr Maria Singarayar and the community of St Mary's, for organizing successfully the twin-Jubilee inaugural celebration on 26 Oct '13.



Just for...

A friend was in front of me coming out of church one day, and the Pastor was standing at the door to shake hands as he always does. He grabbed my friend by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor told him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

My friend replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Pastor asked, "Then how come I don't see you in the church except at Christmas and Easter?"

He whispered in his ear, "I'm in the secret service."