



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

SEPTEMBER 2013

(For Private Circulation)



MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL

REKINDLING THE 'MAGIC' OF THE JESUITS

Dear Brothers,

In the past, the Jesuits were considered to possess some kind of "magical power" that attracted the young people to them. Actually, the Jesuits did not have any magic wand. Rather they realized that the young men needed someone to take care of them, to show them love and concern, to understand their needs and to enable them to grow holistically. That the Jesuits understood these needs and responded to them enthusiastically is what made them attractive to youth and people in general.

Our former students, like Abdul Kalam, remember fondly what they learned from the personalities of individual Jesuits. They rarely speak about their official or formal relationships or teaching. Instead, they speak almost always about their informal relationships and the concern, attention or care they received. This is the 'magic' of our forefathers - a deep love and

active concern for their students. It is this that made them spend time with the students and the staff. The manner in which they dealt with them, the way they listened to them and the love and concern they showed them in a personal and informal manner - these are the things our former students remember fondly and gratefully.

After the evaluation of our ministries, we have realized that we need to improve our relationship with our students and the staff members. We have also realized that it is not enough to have an official, formal relationship with them. We know very well that it is through informal contacts that we will be able to make an impact on them. We also know clearly that what is really important is not the position we hold in the institution - but our ability, desire and determination to relate to those whom we work for and work with.

As of now, we have about 45,000 students and about 2500 staff members in our campuses. We also serve a large number of people through our other ministries. We definitely have a formal and administrative relationship with all of them, which is inevitable. But we

know very well that it is not at all adequate. We are painfully aware that our informal and personal relationships, which used to be the hallmark of every Jesuit in the past, are missing very much these days. We also know that due to the absence of this 'magical' touch, we are gradually alienating ourselves from those whom we minister to.

Let us rekindle our enthusiasm and take steps to build informal relationships with our students, our staff and our people. Every Jesuit should hear the clarion call to touch the hearts' of as many individuals as possible. This is our real ministry and to do this ministry there is no age-bar, nor does this ministry require any post or position. Every Jesuit can do it. Let us emulate our elders and forefathers in intensifying this 'magical' touch on all those whom we serve and work with for His greater glory. This is the call of the hour, in this Jubilee Year of the New Madurai Mission.

Fraternally,
Sebasti L. Raj. SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



SEPTEMBER

- 01-02 Retreat-IHM Sisters -- Visitation: Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur
04-05 Nilakottai: Workshop for CIC Administration Team
06 Meeting: Directors of Social Centres – Beschi Illam
07-08 Meeting: Young Priests before Final Vows -- Shembaganur
10-11 Visitation: Vadmelpakkam
12 Visitation: Vallam
13-15 Visitation: Kuppayanallur, Ongur
19 Consult
20-23 Goa: Strategic Planning Session for SJ Superiors and Directors
25-27 Bangalore: CRI National Executive Meeting
28-30 Visitation: St. Mary's, Dindigul

OCTOBER

- 02-04 Visitation: Vettavalam
05-06 Visitation: Kilpennathur
09-12 Visitation: Delhi - Our men in VJ, ISI, Jaipur and Allahabad
13-19 JCSA – Delhi
20-21 Pune: Pre-Chapter Meeting -- Holy Spirit Sisters
26 Pondicherry: New Madurai Mission Jubilee Inauguration
27 Consult
28-31 Visitation: AAC, Karumathur
31 Last Vows of Fr. Basil Xavier

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

September

- 01 Meeting of Superiors / Team Leaders of Chennai Mission
02 Meeting with Bishop of Pondicherry
06 Social Analysis Course at IDEAS
08 Chenthamangalam, Namakkal
10-11 Vadampakkam
12 Vallam
13-15 Kuppayanallur
14 Chennai Mission Consult at Kuppayanallur
16-18 CV: Loyola Campus, Chennai
19 Province Consult
24-27 Salem and Dharmapuri

October

- 02-04 Vettavalam
05-06 Kilpennathur
09 Chennai Mission Consult
26 Inauguration of the Jubilee Celebration - Pondy
27 Province Consult

PCF's Programme

September

- 5-6 Perumalmalai, Shembaganur
7-8 Young Priests' Meet, Shembaganur
11-13 Devakottai, Oriyur
18 SUPAM Meet
16-27 Classes, Arul Kadal
30-4 Oct PCFs Meet, Bangalore

October

- 1-4 Assistancy PCFs Meeting, Bangalore
6-7 Belgaum Juniorate
8-10 AHAL, Loyola, Vettavalam
11 South Zone Regents' Meeting, LAAS
14-24 Assam, Darjeeling Novitiate
27-30 Vidyajyoti, Delhi

Announcements



Pastoral Counselling Course

The Professional Training Committee has organized a course on Pastoral Counselling. Dates: 11-13 Nov 2013; Place: Anugraha, Dindigul; Resource Person: Fr John Antony OFM (cap), founder of Anugraha and a person with a lot of experience. Those who are interested kindly contact Fr Christie at christmp@hotmail.com

Vocation Promotion

Fr PCF requests the superiors and directors of campus ministry to kindly contact the vocation promoter assigned to your area for vocation promotion and students' retreats in your institution. The areas allotted for the five vocation promoters are: **Gnanaraj A.F.:** Thanjavur, Kumbakonam & Pondy-Cuddalore / **Jesu Nesa Raju:** Trichy, Salem, Coimbatore & Ooty / **Manuel Savariar:** Kottar, Tuticorin & Palayamkottai / **Victor Roch:** Madurai, Sivagangai & Dindigul / **Packiaraj Soosai:** Dharmapuri, Vellore, Chengalpattu & Chennai.

XIBA

XIBA, St Xavier's, Palayamkottai has a new e-mail: xibatvl@gmail.com & a website www.xibasxc.com

Left

Sch Maria Gohil, who was doing his regency in Guyana, left the Society on 03 Sept 2013.

Novice Ruban Antony K. left the Society on 5 Aug 2013.

A new Jesuit Centre in Delhi

Navjivan Renewal Centre (NRC), a new Jesuit Centre for Holistic Human Wellness in Delhi was inaugurated on 31 July '13. About 60 programmes will be conducted at NRC during Jan-Dec '14. Those interested may write to: Director, 4 Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi 110054 (directornrc@gmail.com; mob: 09968289942).

- **George Mlakuzhyil, SJ**



Announcements

Inauguration of Maduralaya

The new Curia building is expected to be ready for occupation by the end of November 2013. The formal inauguration (Blessing, Holy Eucharist and Lunch) will be on **28 Dec '13**.

Scholasticate at Clive's

From next June, a Scholasticate and an independent Jesuit community will start functioning from Clive's, Trichy.

International House of Studies

Berchmans Illam, Chennai, will become an International House of Studies from June 2014, where P.G. students from other Provinces and those doing professional courses like Engineering and Business Management will stay.

'Director of Campus Ministry'

After hearing the views and suggestions of the Campus Ministers, Fr Provincial has decided that henceforth the Campus Minister will be known as 'Director of Campus Ministry', and he will coordinate the various activities and programmes related to Campus Ministry with the assistance of others (Jesuits and lay staff members).

Media Centre

The Province will start a Media Centre in a modest way. For the present some space in the existing structures will be used and will concentrate on production, data gathering, documentation, etc. The Provincial will assign a person for this new venture.

CBSE School Feasibility Committee

Different views were expressed by the participants at the LS/TL and Coordinators meeting regarding the advisability of starting one or more CBSE Schools in the Province. After discussing this matter in the Consult, the Provincial has decided to appoint a Feasibility Committee, which will make a professional analysis of the various factors related to this proposal – both positive and negative - and will submit its report. A decision will be taken after studying this report.

Jesuit University Committee

On the basis of the views and suggestions received from the LS/TL and the Secretaries and Principals of our Colleges, the Provincial has decided to appoint a professionally qualified Committee to study all aspects related to starting a **Jesuit University in T.N.**

New Status

a) **Sch Prabu Francis**, who was earlier assigned to do his theological studies in the United Kingdom, has joined Arul Kadal for his theology.

b) **Sch Anto S. Antony**, who was earlier assigned to do his B.Sc in Agriculture, has been assigned to Manalur for his regency.

Jubilee Celebrations

i) Inauguration of the Jubilee Celebrations:

a) Inaugural Mass: The Inaugural Mass will be celebrated at **11.00 a.m.** on **Saturday, 26 Oct '13** at the **Pondicherry Cathedral**.

b) There will be **NO common arrangements** for breakfast and washing before the Mass. **All will gather at the Ponds Cathedral by 10.30 a.m.** To be able to do this, the members can arrange to go to a Jesuit house closer to Ponds the previous evening itself and start early enough the next morning to be able to reach the Ponds Cathedral by 10.30 a.m.

c) For the Mass all the priests will wear the **cassock**.

d) A **special stole** will be supplied by the Province to commemorate this occasion.

ii) Celebrations with the French Jesuits:

There will be special celebrations with the French Provincial and other Jesuits from France and also some representatives from the French institutions that collaborate with our Province – like ICAM, Lille. These special functions with the French delegation will be organized on **1 and 2 Feb 2014**.

iii) Other Special Functions:

a) There will be an **Ecclesiastical celebration on 01 Feb 2014** at **St Mary's, Madurai**, for which all the Bishops of Tamil Nadu and some Major

Superiors will be invited.

b) There will be a **civic function on 02 Feb 2014** at **St Joseph's, Trichy**, for which political leaders, prominent alumni, and leading personalities in the academic world will be invited.

iv) Organizers:

Three types of Committees will be responsible for these celebrations: The Core Committees, the Jubilee Committee and 3 special representatives.

a) **Core Committee for Ponds Celebrations: Frs Ignatius Amalraj** (convener), **Maria Joe** (Vallam) and **Mark Stephen** (Vadamelpakkam)

b) **Core Committee for Madurai Celebrations: Frs Arockiasamy Perianayagam**, (convener), **K. Amal** and **Maria Singarayar**, along with special representatives

c) **Core Committee for Trichy Celebrations: The Rector and community of St Joseph's**, along with the special representatives

d) **Special Representatives and Other Members: Fr Xavier Antony** from Palayamkottai, **Fr P.S. Arul** from Oriyur and **Fr K.A. Augustine** from Tuticorin will be the representatives in these two committees. Each Core Committee can co-opt others, as and when needed.

v) **Jubilee Retreats:** Two special retreats focusing on the Restoration of the Society will be organized in 2014 – one will be organized by the PCF in Shembaganur in May 2014. It is proposed to organize the second one – a joint retreat for the southern provinces – in Bangalore, in consultation with the respective Provincials.

vi) **Heritage Room:** Every Institution is expected to create a heritage room, which will contain historical documents, pictures, photos, publications, etc., regarding the Society, Province and the respective Institution itself.

vi) **A permanent Exhibition:** Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, will host the permanent exhibition on the history of the Society. This work has been done already by Fr James Thamburaj.



Events



A TOUCHING SHARING

The Annual Sports Day of AAC, Karumathur was celebrated on 23 Aug '13. The colourful march past of the fourteen departments, a display of traditional martial arts, energetic track and field events, a touching sharing by the Chief Guest, Thiru Sivanandi IPS. The community was very happy to welcome the principals and secretaries of our colleges along with our Provincial for the special meeting on 10 Aug '13. We were very happy to see our superior, Fr K. Amal, successfully defend his doctoral thesis on 23 Aug '13.

- Rufus

WITH THE LOCAL RELIGIOUS

What marked the Beschi Illam community's celebration of the feast of St Ignatius this year were the pilgrimage to the shrine of St Ignatius at Anandarayankottai on 25 July, an exhortation by Fr Dhanaraj on 26 July, and a one-day Ignatian retreat on July 28, organized by the Institute of the Sacred Heart and CIS for lay people. On the feast day Fr L. V. Kumar was the main celebrant of the Eucharist and Fr Joe Antony preached a homily on St Ignatius and gratitude. At midday, there was a Solemn Benediction at St. Mary's and a fellowship meal. The local clergy and religious joined us and shared our joy. On the Independence Day the main celebrant was Fr Ilanko Xavier and Fr Louie Albert gave a homily on personal integrity and the need for working together. Fr Lourdasamy hoisted the national flag and Novice Tony Ajith delivered the message.

Fr Maria Amaldass (DEL) has joined Beschi community and started his M. Phil in Management at Gandhigram University. Fr I. M. Joseph taught and guided the novices for a week. Fr John Wilson and second year novices gave a one-day retreat to 10th Std students of St. Mary's

- Karthickraj

LSE IN ALL THE ZONES

On 26 June Fr Elias and his team visited and conducted an impact study at JRS Office Dindigul, about the quality of work that JRS offers to its target people. On 27 July, LSE (Life Skill Education) training was offered to 40 teachers of the Trichy Zone, at JRS Office, Beschi, Dindigul, to 37 teachers of the Thiruvannamalai Zone at Loyola, Vettavalam on 11 Aug, to 36 teachers of the Nellai Zone on 18 Aug at St Xavier's School, Palyamakottai and



to 59 teachers of the Kovai Zone on 17 Aug in Dharmapuri Camp. Mr Mariyadas, JRS Administrator, organized a course on Human Rights in Okkur Camp, Sivagangai for 50 people. On 16, 17 Aug Sch Mag Bay organized Basic English and Computer Training programmes for 22 school-drop-out students in Mullaikudi, Trichy.

- Lawrence

MUPPERUM VIZHA

Bishop Remigius of Kottar celebrated the Eucharist on our Founder's feast day here at Carmel, Nagercoil and the Mass was followed by a dinner. A Parent-Teachers Meeting for Std X and Std XII was organized on 13 Aug. The Annual Sports Day was celebrated on the eve of Independence Day. Mr. A. Peter Arnold, and Mr. Alwin Dhas, were the Chief Guests. The Annual Day was celebrated on 23 Aug when Dr. S. Cletus Babu, Chairman of SCAD Group of Colleges, expressed his gratitude for the service of Jesuits and announced a gift of Rs 2 lakhs to the school. Dr. Jose Swaminathan, Principal of LICET, Loyola was the guest of honour. The retiring teachers - Mr. Jesudhasan, (34 yrs), Mr. F. Abraham Lincoln, (36 yrs), Mr. A. Francis Aloy, (30 yrs), Mr. Y. Arul Varghese Joseph (28 yrs) were honoured. We celebrated

Mupperum Vizha (Independence Day, Ramzan, Chess awareness) on 12 Aug.

- Vincent Amalraj

ON A PILGRIMAGE

To imbibe the spirit of the early missionaries in this 175th year of the new Madurai mission, we, the community of De Britto, Devakottai, went on a pilgrimage to Manapad, Adaikalapuram, and Tuticorin. On 15 Aug we celebrated the Independence Day, when Mr Saravanan, our ward Councilor, hoisted the national flag and Fr Gualbert delivered a meaningful message. The Annual Day was held on 23 Aug and two eminent alumni of our school, Fr Joe Arun, and Mr Stalin Arockiaraj were our guests of honour, whose sharing was highly motivating. Fr Yagoo, helped by the staff, saw to the success of the celebration. Fr Joseph Kennedy, Assistant Co-ordinator of JAAT, is back with us after attending the International Jesuit Alumni Congress held at Columbia.

- Kennedy

BY OURSELVES TO SHARE

The joy of the feast of St Ignatius was doubled by the presence of other religious here at DNC, Pune. On 10 Aug when we celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Fr M. J. Victor, he shared how the Lord always guided him in his mission. On the Independence Day he took us to Loyola school, Pasan where we had a profound sharing about our life and faith journeys and the insights we had gathered from spiritual books.

- John Kamilas

HIGHER EDUCATION

On 10 Aug at AAC, Karumathur Fr Provincial addressed Jesuit Principals, Secretaries, Directors of Institutes of Management and LICET and invited them to share their concerns regarding admission of students for various courses and asked them for their recommendations. After this sharing, he placed before them various challenges of the

Province and possible solutions. After lunch, as the Province Co-ordinator for Higher Education, I described the process of appointments and the need to assess the newly recruited staff and the permanent staff through Performance-Based-Assessment Indicators. I also placed before them the Road Map and Action Plan for Higher Education Commission along with some measures that can promote a 'Jesuit campus culture' in all our Institutions. The participants appreciated the meeting and the chance it offered them to share their views, as well as the hospitality of AAC community. - **G. Pushparaj, SJ**

EVENING MASS BECOMING POPULAR

As a new initiative to cater to the spiritual needs of **Loyola, Chennai** an evening Mass is now celebrated at the college church. Fr John Pragasam, who is in charge of this initiative, feels happy that a lot of people have begun to attend this Eucharist regularly.

During two weekends in August, the First Year students of LIBA had two important workshops: Inward Journey and Rural Exposure. Many LIBA students donated blood at the Blood Donation Camp on 21 Aug. LIBA organized on 23 Aug a one-day 'HR Conclave' to deliberate on current issues related to HR. Ms. Anita Ramachandran delivered the keynote address. Francis P Xavier gave courses on Time Management to different groups and a seminar on Biblical Leadership & Administration.

- **Emma**

EDUCATING THE PRISONERS

ICRDCE, Chennai organised its 30th Teachers Training Programme attended by 83 teachers. A big contingent of 20me came from Bihar sent by the Government of Bihar, which has asked ICRDCE to help in starting Community Colleges in the State. Fr Xavier Alphonse addressed the Principals of Warrangal Diocese on Catholic Education. He also spoke on the Community College system in the JAYA TV. Certificates and diplomas were distributed to 59 inmates of Puzhal and Cuddalore prisons who

have passed out of Mahatma Gandhi Community College established in the prisons. - **Xavier Alphonse**

RESIDENCE SHIFTED

From **Karisal, Alangulam** we shifted our residence to Thayilpatti on 20 June. We stay in a rented house which was blessed by Fr Alvaris Sebastin, the Parish Priest of Mathangkoilpatti. A training programme on Indian Constitution and Gender Mainstreaming was conducted by JMPSA Staff and Schs Selvam and Magesh to 50 selected Arunthathiyar men of 30 villages of Sathur Taluk at Pethuredipatti on 10 Aug. Sch Magesh of Arul Kadal stayed with Arunthathiyar people at Chinnakollapati, near Sathur for the immersion experience for about 20 days from 6 Aug and Sch Prabu Francis joined him on 19. On 24 Aug they both motivated the students to work hard and be committed to achieving their goals.

- **Arockia Selvam**

COAXING THEM TO SEEK TREATMENT

The Annual Day and the Golden Jubilee of Fr Joe Mike were celebrated at **Loyola, Kuppayanalloor** on 31 Aug and Fr Jebamalai Raja, SJ, the Chennai Mission Superior, presided over the celebration. The acting CEO of Kancheepuram District was our Chief Guest. The presence of the Director of LIBA, Fr Peter Xavier and his team made the occasion significant. In the zonal matches, our students were the winners or the runners up in volley ball, foot ball and kho-kho. JMAADD has formed a cultural troupe with 12 student-volunteers, mostly the co-dependents of alcoholic families. Trained by Mr Divya Nathan, a product of Paathai, Vallam, the troupe will present week-end performances in neighbouring Dalit villages. Three pairs of animators are visiting the alcoholic families in these villages trying to convince them to seek treatment. - **Lawrence Arockiasamy**

NEW LOOK, NEW COLOURS

L.I.S., Ranipet is wearing a new look with new colours, as we had the first site visit from the Quality Council of India and National Vocational Training Center, New Delhi for upgrading our institute to the NCVT status. Fr Ignacy gave all his energy in order to fulfill all the requirements. - **Berkmans**

APPLIED FOR AFFILIATION

We started the celebrations of our Founder's feast at **Loyola Academy, Vadampakkam** with an interreligious prayer service and ended with a well-prepared cultural show. Fr Jebamalai Raja was the chief guest. As our school has the affiliation from CBSE board upto VIII standards, we applied for affiliation for IX and X standards. On 7 Aug came the Inspection Committee. The inspection went smoothly and we hope for the best. - **John Kennedy**

SELECTED FOR THE NATIONAL CAMP

St Mary's, Dindigul had its annual Sports Meet on 13 Aug. Mr. R. Chandran presided over the meet and contributed Rs. 1 lakh for sports activities of the school. On 14 Aug we celebrated the school's Annual Day. Mr R. Shanmuga Sundram, was the chief guest along with eight of his classmates. He fondly remembered the services of Jesuits and formation he had in the school. The guest of honour, Dr. K. Rathinam, CEO, G.T.N. Arts College, donated Rs. 5 lakhs for the school. Suresh of XI Std bagged the second place in the Shot Put at the South Indian level and has been selected for the national camp. St Mary's Primary School organized Parents-Teachers meetings for all the standards. Amuthu organized a colourful Children's Day celebration attended by nearly 375 students on 25 Aug. Fr. Stephen, the director of Vaigarai, put up a book stall in Tuticorin during the feast of Our Lady of Snows. - **Paul**

BISHOP'S APPRECIATION

Retreats for the students of **St Joseph's, Trichy** were preached by Frs Bella, Albert, Jeyakumar, Arockiam, Robin and Dr. Alex from Commerce Department. Bishop Antony Devota of Trichy was the Chief Quest for our school's Annual Day. Appreciating our service to the poor and marginalized students, he emphasized we should offer quality education to all our students. Being the year of Twin Jubilee, all the Jesuits of the community were gifted

umbrellas. Fr Lawrence Amalraj conducted programmes for students and staff in many places. On 22 Aug Fr Simon Raj gave a face-lift to students' clubs to make them effective. Mrs Gayatri and Fr. Francis Xavier, the Headmaster addressed the students.

- Jesu Nesa Raju

A NEW INFIRMARY

At **St Mary's, Madurai** during the Novena for the feast of St Ignatius a skit by the Apostolic Home and a power point presentation on Madurai Jesuit Mission by Fr Loyola set the Jubilee mood. On the feast day Fr P Arockiasamy, Rector, was the main celebrant and Fr Arockiaraj, the Parish Priest, preached a thought-provoking homily. A large number of priests and nuns attended the prayer service on the theme 'Magis' conducted by Frs Felix and Roch before the delicious dinner. We are blessed with a new infirmary run by Sr Sudha of the Sacred Heart Congregation. It is a great blessing to the elderly priests and the hostel students. On 'the youth day' the students went to a leprosy colony and distributed soaps, towels and oil. At the Sports Meet Mr Manokar, the chief guest and an alumnus, spoke at length on the value of sports activities and distributed prizes to the winners.

- A. Felix Joseph

DISCUSSION ON FOOD SECURITY BILL

About 40 people took part in a discussion on Food Security Bill: Security and Insecurity at **LAAS, Madurai** on 21 Aug. T. Murugan, High Court advocate, initiated the session with his presentation on salient features of the Bill. LAAS, in association with DEEPAM, Batlagundu, organized a legal aid programme on 12 Aug for the villagers of V. Kurmpapatti near Batlagundu.

- A. Santhanam

TRAINING MBA STUDENTS IN SOCIAL AWARENESS

Animators of the evening study centres run by **Paathai Centre, Vallam** met on 12 July, and shared the success stories and challenges of the previous academic year. On 30 July, we the Paathai Jesuits along

with nearly 80 religious friends from our neighbourhood celebrated the feast of St Ignatius. The English version of Paathai brochure was released by Bishop Neethinathan of Chengalpattu and the first copy was received by Fr Jebamalai Raja, who gave the feast day message. Guided by Sch Regis, the Paathai hostel students organized an art exhibition that attracted all our guests including the Bishop. Two batches of MBA students from LIBA, Loyola, Chennai, were trained here in social awareness in August. Fr Yesumarian and a team of IACM cadres shared with the students the struggles of Dalit Liberation. On 27 Aug Fr Cyril Desbruslais, Professor of Philosophy at JDV, Pune, visited Dalit Human Rights Centre and Paathai Centre for a meaningful interaction with the Jesuits and the staff.

- Regis

PREPARING AS USUAL

On 8 Aug Fr Albert Joseph presided over the Sports Meet here **St Arulanandar H.S. School, Oriyur**. N.M Mylvahanan, I.P.S. distributed the prizes and felicitated the winners. Mr A. Amuldoss, Physical Education Director, Vellore and Mr Manoharan, Water Supply Department, Ramnad graced the function. As part of our Golden Jubilee celebrations we organized an exhibition on Jesuit history and vocation and a Basketball Tournament was organized by Br Arockiadoss. The Independence Day was celebrated by our Primary School in a spectacular manner. Fr P.S. Arul gave the Independence Day message. As the villagers have come forward to collaborate in the formation of new Parish Council, we are preparing as usual for the feast of Our Lady of Good Health as usual.

- Robinson. A

THE LATEST ATTRACTION IN THE MUSEUM

The tertians animated the celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius at **Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur**. The whole community partook in the festival of Our Lady of Salet on 15 Aug at Kodaikanal. The PEAK team conducted training on 11-13 Aug on leadership to 25 leaders of the unorganized labour union at IDEAS, Madurai. Fr James animated a three-day programme on legal rights for 50 girls of the community college

at IDEAS. Fr Elias and Sch. Alex attended training on 20-23 Aug on Project Cycle Management that was organized by Mensen Met een Missie, the partner organization of PEAK which helped us in consolidating the field work. A new specimen skeleton of a whale has become the latest attraction in our museum. The tertians are away for their 'Ignatian experiment' from 25 Aug to 25 Sept.

- G. Raphael Alexander

FOR THE SHOWERS WE PRAY

The feast day of St Ignatius saw priests and the Religious of the diocese gather for a solemn Benediction officiated by Bishop Jude Paulraj and a dinner at **St Xavier's, Palayamkottai**. Frs Maria Augustine and Joe Arun conducted a motivation session for the members of the Student Council of our college. The 'New Life' Retreat team conducted a one-day retreat for the Catholic students on 3 Aug. Fr Maria Augustine has been appointed the Vice-Principal of Shift-II to coordinate three Shift-II courses. B.Ed scholastics organized a 28-day intensive English coaching programme for the new B.Ed. students

Ms Vijila Sathyananth, Mayor, Tirunelveli, presided over the Sports Day celebrations and Dr Raymond Peeris, an alumnus, was the Chief Guest. Our school volleyball team has won four championships. On the Annual Day of our school two illustrious alumni, Dr. Arul Vijayakumar, Heart Surgeon and Mr. Thirunavukarasu, IFS, Dharmapuri impressed the staff and students by their sharing about their exemplary and dedicated professional career. They said its foundation was the formation they received from our school. Fr Ignacy, the H.M. and his team organized the Annual Day successfully. Every one of us here is praying fervently for rain, as Tirunelveli is scorched and is facing a drought.

- Baskar

STIRRED OUR HEARTS

Fr Francis P. Xavier (MDU) enlightened us here at **Vidyaniketan, Thiruvananthapuram** with his course on Time Management. The

novena to St Ignatius was a creative, meaningful preparation for the feast. On the feast day Fr V.T. Jose (KER) enkindled our hearts with his stirring homily. On 12 Aug we received the sad news of the death of our Sch Naveen's father and we offered a special Mass for the repose of his soul. Schs. David and Sudherson were among the five best speakers on the Independence Day.

- **Vigash Lawrence**

NEW PRINCIPAL

ITI here at **LTI, Madurai** has a new Principal - Mr. R. V. Pandiaraj who is the senior most lay staff with 37 years of service as Instructor of Fitter trade. The new academic year for the first year ITI students began with the meeting of parents on 5 Aug and a two-day special orientation for the students by Fr. Roch and Sch. Sarathi.

The second years began their classes after the Parents meeting on 12 Aug and with a one-day orientation by the same team. The Community College courses have been suspended this year due to lack of students. Due to the renovation of Jesuit residence Frs. Lourduraj and Maria Louis have moved to St. Mary's, Madurai and Beschi Illam, Dindigul respectively, while others are accommodated at the Community College building.

- **Lawrence Gabriel**

GREEN CARPET WELCOME

On 25 July, all of us at **VMI, Vilangudi** went on a pilgrimage to St. Ignatius Church, Kokkudi in view of our founder's feast. The feast day saw a simple celebration with priests, religious, benefactors and lay collaborators. Fr Andrew Francis, SJ gave the pre-novices a day-long course on study skills and methods on 9 Aug. Mr Senthil, one of our co-workers, hoisted the flag on the Independence Day and Kevin, a pre-novice, delivered the message. The paddy fields extended a green carpet welcome to Fr Provincial,

as he came for his visitation. He boosted our spirits with his encouragement and we thanked him for the constant support and generosity of the Province administration. Ten French students helped us build four decent houses in our parish substations. Thanks to Ginnette School, France and the Ceyrac Trust. Nearly 200 parishioners participated in the special festival of light (Kuthuvilakku poojai) held at Adaikala Madha Shrine, Elakkurichi on 15 Aug and the Jesuits of our area were present for the Holy Mass presided over by Bishop Antonisamy of Kumbakonam. Fr Bellarmine spoke to the freshers of Bellarmine hostel, St Joseph's College and the students of Ananda College, Devakottai.

- **G.S. Thayriam**

GATE TO HONOUR FR MACHADO

On the feast day of St Ignatius Bishop Yvon Ambroise was at **Xaveriana, Thoothukudi** and was all ears to hear about the Jesuit Madurai Mission's association with his town, Pondicherry. In the morning the Catholic students went in a solemn procession for the Mass at the basilica of Our Lady of Snows. The previous day marked the end of the cultural week inaugurated by Mr S.T. Chellapandian, our MLA, an alumnus, who donated Rs. one lakh for the welfare of the students.

The Golden Car procession was the highlight of the 300th anniversary celebrations of Our Lady of Snows Basilica, which was first built by the Jesuit, Vigilio Manzi. Fr Joe Xavier preached on one of the Novena days and others helped with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The house was happy to receive many Jesuit guests who were struck by the lakhs of pilgrims. The construction of the school gate honouring Fr Albert Machado in his centenary year is complete at last. The school held a science exhibition visited by children from other schools.

- **Rajan**

Letter from abroad

FROM AFGHANISTAN

On 13 July, Sch Selvam reached Kabul. He has quickly adapted himself to his work, place, climate, and life-style. He sees the people in Kabul as very kind, respectful and polite. Initiated by Fr Stephen, he has already started teaching in three schools, two tuition centres and in Kabul University. On 18 July, there was an orientation program for all the teachers and they were reinvigorated to adopt student-centred teaching methodologies. After a fruitful year in Afghan mission, Sch



Swaminathan continues his educational services in Herat University which has requested him to handle three major papers this semester. He continues to teach English to the girls in the Herat Technical Institute. Fr Prem is back in Herat after his month-long study program in the United States.

Though separated by space and time, yet united in hearts and minds, the Jesuits placed at different mission stations here in Afghanistan celebrated the feast of St. Ignatius in a unique fashion. We were happy to receive our Muslim friends during Eid. The Eid house-visits enhance our relationship and trust.

- **Swaminathan**

Abide with the Lord



Fr Telesphore Kerketta, SJ (MAP) 86/64 on 11 Aug '13.
Fr George A. Hess, SJ (JAM) 94/61 on 30 July '13.

Experience



SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

Recently while preparing to give a lecture in a town far from home, I had the strange experience of looking directly into a wall mirror while sitting at a desk. The entire wall was one gigantic mirror, and every time I looked up, there was this body looking back at me while I was writing in a notepad. Finally I just stopped and stared back. I couldn't grasp the fact that this was actually me reflected in the mirror. I remember saying to myself, "That is an old man who is renting my face."

As I stared back I thought of the invisible being living inside each of us... This is the silent invisible witness that is ageless and unchanging. This is the eternal child inside each of us. It is as ageless children that we become synonymous with heaven, which represents that eternity where forms and boundaries, beginnings and ends, ups and downs are all meaningless.

It is the same as that little child Jesus spoke of when he said, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 18:3).

The ageless child in me, my eternal unchanging observer, knows nothing of judgement and hatred. There is nothing to judge, no one to hate. Because it only knows how to look with love on everything and everyone. It is what I call the absolute "allower". It simply allows everything to be as it is and only notices the unfolding of God in everyone it encounters. Not living on either side of any man-made border, it cannot indulge in ethnic or cultural identification, and thus warfare over these artificial terminus points is impossible. Consequently that invisible, ageless child is always at peace, just witnessing, just observing, but most important, just allowing.

Jesus is not saying we should be childish and become immature, undisciplined, and uneducated. Instead he was referring to being childlike, which is non-judgemental, loving, accepting, and incapable of placing labels on anyone or anything.

- Wayne W. Dyer
in *Wisdom of the Ages*

Memories



CYCLONE

The flooded campus of Andhra Loyola is the result of the severe cyclone which brought such havoc to the low lands of coastal Andhra. There was a downpour of above 37 inches of rain. That is more than the total of 34 inches for the whole of the previous year, 1968. The small community left to hold the place, consisting of the Rector, Sch U.S. Paul and Br Maria Michael, found themselves completely cut off from the outside world. It took a fortnight before any letter could break through... In order to bring relief to the buffaloes and hens and chickens



in the farm behind the house, Rector and Brothers waded again and again through the rising waters. They worked hard to breach the compound wall to the east of the farm - but with little effect. Every day the toll brought by the cyclone is rising within the affected low lands of four districts, Khammam, West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur. It is already estimated that above 30,000 heads of cattle and over one lakh of sheep and goats perished. As to human beings, no one dares to guess."

(from the MNL, 16 June 1969)



Just for...

These are children's responses in Bible tests:

Since Noah built the ark, his wife was called Joan of Ark.

Samson killed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Moses went up to Mount Cyanide to find the ten commandments.

Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.