



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

OCTOBER 2014

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

BATCH MEETS AND BEYOND

Dear Brothers,

During the past few months, the whole province was busy with different batch meetings. The main purpose of these meetings was to bring together different batches to share at the personal level about themselves, their experiences, their concerns and their aspirations. Secondly, this was a golden opportunity and a timely occasion to look at our life and ministries, as friends and as companions, and come up with concrete proposals.

Throughout the meetings, we were aware that any growth or improvement in our personal life, community life and ministries will have to begin from within each one of us, as this cannot be imposed from above except for creating the right ambience and giving some guidelines. Further, each one of us received a fervent invitation for genuine personal renewal as the fitting conclusion of the commemoration of the Restoration of the Society 200

years ago.

In the light of the batch meetings, I invite each member to personalize the reflections and concrete suggestions that were brought out by the members. Let each one personally search and discover for oneself: a) The positive and negative aspects of the image I project in my life and in the manner of carrying out my ministries; b) The value system that is guiding my personal life and approach; c) The level of depth I have acquired in the true spirit of St. Ignatius; d) My disposition and attitude towards collaboration with others; f) The level of my willingness to focus on service and ministry rather than looking for posts and position; g) The depth of my commitment to serve the option people – the poor, the dalits, the first generation learners, migrant workers, tribals and other marginalized sections of our society.

At the personal level, let me reflect seriously on all these issues and discover my strengths and shortcomings and take the necessary steps to strengthen my strengths and liberate myself from my shortcomings and shadows. Collectively, let us take up these points for further discussions

in our communities -- common sharings, recollection themes, etc.

Further, as clearly indicated and emphasized in the batch meetings, let us make concerted efforts to strengthen our spiritual base and foundation in the following ways: a) Always keep the beneficiaries of our ministries as our focus; b) Develop consciously a universal spirit and outlook, while giving due importance to our own local situation; c) Imbibe the true spirit of Ignatius in all things – magis, excellence, availability, disponability, discernment, etc.; d) Evolve a single identity as Jesuits; e) Give importance to the agenda and plans of the Society or the Province or the Community as opposed to one's own personal agenda and plans; f) Love genuinely our option people and serve them generously at all levels and be ready to go anywhere to take up any ministry at anytime for the growth and development of our option people.

Fraternally,
Sebastião L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



OCTOBER

- 02-04 Visitation: DNC, Pune
- 05-08 Visitation: Delhi (Vidya Jyoti, ISI, Jaipur and Allahabad)
- 09-10 Visitation: Vadampakkam
- 10-11 Visitation: Vallam
- 12-15 Visitation: Kuppayanallur, Ongur
- 18 Consult
- 19 TNPCRI Executive Meeting -- Tindivanam
- 21-22 Visitation: IDEAS-LAAS
- 23 Visitation: DACA
- 26-31 JCSA – Phesama, Nagaland

NOVEMBER

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

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

OCTOBER

- 08 Mission Consult
- 09-10 Vadampakkam
- 10-11 Vallam
- 12-15 Kuppayanallur & Ongur
- 18 Province Consult
- 19 Meeting of Superiors & Work Directors of CM, Loyola, Chennai
- 23 Social Action Commission meeting, Kilpennathur
- 31 Kolkata

NOVEMBER

- 11-17 Loyola, Chennai
- 14 Gathering of Scholastics in CM area
- 15 Mission Consult
- 18-19 Ranipettai
- 22 Beschi Diamond Jubilee
- 23 Province Consult
- 27 Tribal & Ceyrac Mission
- 28 Ahal, Kilpennathur

Announcements



Vocation Promoters Team:

Fr Provincial has appointed Fr. Jesu Nesa Raju as the Coordinator of the team of Vocation Promoters. The other members of the team are: Fr. Antony Robinson, Br Arockiasamy Pitchaimuthu, Fr Babu Vincentraj, Sch. George Stephen Thayriam, Fr George Vedamuthu, Fr Jayaseelan Saminathan, Fr Jerome Kulandaisamy, Mr John Bosco, Fr John Paul K., Fr Joseph Xavier P., Fr Louie Albert, Fr Maria Felix Kennedy, Fr Packiaraj Soosai, Fr Paul Benedict, Fr Paulraj Packiam, Fr Soosai Raj.

Course on Retreat Direction:

Fr Jossie D'Mello, Coordinator, Prerana, Ignatian Spirituality Centre, Bangalore informs that the Course on Retreat Direction will be on 20 April - 23 May 2015. Please contact jossiedm@gmail.com

Brothers' Retreat & Seminar:

Venue: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. Date: 8-16 Dec '14. Preacher: Fr Francis Sales. Board & Lodge: Rs.3,200. Seminar on History of the Church. Venue : Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. Date: 17-18 Dec. '14. Resource Person: Fr Baskar Antony. Please contact Br Arockiadoss Michael at madossj@rediffmail.com

POSA's appointments:

Fr POSA has appointed Fr Sunny Jacob (JAM) the new JEA Secretary. Fr Norbert Menezes, the out-going JEA Secretary, will hand over the responsibility to Fr Sunny on 23 Oct '14 at the JEA meeting. Fr POSA has extended the term

of Fr Stanislaus Jebamalai (GUJ), the Secretary of JESA, for another three years.

New email:

Fr Arulanandam Arockiam has a new e-mail id: arulanandam47@gmail.com.

Beschi invites you!

The Superior and the community of Beschi Illam joyfully announce that this year is Beschi Illam's Diamond Jubilee year, and a celebration to thank the Lord for all that she has achieved in the last six decades will be held on Saturday, 22 Nov '14. The celebrations will start with a thanksgiving Eucharist at 10 00 a.m., presided over by Fr Provincial, followed by a felicitation function and dinner. All the Province men and Beschi alumni from far and near are invited to this historic reunion.

The Souvenir committee will be delighted to receive any historic note, anecdotes or interesting memorabilia like photos or references from magazines or Caritas from any one. You may send it to Fr John Wilson, SJ, Chairman, Souvenir Committee, Beschi Illam, Karur Road, Dindigul 624 001, Tamil Nadu. Fr Lawrence, Minister, will appreciate if the Ministers of our Houses could inform him (loverencesj@gmail.com) before 10 Nov '14 the number of Jesuits who would attend the Jubilee celebration. For more details contact Fr Tagore at leota942@yahoo.com, or Fr Wilson at wilsjj@gmail.com

- Fr Leo Tagore, SJ



Events



HOSANNAS TURNED TO...

Soon after participating at a Holy Mass at Vadipatti, our students of AAC, Karumathur entertained the rural pilgrims with cultural programmes. The Teachers Day, celebrated on 05 Sept, saw our students greeting the teaching staff. But their 'hosannas' turned to 'away with him' the following day over an unverified issue at the boys hostel. Jesuit officials unitedly and carefully faced the problem, suspending classes for a week and addressing the students after their return. The community gratefully acknowledged the unstinted and timely support of the teaching and non-teaching staff.

Members appreciated and thanked Fr Sebastia L Raj SJ, our Provincial, for his guidance during the visitation.

- A.G. Leonard

WOMEN AND PARENTS

On 10 Aug AHAL animators were introduced to "read and think" by Frs Packiaraj and Marianathan C. On 29 Aug 25 students attended a motivation camp conducted for 10th and 12th std students by Mr. Pushparaj. On 07 Sept there was a seminar guided by Sch Thiyopin, Fr Packiaraj, and Sch Selva on the role and contribution of women and the atrocities against them. On 16 Sept there was a parents meeting in one of the social study

centres when Frs Marinathan and Packiaraj reminded the parents of their important role in bringing up children.

- Selvendhiran

IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

We, the Scholastics at Arul Kadal, participated in a seminar on "Systems of Meaning in the Subaltern Soil" organized by FRRC, Palayamkottai for about a week. It paved the way for our 20 days of immersion experience. Our professors came to visit and encourage us. At the end of this living experience with the urban and rural poor we realized the social reality around us. On 02 Sept we had the sharing of the immersion experiences. Mr Robert, 58, father of Sch Stephen Robert, passed away on 11 Aug. Representatives of the community accompanied him to attend the funeral and console his family. - Sarathi

TO SHINE LIKE A DIAMOND

In view of the Diamond Jubilee of Beschi Illam to be celebrated on 22 Nov '14, we have started a series of renovation and maintenance works. The living rooms of the novices, their chapel, refectory, classrooms and corridors on both sides of the Domestic Chapel are being whitewashed and repainted. The long-felt

need for a separate parking bay for the two wheelers of the community members has now been fulfilled. As you approach the portico from the gate you will now notice an elegant looking shed on your left inside the garden which can accommodate all our two wheelers. There is a separate bay for the auto. Now the corridor, rid of the vehicles, looks broad and neat. Fr M.A. Emmanuel came from Loyola, Chennai to teach the novices a course on emotional maturity that enlightened and inspired them. The first year novices went for a pilgrimage to Velankanni during which they experienced deeply the providence of God. The second year novices were engaged in the House Experiment in the kitchen, infirmary and cowshed and learnt the value of manual labour, cleanliness and fraternal charity.

On 05 Sept, Teachers' Day, Fr Tagore received an unusual phone call. The caller, Private Secretary to the former President, Dr Abdul Kalam said that Dr Kalam would like to wish Fr Chinnadurai, his professor at St Joseph's College. Fr Chinnadurai and Dr Kalam exchanged greetings and good wishes. On 16 Sept the community had an outing to Ayyampalayam to see its newly renovated premises. Our senior Jesuits had an enjoyable evening thanks to the welcome accorded by Br Antony and Fr Fernandes. - **Wilson**

HOUSING PROJECT & GRADUATION DAY

The **Chennai Mission** Office supervised these two events in September. Fr Anandraj Housing Project (AHP) was inaugurated in the Ongur Parish on 10 Sept '14. Seeing the miserable condition of



the people living under thatched roofs in Ongur parish, Fr Anandraj, who is working in Italy, promised to convert all the 40 thatched roofs into concrete roofs in a phased out manner. The Jesuits of Claver Illam



welcomed the idea and chalked out the modalities. Led by Fr P.S Arul, people of Nallur village gave a rousing welcome and took the priests in a solemn procession to the parish church. After a short

prayer, Fr Anandraj laid the foundation stone, initially, for 10 houses in Kuppayanallur village. The Eucharist was concelebrated by Fr Jabamalai Raja, CMS, and Frs Joe Mike, V. Thomas and George Joseph.

The graduation ceremony of the 5th Batch of 23 tailoring students at VRO-Pondy Women Development Centre was presided over by Fr Provincial on 27 Sept '14. During the interaction with the new and former graduates Fr Provincial said: "I want every one of you to be happy, prosperous and healthy. Mastering this skill must bring changes in your life by improving your income." The outgoing students thanked Fr Provincial for his inspiring message and for the help through this Centre. After cultural programmes Fr Provincial gave away prizes, certificates and tailoring machines to the new graduates, who recalled gratefully the support of donors, Mrs. Mary and Turgay and Elmar and Conny. - **Dominic Jayakumar**

SHOCK AND GRIEF

The MDU Scholastics at **De Nobili**, Pune went for a picnic to Lonavla on 30 Aug. From 11 to 14 Sept we celebrated the Community Days with joy on the theme CREO 14 (Creating Relationships by Enriching Others). Those fun-filled four days gave us a chance to exhibit our creativity and talents and promoted team work and the sense of the universal nature of our Jesuit life and mission. But

our moods changed abruptly because of the sudden death of Fr Stephen Kulandai, ISI, Bangalore, which filled us with shock and sorrow. He had come to give a course on social analysis to third year B.Ph students at JDV. On 16 Sept while going for a walk with four of us after supper he suffered a massive cardiac arrest and died at the feet of Mother Mary in front of the grotto at the Papal Seminary. The body was brought to DNC and kept in the chapel for more than an hour. People in the campus and nearby flocked to pay their tributes. His cousin, Br Irudayam, SG, who came from Chennai, made all the arrangements to take the body to Loyola, Chennai for the funeral. The entire JDV expressed its shock and grief at a prayer service and Fr Selvarathinam, President of JDV, recalled his memories of his friend, Fr Kulandai. Fr Rector, Fr Minister, Fr Selvarathinam and the entire community did all they could generously and graciously.

Fr Michael Alosanai came to the Papal Seminary to be the moderator for the 97 Batch get-together. On 18 Sept he presided over a special Province Mass at which we prayed for Fr Stephen Kulandai and all in his family.

- **Solomon**

DONATED BLOOD

On the final day of bicentenary celebrations of the Restoration celebrations - 27 Sept '14 - a unique initiative was organized by the **Dhanam** movement at Satya Nilayam,

Chennai. At a special Jesuit blood donation camp meant only for the Jesuits in Chennai 61 Jesuits donated their blood for the poorest patients of Government hospitals. It began with a Eucharist at which Jerry Rosario, Director, Dhanam, preached on Ignatian generosity that should extend to human donations.

- **Jerry**

CHRISTBHAKTAS WELCOMED

Fr Thamburaj of **Dhyana Ashram**, Chennai preached a parish mission in the pilgrim shrine of Our Lady of Mines in Kolar gold fields. Christbhaktas from Varanasi were received by the Dhyana Ashram community on their way to Velankanni. Christbhaktas are devotees of Christ who may belong to other faiths and do not seek baptism for various reasons. Fr Xavier Irudayaraj took the initiative to bring together non-Jesuit retreat preachers. Fr Dontatus keeps giving retreats to Sisters who come to make personal retreats. Jerry directed the annual retreat of 125 priests of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore and the Archbishop. With "Being Broken" as his theme, Jerry led the participants to a personal pledge at the final liturgy. After a major surgery related to the urinary bladder in the first week of September Jerry is recovering fast.

- **Xavier Irudayaraj**

IFTAR MEAL

Representatives from all religions took part in the Iftar meal organized by **IDCR**. There was a sharing on the significance of fasting in different traditions, special Islamic prayer led by

a Maulvi and a meal. Mr Faizur Rahiman, a journalist, answered questions and cleared doubts, quoting from Quran. Fr Vincent Sekhar took a session on 'Diversity and Peace-building' to 40 French students who had come to do social work in villages. IDCR released two books on the feast of St. Ignatius: *Enthaiyar Iraivan* (2nd edition), a book of comparative religious literature (Hindu-Christian), and *Flying for Freedom*, an intercultural study between Mauritius and Tamil Nadu, on how college youth constructed their identity in the face of challenges like communalism, and how

they transcend their differences. Loyola College of Education (LCE) invited Fr Sekhar to give a day's workshop on Values for Life that inspired the students to transcend boundaries of caste, religion, language, and region.

Frs Michael Amaladoss and Vincent Sekhar, and the coordinator of Peace Rangers, Mr Arun Fernandez participated in an international seminar on 'Religions, Conflicts & Human Rights' in the University of Madras. Dr. Amaladoss and Dr. Sekhar responded to the two key papers presented by scholars who had come from abroad. IDCR held the second round presentation of the work done by research scholars on Interreligious Marriages to a team of experts. As an attempt at Neighbourhood Inter-Faith Amity (NIHA), IDCR organized a meeting of Pastors, Priests,

Religious Teachers and Guides to reflect on What Christ and the Church meant to their Neighbours and vice versa.

- **Vincent Sekhar**

UNFORGETTABLE YEAR

We, the two MDU Scholastics in **France**, have successfully entered our second year of theology. When we look back our first year in France, we are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude. Full of challenges and blessings, it was the most unforgettable year in our Jesuit formation. We had the rare opportunity to visit Loyola and Javier castles in Spain and Lourdes in France. We felt enriched by the presence of our Provincial during his visitation in June. It was wonderful to be with him sharing our unique experiences. One of those days we offered the Eucharist for the safe return of Fr Prem Kumar.

Fr Anasse Arsène, who is our constant support and consolation, turned 80 on 25 Aug'14 and he was here in Paris at his sister's house to mark the occasion. We joined them to celebrate the event.

This year brings us new hope and energy with the arrival of Schs. Sathyabalan, Michael and Valan in Paris. They have already plunged into learning French at a private institute. Though we are in

three different communities, we are well-knit and we support one another in our mission. We thank Frs. M. Amaladoss, Christie, John Kumar, Maria Joe and Dominic Jeyakumar who visited us last year.

- **Sahay & John Mike**

FOR CHILDREN OF WIDOWS

Kalangarai staff with five district leaders went to Deepam Centre, Batalagundu for an interchange program. This interaction paved the way to share our ideas and get enriched by others. The staff went for a picnic to Kuttralam. A special camp for the children of widows and deserted women was conducted during the quarterly holidays.

- **S. Jayaraj**

BEST TEACHES AWARDS

The **Loyola College of Education**, Chennai has admitted 200 students this year, giving preference to disadvantaged sections of students. An orientation for the faculty members was given by Mr C. Peter on "Teacher effectiveness and Fr Xavier Alphonse on "Ignatian Spirituality and Challenges of Teacher Education" on 04 to 08 Aug '14. The Convocation for the batch of 2012 - 2013 took place on 09 Sept. Mr. Thomas Simon, Global Head, Talent Engagement, Chennai was the Chief Guest and delivered the convocation address. At the inaugural function of the

academic year on 11 Aug Fr Francis Jeyapathy gave the inaugural address, followed by an orientation programme. In August we successfully conducted three Certificate Courses on Human Values Development, Life Skills and Communication Skills. More than twenty five competitions were conducted to bring out the talents of the students. Our Principal, Mrs. A.J. Arajakumari Amirtha Gowri, Mr Raphael Edward, Vice Principal, and Mrs C. Buelah Jeyarani, Asst. Professor in Biological Science won the Best Teacher awards given by the Education Today magazine on the occasion of Teachers' Day. The students will be going to 32 schools for their Intensive Practice Teaching for 40 days from 07 Sept.

- **Xavier Alphonse**

STUDENT COUNSELLORS

The month of September was a time of sports and cultural events at **Loyola, Chennai**. The 82nd Bertram Memorial Tournaments were held from 20 Aug to 02 Sept. After a gap of seven years, Loyola won the much coveted basketball trophy as well as the overall championship. LICET has made a mark in the field of Sports and Games by winning laurels in swimming, women's tennis tournaments and zonal cricket matches. Loyola had its Ovations and LICET, its Engenia. Loyola celebrated the distinctive award of the status of "College of Excellence" on 27 Sept. The Vice Chairman of UGC, Prof Devaraj graced the

Abide with the Lord

Fr Amalraj Sebastian (GUJ), 64/42, on 13 Sept '14 in Baroda.
Br Juel Therese Ekka SJ (RAN), 78/59, on 22 Sept '14 in Ranchi.
Mrs Angel, 87, mother of Fr Henry Jerome on 24 Aug '14 in Madurai.
Mrs Vethammal, 77, mother of Fr Simonraj on 21 Sept at Velangulam.
Mrs Cecilia, 85, mother of Fr Arockiasamy Perianayagam on 23 Sept '14 at Trichy.

Stephen Kulandaisamy, SJ

(1958 – 2014)

The sudden death of Fr Stephen Kulandaisamy came as a huge shock to everyone. From ISI, Bangalore he had gone to DNC, Pune to teach a course on Social Analysis. On 16 Sept after supper he went for a walk with a few Madurai Scholastics, appearing quite normal and talking about various things. When they were near the grotto of the Papal Seminary he suddenly collapsed. He was rushed to the hospital where the doctors, after trying in vain to revive him, declared him dead due to a massive cardiac arrest. His body was brought to the DNC Chapel, where all in the campus and nearby areas came to pray, and later flown to Chennai.

The casket was received by his younger brother, Inigo, and family and friends on the night of 17 and was taken home to his family in Palavakkam. Early in the morning of 18, his last remains were brought to Loyola and were laid in state at Sauliere Hall. A stream of visitors including some noted public figures from political parties, sisters, priests and religious, paid their last respects.

Stephen Kulandaisamy was born in 1958 in Trichy where his father worked in our College Laboratory and served as a committed Catechist in our parish church. Stephen joined the Society in 1980 and was ordained in 1993. He made his final commitment in 2006.



Having studied law he became an expert in dealing with knotty legal issues related to land and property. He made a significant contribution to the Province by visiting our institutions and putting in order their land and property documents. He stayed for some time at the Province curia at St Mary's, Dindigul and helped Br Kulandairaj who was the Province Treasurer. An effective teacher, Stephen conducted courses on financial management to Sisters of several Congregations and helped them in dealing with legal problems.

For three years from 2005 - 2008 he served as the Rector of St Mary's, Madurai. He worked at LAAS, our Legal Action Centre, for two years. From 2010 he was at ISI, Bangalore as staff, Acting Superior, and then in charge of Human Rights cell.

On 18 Sept Fr Francis

Jayapathy, Rector, Loyola, said the prayers at 3.00 pm to begin the procession to the college church. Fr Jebamalai Raja gave a short bio-sketch of Fr Stephen. The funeral Mass was presided over by former Archbishop Chinnappa of Madras-Mylapore and Bishop Soundararaju of Vellore along with Fr Provincial, Chennai Mission Superior and about 50 priests. Fr Provincial, in his introduction, offered the condolences of the entire Jesuit family to the brother and sisters and relatives of Fr Stephen. Fr Joseph Antony Samy, who preached the homily, spoke with great unction on Fr Stephen's daring spirit, evident from his young days, which characterized his whole life and ministry. The eulogies were given by Fr Selva from ISI, Sr Stella, Superior General of the Gonzaga Sisters, Br Irudayam, cousin of Fr Stephen and by Inigo, Stephen's brother. After the final prayers said by Archbishop Chinnappa and Fr Jebamalai Raja, amidst the highly emotional farewells from over a thousand people, the mortal remains of Fr Stephen Kulandaisamy were laid to rest at the Loyola cemetery.

Frs M.S. Jacob, Henry Jerome, Samuel Jeyaseelan, Thomas Amirtham, and Anto with a host of other Jesuits and staff made all the arrangements and provided a fitting farewell to our brother whose sudden demise left a poignant emptiness in our midst.

- Jayapathy

occasion and commended the college on its achievements and urged it to keep going forward.

A new initiative was launched by the college Counsellors, Ms Cristina and Ms Yazhini, to induct students as peer group counsellors. The programme is called "Aura Club". The 80 or so first year students who have signed up for the programme would be trained in basics of counseling and hopefully will do some barefoot counselling in the college in the next two years. The club was inaugurated on 23 Sept. On 06 Sept a Spiritual Animation Programme was organized for the PG Catholic students. A well organised and enthusiastically celebrated Corpus Christi Procession was held on 19 September. Fr Jacob preached a moving sermon at the final benediction.

- Jayapathy

FOCUS ON FOLK ARTS

On 05 Sept, the 4th School Annual Day was celebrated here at **Loyola Academy**, Vadamelpakkam. Mr Louis Jesuraja, an alumnus of Loyola College and HR Manager, Kone India Technology, Chennai presided over the colourful function wherein the traditional folk arts were given importance. After the students of ninth standard wrote their first semester board exam, they were taken to Mahabalipuram on 25 Sept on an educational trip. On 25 Sept the faculty of Sathya Nilayam came for a

visit.

- Deva A Stephen

MoU WITH HYUNDAI

The new academic year for first year ITI students here at **LTI**, Madurai began with the full strength of 84 students in the presence of their parents. The new comers were given a two-day orientation programme by Sch Doni Raja. Fr Maria Singarayar, Superior celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit. To help our students learn the new automobile

The students who successfully complete the training are assured of placement. The HYUNDAI manager Mr. Sankaranamasivayam handed over the agreement and the car key to Fr Provincial and the Correspondent, Fr Maria Singarayar at the function.

The Diamond Jubilee of Fr Leo Correya and the Golden Jubilee of Fr Lawrence Gabriel were celebrated on 21 Sept with a thanksgiving Eucharist



technologies Loyola ITI and HYUNDAI Motor India Ltd signed a MoU for a tie-up programme which was inaugurated on 08 Sept by Fr. Provincial during his visitation in the presence of Fr. Socius. Through this agreement we have received ten aggregates worth Rs 8 lakhs, including a i10 car, engines, cutting models and other materials to be used for training. The students will have a special course on HYUNDAI technologies including on- the-job training in their companies.

followed by felicitations and dinner.

- George Raja A.

STUDENTS TRAINED

Paathai Centre, along with the IACM, conducted coaching camps for the 10th std students in three places in three districts. About 85 students benefitted from the program. The students were trained by qualified teachers with a model question paper in order that they prepare well for the public exams.

On 12 Sept we had Paathai-IACM Evening Study Centre (ESC) animators meeting. Animators from 5 civil districts of northern part of Tamilnadu actively participated and assessed the ongoing activities of our centres and planned for a State level Student Convention on the occasion of the silver jubilee of ESC. - **Regis**

OUR MISSIONARIES IN MYANMAR

In **Myanmar** Fr Amal gave a course on Finance Management to MIRS Sisters from 01 to 05 Sept. He also contributed to Lashio Diocesan planning review on 09-12 Sept. Fr Vinny Joseph, as the Formation Delegate for the Mission, has convened a formation committee meeting on 26 Sept. We welcomed Bishop Susaimanickam of Sivagangai when he visited our community. He had come to a Tamil parish to be the main celebrant at the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Good Health. Fr Paul C is back at his desk after directing the retreat of 42 Servite Sisters in August. He directed also the annual retreat of the clergy of the neighbouring diocese of Hpa-an on 15-19 Sept. Sch Leo took his students for a picnic to Chang Nyi. Sch Joe Livingston has been transferred to a new place, Taung Gyi. He will be the treasurer of St Aloysius Gonzaga community and facilitator of the Online Learning Programme. Apart from teaching at the English institute, he will teach English

to the minor seminarians of Taung Gyi archdiocese.

- **Joe Livingston**

TO SHARE WHAT WE HAVE TASTED

Twenty tertians here at **SSC, Sitagarha**, from twelve provinces have 'Christfully' completed our one month Long Retreat with the able guidance of the tertian instructors Frs R.C. Chacko and Ignatius Tete. The sharing of the spiritual experiences of each tertian helped us feel deeply how God has dealt with each of us. Having tasted the love of God, we are going to share our God-experience to others through an eight-day Ignatian retreat.

Fr Igni is going to preach to the Ursuline Sisters at Tongo near Ranchi and Fr Roch is going to Jamshedpur to direct Apostolic Carmelite Sisters. After this we have a three week experiment. Frs Igni and Roch are going to work in a village near Daltonganj, Jharkhand and MC Brothers Hospital in Kolkata respectively.

- **Igni & Roch**

FAVOURABLE JUDGEMENT

The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court has given a favourable judgement in the case related to the staff appointments made at **St Joseph's, Tiruchi** in 2012. On 02 Sept Fr Principal went to Delhi to present the Star College proposal to DST to the tune of Rs. 1 crore. We are awaiting the decision. Teachers Day was celebrated and Mr. S. Ramakrishnan, writer, was the chief guest. On 26 Sept Fr Principal went to Mumbai to present the DST-FIST proposal.

- **Jesu Nesam**

RENOVATION IN FULL SWING

The Teachers' Day celebrations on 05 Sept were all organized by our students here at **St Joseph's Industrial School, Ooty**. Teachers were presented with a gift by the students. Manoj, a student from weld

ing unit gave a touching message on this occasion. Volleyball match was held between students and the staff. Sweets were distributed to the students.

Fr Leolin SJ animated a two-day orientation for the students and the staff on 12,13 Sept. The renovation of the building and additional guest rooms is in full swing.

- **Amirtharaj**

INSPIRING TALK

The School Day Celebrations here at **St Mary's, Madurai** on 27 Aug were a big success with an inspiring talk by the Chief Guest, Mr Iraianbu, on the purpose of the secondary education that should lead to principles, values and happiness. Our school won the cup in the Machado Football Tournament held at De Britto, Devakottai. Our alumnus, Mr Kannan, made history by honouring all our staff members on the Teachers Day with a ponnadai to all. Fr Packiaraj preached a retreat to a group of sisters in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. The 172nd annual parish festival of St Mary's Cathedral was celebrated with much enthusiasm this year with

the former Archbishop Peter Fernando hoisting the flag on 07 Sept. On 14 Sept our new Archbishop Antony Pappusamy presided over the Eucharist and confirmed 120 children. Since it was also the parish day, the Parish Priest and the two Assistants were honoured and a fellowship meal was served to all the parishioners. Scholarships worth Rs 50,000 were distributed to the deserving children of the parish.

- G. Packiaraj

ORIENTING THE TEACHING FRATERNITY

Fr Josephraj of Thozhamai Illam,



Kanyakumari, gave a course on Discernment to Sisters at the Lumen Institute, Tindivanam and proceeded to Shembaganur to guide a six-day retreat of 40 Sister Superiors of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Puducherry. On 05 Sept, Teachers' Day, over 120 teaching staff of the Loyola Institute of Technology and Science, Thovalai, were here for a day's Orientation

Programme, jointly given by Frs M. Charles, G Arockiaraj and Sales. It was the first time that such an orientation programme had been organised at Thozhamai Illam for the teaching fraternity. A meeting of the parish council of the Kovalam Parish was held in our campus on 07 Sept. On 18 Sept Jesuits of Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari, and Carmel, Nagercoil, gathered at Thozhamai Illam to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Fr Antony Arockiam with a prayer service, felicitations and dinner.

On 27 Sept 45 Sisters of the Palayamkottai Province of St. Anne, Tiruchirapalli, began their 8-day retreat. Fr Francis Sales is conducting a retreat for the Bon

Secours sisters at the same time in Chennai.

- G. Arockiaraj

EFFECTIVE TEACHING & FRIGHTENING LOOK

College: Mr. T. P. Suresh Kumar, B.E., Deputy Commissioner of Police, Tirunelveli City presided over the 92nd Annual Sports Meet here at **St Xavier's, Palayamkottai** which was a spectacular event. Five renowned scientists of

Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research had interactive sessions with our students during a one-day programme called 'Interaction with Scientists.' It helped the students get acquainted with career opportunities available in the area of scientific research. Creativity marked the Inter-departmental competitions called INDECO '14 which culminated in a two-day cultural extravaganza on 25, 26 Sept that gave the entire campus a festive look. Dr. Mu. Ramasamy, our alumnus and (Rtd) Head of the Dept. of Drama, Tamil University, Tanjore presided over the inaugural function and delivered a spellbinding inaugural address recalling how Fr Louis Xavier, then Vice-Principal, inspired him by his effective teaching and frightening look. Mr. Shabu Joseph, 2013 National Award Winner for Editing, was the chief-guest at the valedictory function.

Dr. Jebamalai Vinanchiarachi, who served as the Principal Adviser to the Director-General of UNIDO, Vienna, addressed the second year students of XIBA on 06 Sept. A colloquium on Entrepreneurship was organized on 10 Sept in which Mr. Janadhanan Menon - CEO, Flame advertising, Chennai and Mr. Elango Raphael, CEO, Fortune Apparel, Chennai interacted with the students.

School: The Teachers' Day programmes were organized

solely by the students. On the first Friday of September two of our new priests celebrated Mass for our Catholic boys and spoke on vocation to religious life.

College of Education: On 09 Sept '14 the senior teachers of our school interacted with B.Ed students 'Xaverian Best Teacher Award' was presented to Mrs Usha Raman, Principal, Jayanthira Golden Jubilee Matriculation School, Sankarnagar at a function organized jointly by the college and the Alumni Association to celebrate the Teachers' Day. Dr. V. Thamodharan, Principle, V.O.C College of Education presided over the function. Students from five colleges of education and three schools participated in the function and added flavor to the celebration. Library Week was celebrated on 15-17 Sept to instill in students the desire for reading books. - **Arul William**

FOSTERING FELLOWSHIP

On 11 August, **Vidya Jyoti**, Delhi hosted a fellowship meal for the Archdiocesan Clergy of Delhi. The family members of Fr Alex Premkumar, accompanied by Fr Francis Jeyapathy, came to Delhi to represent their concerns to the Members of Parliament and hold a press conference. Vidya Jyoti community offered a Mass in Tamil for Fr Prem and to express solidarity with his family.

Fr Leonard Fernando, preached a much-appreciated retreat to the Jesuits from

South Asian Assistency on the 'Restoration of the Society of Jesus' on 7-15 Aug. On 13 Aug we had a panel discussion on the violence against Christians in Israel-Palestine. A team headed by Pastor Munther Isaac of the Bethlehem Bible College in Palestine shared their experience of being estranged in their own land. They were in India as part of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, promoted by the World Council of Churches. On 15 August, we had the national flag hoisted by Mr Prabhakar, a co-worker and Sch. Sandeep Jagtap (PUN) delivered the Independence Day message in Hindi. - **Santosh**

SPECTACULAR ONAM PARADE

We, the Juniors at **Vidya Niketan**, Thiruvananthapuram had a course on Art Appreciation by Fr Roy Thottathil of the Kerala Province on 26-28 Aug. At the end of it, there was an exhibition of artworks produced by the Juniors themselves and a visit to the Art Gallery in Thiruvananthapuram. On 05 Sept Dr Iris Coelho, Vice Principal of St. Xavier's College, Thiruvananthapuram, gave us an interesting and informative talk on Onam. On the following day, with our Kerala companions we celebrated Onam in a grand manner with a Mass in Malayalam. We played Onam games and had a mini cultural programme followed by a vegetarian lunch featuring Kerala dishes served on plantain leaves.

On 08 Sept we celebrated the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a Kannada Mass.

Tasty traditional Mangalorean dishes were on the lunch menu and these were prepared and served by the Karnataka juniors. On 11 Sept we went to Thiruvananthapuram to watch the spectacular Onam parade, showcasing the cultural and social heritage of Kerala. While we had our first term examinations on 15-22 Sept, three of our formators (Frs. Williams, Prabhudass and Joe Mathew) attended the South Asian Assistency Juniorate formators meeting in Patna. A day after their return to Thiruvananthapuram, all of us went on a 3-day cultural tour of Kerala. - **Tony Ajith**

TRAINING THE IRULAR YOUTH

To empower Irulars, poor Tribals in the northern part of Tamilnadu, a three-day training programme for 25 Irular youth was organized by the **Tribal Ministry** team, Thiruvannamalai. Jesuit stalwarts from various social organizations, who were present for the inauguration of the training programme, emphasized the need for an integrated education in order to reach their life goals. The resource persons cautioned the Irular youth against the pitfalls of child marriage, addiction to alcohol and drugs, dropping out of school, selfishness and indifference towards community development. The programme offered the participants a lot of hope for their future. - **Selvendhiran**



SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

I still follow the advice in the college prayer book I was given at school: "Talk to our Lord quite simply, lay before him our needs and desires, both spiritual and temporal, and ask him to help us in our daily difficulties and temptations." It follows that a good deal of my prayer is petitionary: for those I love, for those who suffer, for the Church and those who struggle to hold and teach the faith, and, of course, for myself. I am conscious of how easy it is to use prayer as an alternative to action, and I know that I am resistant to the changes – the repentance – to which prayer should lead. All too clearly I recognize in myself the seed that fell among thorns, that growing up "choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, yields no fruit". But how odd it would be to have access to Our Lord and not put my hopes and needs in front of him. Often I do not need to put the petition into words: it is enough to bring the person prayed for into the scope of my awareness of God's presence; to "remember him or her before God" – who knows both what I wish for the person concerned (or for myself) and what is best for us. And there is a special place for prayers to Our Lady. When I turn to her I am conscious not just of a humanly maternal intimacy, but also that I am praying very much as a Catholic, out of the heart of a specifically Catholic tradition of reverence for Mary: and I hope never to lose the habit, inculcated at school, of saying the Memorare at the outset of a journey.

- David Goodall

in *How I Pray*, ed. by John Wilkins, St Paul's, 1996



New Releases

Authored by **Jerry Rosario**: *Marching On*, Don Bosco Publications, *Keep Going. Keep Growing*, New Leader Publications, *New Leadership @ Jesus.com*, New Leader Publications. By **Philip Kumar**, *Seyappattu Vinai*, Vaigarai Publications.

Memories



A GIANT IN STATURE, INTELLECT AND COURAGE

Fr John Baptist Trincal's career (1815 – 92) was both heroic and romantic. A giant in stature, intellect and courage, his influence was dynamic. After filling various offices he became a touring missionary and for almost 30 years (1863-92) he rode on horseback up and down his fifty miles of territory west of Madura, from Sattur and Srivilliputtur up to Periyakulam. A lawsuit, fought by him up to the Madras High Court, against a Zamindar who had forbidden him to build a chapel with bricks and tiles - then a novelty in the land - secured for him an immense and lasting popularity. Many villages sent him deputations, calling him their liberator. For several years he had to fight against minor Zamindars and rich Baptist Pallars, notably against John Pallan, their Podagher (pastor). "Christianity" became synonymous with "Fr. Trincal's Vedam" (religion).

The Annual Letter of 1871 thus summarises the work of Fr Trincal for the last eight years: 1,600 baptisms of adults, 15 chapels built and 20 villages calling for instruction.

- **Joseph C. Houpert, SJ**
in *A South Indian Mission - The Madura Catholic Mission*

Just for...



When little Johnny asked for an interesting story, his mother sat by his bed and told him how God created everything, including Adam and Eve. He sat up in bed, when she told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs.

Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and asked, "Johnny, what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."