



(For Private Circulation)

## Message from the Provincial



### Oriyur Events and Our Response

Dear Brothers,

September is a month of several important feasts in the Catholic Church. We celebrate the Feasts of: the **Birth** of Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of **Health** (Velankannai), Exaltation of Holy **Cross**, Our Lady of **Sorrows**, and the three Archangels - Michael, Gabriel and Raphael – the chief **messengers** of God.

It seems a coincidence or God's divine providence, that at the very beginning of this month our Jesuit Brethren in the Oriyur community, the people of Oriyur parish and the entire province have had to go through some agonizing and traumatic moments. One of our own parishioners is no more, due to the sad event that took place a few days ago. There is tension all over the area. All kinds of rumours are doing the rounds, provoking and intensifying suspicion and anger. There are people who seek to exploit the situation to their own advantage, while the majority seems to be watching these developments silently and helplessly. Different types of accusations are being made against us and others. Our brother, Fr Lawrence Gabriel, has been hospitalized, after being injured when a mob attacked him. Other Jesuits have gone through mental agony and tension.

I consider all these as a moment of God's visitation with a special **message**, a wake-up call, coming to all of us through Our Blessed Mother and Our Martyr-Patron-Brother St John de Britto and the three Archangels. In Oriyur, as well as in all other centres, institutions and parishes, we are definitely doing

a lot of good work, serving the needs of the people. The incident in Oriyur has highlighted that we need to move on, with greater love and concern for the people and their cause, wherever we are. The message from Oriyur seems to be: We need to have a **re-birth** to face **sorrows** and **crosses**, we need to be prepared to **suffer** and **make sacrifices**, we need to **heal** the wounds and hurts and carry the people along with us. Our aim is only one – to serve the people given to our care. We need to understand the pulls and forces in which they are compelled to live. We have to devise ways and means to win their confidence and trust, in spite of their anger, misunderstanding and even when they seem to exploit our good will and loving gestures.

I invite all the communities to set aside some time to reflect seriously on the Oriyur events in order to discern what God may be telling us through these sorrowful mysteries. This is a time for every community to examine sincerely its ministries and approaches to people whom we serve, the lessons we can learn and the changes we need to introduce, so that we remain in the right track in all that we do for our people. May Our Blessed Mother, Our Brother John Britto and the Archangels intervene for us at this traumatic moment in the history of our province and obtain for us God's special graces upon every one of us and upon all the people whom we are called to serve, so that we can march forward, along with our people, according to God's will and for His Greater Glory.

Fraternally,  
*Sebasti L. Raj. SJ*  
Provincial



## Provincial's Programme:

### SEPTEMBER

- 06 Extended Consult on Oriyur events
- 16-18 Visitation: AAC, Karumathur
- 25-27 POSA Consult, Jor Bagh, Delhi
- 28-30 Visitation: Delhi (Vidya Jyoti, ISI)

### OCTOBER

- 01-02 Visitation: Ranipet
- 03-04 Visitation: Vallam
- 04-06 Visitation: Kuppayanallur
- 08-09 Visitation: LTI, Madurai
- 11 Consult
- 12-14 Visitation: Vettavalam
- 15-20 Visitation: Loyola College, Chennai
- 26-27 Visitation: LAV, Vadamelpakkam
- 28-29 Visitation: Berchmans Illam, Chennai
- 31 Meeting: Young Priests -- Maduralaya

## Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

### SEPTEMBER

- 09-10 Ranipettai
- 17-18 PAATHAI, Vallam
- 18-19 LAV, Vadamelpakkam
- 20-27 Retreat

### OCTOBER

- 01-02 Ranipettai
- 03 PAATHAI, Vallam
- 04-06 Kuppayanallur
- 10 Mission Consult
- 11 Province Consult
- 12-14 LCV, Vettavalam
- 15-20 Loyola, Chennai
- 21-23 Recollection for LS/TL of CM
- 26-27 LAV, Vadamelpakkam



## Announcements

### Appointments & Assignments:

❖ Fr. General has appointed **Fr. Francis Xavier P.** a Member of the Caetus Praevius for GC 36.

❖ **Brother Arockiadoss Michael** has been appointed the acting HM of St. Arulanandar HS School, Oriyur.

❖ **Fr. Stanislaus Asirvatham** is on leave for a few months from his teaching ministry.

❖ **Fr. Alex Thomas** is going on a sabbatical to Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California, USA.

❖ **Fr. Amaladoss Xavier S.** has been appointed the Acting Principal of St. Xavier's College of Education.

❖ **Fr. Joe C. Arun** has been missioned to St. Joseph's College, Trichy, to teach in JIM and to do research.

❖ **Fr. Justin Prabhu A.,** who has been working in Guyana for the past few years, has returned to the Province.

❖ **Fr Paul C. Jesuraja,** who has been serving the Myanmar Mission for the past two years, returns to the Province this month.

### Indian Contemplative Retreat

Indian Contemplative Retreat based on the Letters of St. Paul and Initiation to Jesus-Prayer. *Guided by: Sebastian Painadath, SJ (KER). Dates: 22 Nov '15 (morning) to 29 Nov (evening). Venue: NBCLC, Bangalore. Contact: ph. 080-25495674, 25472369*

# ORDINATIONS - 2015

All those who were gathered at St Joseph's College Campus, Tiruchirappalli in the evening of 29 Aug for the priestly Ordination of Deacons Alex Yagoo, Antony Inico I., Francis Xavier Arockiadass, Poondy Rajan Y., Richard Hiruthayaraj, Victor Desoza A., Vincent Irudhayaraj and Dominic Francis Xavier (PAT) were wonderstruck at the simplicity, unassuming nature and dedication of the Bishop who administered the Sacrament of Holy Orders, Most Rev. Jerome Dhas, SDB, the first Bishop of the newly-erected Kuzhithurai Diocese. He did everything with deep devotion and involvement. He preached his homily calmly and serenely and surprised everyone when he mentioned every one of the Ordinandi by name and their background. He said it was not he who was ordaining them as priests – it was God who chose them. He said he was deeply touched by the mystical experiences of St Ignatius at Manresa and his



(*Paliyaahida, Pani purinthida*). Among the hymns the choir sang sweetly in unison was a masterpiece composed by Bishop Jerome: *Indru en vaazhvile ponnaal*.

Nearly 250 priests participated, including Frs Provincial, Chennai Mission Superior, David Stewart and Sebastian (representatives from British and Patna Provinces respectively). Fr Joe Antony, Socius, introduced the Bishop – his good friend for many years - to the gathering very warmly at the beginning of the Eucharist. All

very efficiently with the help of Fr Viji Bose, Assistant Parish Priest, and the parishioners. Fr Viji was with the Ordinandi for two days, preparing them and rehearsing the event. Scholastics of Arul Kadal assumed several responsibilities and made the liturgy meaningful.

In the felicitation function that followed we had a beautiful Bharatha Natyam performance by students of Holy Cross College, a poetic and pun-filled felicitation speech by Mr Paulraj, a parishioner, honouring the Bishop and the newly-ordained with *ponnadais* and a vote of thanks on behalf of the new priests by Fr Poondi Rajan. A book in Tamil, *Vilainilangal Vilaichalgal* (Fields and Crops), with articles written by the Ordinandi on various aspects of consecrated life and edited by Fr Raj Irudaya, ADF, was released. Fr Simonraj Antony, Headmaster, SJHSS, compered this function. Thanks to the magnanimous co-operation of all concerned the Ordinations – 2015 turned out to be an inspiring and joy-filled occasion.

- Britto Vincent



zeal to serve God. He quoted extensively what Pope Francis had said in an interview. Asked who he was, he had said he was a sinner looked at by God with compassion and called “to become a sacrifice, to serve”

members of St Joseph's and Clive's Communities, under the leadership of Fr Britto Bonaventure, Rector, put their heart and soul to make the event very meaningful and grace-filled. Fr Jesu Nesa Raju, Parish Priest, organized the entire service



## Statue of the Sacred Heart

On 29 July here at **AAC**, Karumathur Fr A. Ambrose SJ, Spiritual Guide at Christ Hall, gave us an exhortation, helping us prepare for the Feast of St Ignatius. Fr Vincent Britto, PCF, was with us in the first week of August, meeting our men in formation.

Mr Henri Tiphange, Director, Peoples Watch inaugurated the Students Association Activities for this academic year. Fr Basil Xavier, Principal, invited Mr Parthiban, Member of Parliament, Theni to be the Chief Guest for the 46<sup>th</sup> Sports Day celebrations on 22 Aug. The MP promised financial support towards the development of AAC. Fr M.J. Mahalingam spoke on the role of 'Habitus' at a seminar at Madurai Kamaraj University and on Pope's Encyclical *Laudato Si* to a group of Religious.

- **A. G. Leonard, SJ**

## Renewed

The **AHAL** community celebrated the feast of St Ignatius with a Mass on 30 July. It was attended by more than 100 Religious and priests from Vellore and Pondicherry dioceses. Eleven students from France stayed here for 21 days and offered manual labour to build four houses in Vedanatham as part of a housing project. On 09 Aug we gathered at Sahaya Maadha parish, Kilpennathur to celebrate St. Ignatius. We conducted a quiz for the parish children to encourage them to learn more about St. Ignatius. The Visitation

of Fr Provincial and the Chennai Mission Superior to AHAL renewed our vigor and commitment.

- **Felix Sahayaraj**

## Three together

**BESCHI ILLAM**, on hearing the shocking news of the demise of Dr. Abdul Kalam, organised an ecumenical prayer service on 28 July. Fr Chinna Durai, the revered professor of Dr Kalam, Fr. Sebast L. Raj, Provincial and Fr. Leo Tagore, Superior offered tributes to the beloved Jesuit alumnus. On 28 July we went on a pilgrimage to St Ignatius' Church at Anumantharayankottai on foot.

On 31 July we celebrated our Founder's feast day with a Mass presided over by Fr Sebast L. Raj. A befitting homily was given by Fr Sebastian (PAT). In the evening the three Jesuit communities in Dindigul jointly celebrated the Feast of St Ignatius at St. Mary's Primary School, Dindigul. On 14 Aug the Novices attended the bi-centennial celebration of Don Bosco's birth at the Salesian Pre-Novitiate, East Marianathapuram. On 15 Aug the National Flag was hoisted by Bro Natarajan, the Golden Jubilarian. A scintillating speech was given by the Novice, D. Anandraj. It was also the day to celebrate the Jubilees of Frs Mathai, K. C. George, C. V. Mattam and Bro. Natarajan.

The funeral of the senior most Jesuit of our Province, Fr C. V. Mattam, on 18 Aug was attended by his relatives, Jesuits and grateful students. On 20, 21 Aug Fr Pavulraj Michael spoke to the Novices on the Autobiography of St Ignatius. The ground-breaking ceremony for the new building in the Infirmary Block was on 20 Aug.

All the 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Novices, Frs Ilanko Xavier, Manuel Savariar and Lawrence Benedict directed a one-day retreat to the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> students of St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Dindigul on 22 Aug.

- **Lawrence Benedict**

## Passion for sports

On 31 July all of us at **DE BRITTO**, Devakottai celebrated the feast of our founder, along with the priests and Religious of our vicariate. We had our 72<sup>nd</sup> School Sports Day on 29 July. Mr M. Saravanan, General Manager, TVS Sundaram Motors, Chennai, the Chief Guest, encouraged our students to develop a passion for sports. Mr S. Ganesh, District Judge, Devakottai presided over the 72<sup>nd</sup> School Annual Day on 20 Aug.

- **Salomon**

## Social responsibility

Curriculum Development Workshop was organized on 10-12 Aug at **ICRDCE** Office, Chennai to align all our Community College programmes with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Sector Skill Councils. 22 experts attended this workshop. A similar workshop is being conducted for three days from 27 Aug. 16 experts from respective skills are contributing in the DACUM (Developing the Curriculum) process. Frs M.S. Jacob and Xavier Alphonse guided the team of experts.

A workshop on Review, Evaluation and Action plan for UGC Community Colleges and B.Voc Centres in Tamil Nadu and Kerala was conducted on 20,21 Aug at Jayaraj Annapackiam



## Chennai Mission's Silver Jubilee inauguration

The Silver Jubilee Celebration of Chennai Mission was inaugurated by Bishop A. Neethinathan of Chengleput, by lighting the lamp after invoking God's blessings in the chapel of Karuveppampondi Madam. Fr Sebastil L.Raj, the Provincial, and Fr Jebamalai Raja, the Chennai Mission Superior and two other parishioners too lit the lamp. Earlier the Bishop unveiled the photo of Fr A. Augustine, who

Loyola Institutes, Kuppayanallur, welcomed the gathering. Fr A. Victor, the first Chennai Mission Superior, in his homily, gratefully highlighted the pioneering spirit of our forefathers in this region and challenged all to trust God totally and to give ourselves effusively in our empowering mission.

At a short felicitation function after the Eucharist, the children of Malligapuram, one of the four parishes of the erstwhile Chengai Mission, mesmerized the people by their welcome dance. One of the teachers of Loyola HSS, Mrs. Lilly Prabhakar, thanked all the Jesuits

Team Coordinator, Animators and Mission Superior. He listed the new initiatives and urged all to march ahead with hope, holding the hand of God. He thanked Fr P.S. Arul for working tirelessly to renovate the cemeteries of the two Jesuit missionaries and Fr Victor Roche and the Jesuit community of Kuppayanallur for meticulously organizing the function.

Bishop Neethinathan thanked the Jesuits of Chennai Mission for walking with the marginalized dalits for the last 25 years. Citing Pope Francis, he invited the Jesuits to work with



worked in the Mission tirelessly till he breathed his last. Fr Joe Mike initiated the procession towards the cemetery after a short introduction led by the artistes of Neruppu Kalaikuzhu, Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur.

The renovated tombs of Frs Maudiyt SJ and Decurac SJ were blessed by the Bishop and Fr Provincial. The first Chengai Mission Coordinator, Fr L. Yesumarian and the present Chennai Mission Superior, Fr Jebamalai Raja paid homage and offered floral tributes to the two martyrs, who were poisoned to death in 1711. Frs George Joseph and Jeyaraj Boniface, former Chengai Mission Animators, lit the candles.

In the concelebrated High Mass, Fr Masillamani, Superior,

for their tireless work in Uthiramerur area. She thanked the Jesuits for inspiring the people to march towards Self Respect, Self Sufficiency and Self Governance. A visible symbol of Jesuit's mission among the marginalized, she belonged to the 2<sup>nd</sup> batch of students of Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur and now she is a teacher at her *Alma mater*. In his felicitation, Fr Provincial thanked all the Jesuits who worked in this region and requested the people to bless the Jesuits so that we do the Lord's mission in a committed way. Fr Jebamalai Raja pointed out the significant milestones in the history of Chengai Mission becoming Chennai Mission and thanked everyone for their significant contribution. He gratefully highlighted the dynamic leadership of various Provincials, and the key roles played by the Mission

the poor making their hands dirty and soiling their clothes while serving them. He assured his continued friendship and fervent prayers. Fr Dominic, Treasurer of Chennai Mission, proposed a vote of thanks. Each one left the tombs of the Jesuit martyrs with renewed vigor to work in the spirit of Jesuit magis, for the empowerment of the marginalized in the light of our option for the poor and the Dalits.

Folk dances from Neruppu Kalaikuzhu, coordinated by Fr V. Thomas, delighted the gathering. The Superior and Jesuits of Kuppayanallur had worked to make the event memorable for the large number of Jesuits present.

- V. Roche, SJ &  
D. Jayakumar, SJ

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College, Periyakulam in which 40 participants from 16 Colleges participated. Fr Xavier Alphonse and Dr Albert Selvanayagam were the resource persons.

- **M.S. Jacob**

## To make students change agents

Iftar celebration with Muslim brothers and sisters was held in **IDCR** for the second consecutive year. Mrs and Mr Achim Fabig, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, spoke on tolerance and interfaith harmony. Mr. A. Faizur Rahman, the General Secretary of the Islamic Forum for the Promotion of Moderate Thought, interacted with the gathering on various issues related to Quran and the Islamic community. The Muslim brothers had 'Namaz' in IDCR Hall and others joined them in prayer. IDCR introduced a Course on Research Methodology in Social Sciences with the help of Sr Lourthumary, FMM and a number of research students benefitted.

Blink Foundation in IDCR has been regularly training college youth for taking interactive classes in the schools on values. The aim is to make students become 'change agents'. We had a prayer meeting with the college youth to thank God for Dr Abdul Kalam. Many students shared how Dr Kalam had affected their thinking and life.

Fr. Michael Amaladoss gave a series of talks on Asian Theology in Chiang Mai Seven Fountains Retreat Centre, Thailand to a group of young

Jesuits coming from East Asian countries. Vincent Sekhar has been travelling to various Juniorates, Philosophy and Theology centres in the Southern Provinces to motivate young Jesuits in the ministry of interreligious dialogue.

- **Vincent Sekhar**

## Professional and effective

The Jesuit Center for Counseling (**JESCOO**) is in the process of contacting the heads of dioceses and religious congregations to inform them about the training programs it could offer to various sections of people. The Center is waiting for our schools to recruit two counselor-candidates for each school. The intense counselor-training would begin once the candidates are selected.

Fr Emma spent three days on 10-13 Aug with the counselors at the Loyola College to deliberate on new procedures and protocols to make their counseling services professional and effective. He taught a few classes at LIBA on Counseling Skills for Managers. On 20, 21 Aug he conducted a two-day program for the faculty of the Loyola College of Education on Enneagram. He also conducted a two-day program on 26, 27 Aug to help the 2<sup>nd</sup> year novices at Beschi understand and manage their emotions effectively. He also met every one of them to guide them through individual counseling.

- **Sch Mag Bay**

## Leading them to Reconciliation

On 22 July **JRS-TAMIL NADU** organized a training session for the new counselors. Fr Emmanuel Arockiam, Director, JESCOO,

guided our staff to do their work effectively. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of Reconciliation workshop was held on 02-12 Aug in Delhi for the JRS staff and collaborators. This made us deepen the service of reconciliation among the war-affected Tamils in camps. Fr Britto Peter helped our staff to handle the cases in an effective way. 74 students participated in the foundational courses conducted for the Sri Lankan refugee youth in August by Nellai and Trichy Zones. Fr Dominic, Director, JRS, and Mrs Sheeba spoke on 'Reconciliation and Communication.' So far 284 students have benefited from this course. JRS family is deeply grateful to the IDEAS community for their support and encouragement to the students.

- **Anto**

## Another milestone

**LOYOLA ACADEMY**, Vadamelpakkam crossed another milestone when it conducted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sports Meet on 14 Aug. Mr. Balasundaram Radhakrishnan, CEO, Director, Manufacturing Unit of FORD India Ltd. was the Chief Guest and Mr Elangovan, Inspector of Police, Maraimalai Nagar was a Guest of Honour. The Chief Guest was impressed by the cultural and sports performances of the students. He promised to render any help to LAV in the future especially through joint academic ventures. Fr Gnanam and Sch Rajasekaran worked hard to make the event a success. Fr. Victor preached a 5 day-retreat in Trichy to the senior Sisters of St. Anne's, Trichy. Fr K.A. Augustine, Principal, is busy motivating

## Abide with the Lord

Fr Ronald Prabhu (KAR) 75/58, on 18 Aug in Bengaluru.

Mr Arockiyasamy, 55, father of Sch Praveen, on 01 Aug.

Ms Amirtham, 76, older sister of Fr Antony Arockiam, on 05 Sept in Aryanalloor.



the staff and students to excel in academics and contacting LAV academic coordinators and nearby CBSE schools, as our students will appear for the X std Board exams for the first time this year. - **Rajasekaran**

## One of the top ten

UGC has recognized **LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI** as the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Center with the grant of Rs. 4 crores. Loyola College is one of the few colleges and universities in Tamil Nadu identified for this recognition. Loyola remains in top ten colleges list – second in Science and third in Arts and Commerce in a survey conducted by *India Today*, a national magazine. Loyola College, in association with Consulate General of the Russian Federation, Russian Cultural Centre, conducted a one-day seminar on ‘Combating against Falsification of History.’ Fr Anto, Principal, highlighted the importance of cultural exchange and information sharing between Russia and India in order to strengthen economic, social and educational ties.

P. Sainath, the well-known journalist who has won over 40 global and national awards for his reporting on Rural India and agricultural crisis, spoke on “Inequality, Livelihood and Agrarian Crisis in India” to a packed LICET auditorium on 25 Aug.

Fr Ignacimuthu has been asked to be the guest editor of one issue of the *Journal of Jesuit Studies* published by Boston College, USA. The issue will contain articles from all over the world on Jesuits’ and Jesuit institutions’ contribution to environment.

The Central Library of LICET conducted a two-day book fair on 13, 14 Aug. More than 25 popular and science publishers exhibited their recent books on

science and technology. The first alumni meet at LICET was held on 15 Aug. More than 300 students turned up and renewed their commitment to social responsibility. Ms Kirupa of Mathematics Dept has been invited by Anna University for EduSat



program of live telecast of her classes to all the affiliated engineering colleges of Anna University.

Bertram Memorial Tournament started on 24 Aug and came to a successful conclusion on 1 Sept. Despite narrowly missing out on the coveted Basketball trophy, Loyola emerged the overall winner.

The World Day of Prayer called for by Pope Francis was marked by an ecumenical prayer service in the Church courtyard.

- **F. Jayapathy**

## Ignatian Ambience

Fr Francis P Xavier, SJ gave us the Community Orientation for us here at **LOYOLA, KUPPAYANALLOOR** through counseling. ‘Vacation with the Lord’ was the theme for the one-day retreat given to the students of Loyola HSS by the Arul Kadal Staff and Scholastics. They made a qualitative intervention in the young minds and hearts inspiring them to see God in everything. For the first time the novena to St Ignatius was an everyday campus affair providing an Ignatian ambience which culminated with the feast day Mass and an agape meal with the local clergy and collaborators. The whole community put their heart and soul to prepare for the Chennai Mission Silver Jubilee Inauguration at Karuveppampooni Madam.

The eventful Sports Day

was filled with creative drills, Pyramids, Yoga, track events and a spectacular march past. Our students have won volleyball and football matches at the zonal and district levels. The 21<sup>st</sup> School Day in Loyola HSS brought eminent persons like Mr. Christodas Gandhi, IAS, Mr Sundar, Ex. MLA, and Fr John Kumar, SJ, Social Watch, who inspired the students to be men and women with and for others. The students, guided by their dynamic Headmaster, Fr V. Thomas, seized the opportunity to exhibit the diverse talents of his wards.

- **G. Victor Roch**

## Hostels inaugurated

On 01 Aug **LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM** organized a one-day orientation on Capacity Building for the teaching staff. Fr S. Sebastian from St. Joseph’s was the resource person. On 08 the Vettavalam community was in charge of the choir, led by Fr Rajarathinam, for the Chennai Mission’s Silver Jubilee celebration in Karuveppampooni. Fr Provincial blessed the newly-built Loyola Men’s Hostel and the Chennai Mission Superior blessed Loyola Women’s Hostel on 11 Aug. We have 140 men students and 130 women students in the hostels. The Jesuit community happily celebrated the Jubilee of Fr Manuel Alphonse on 15 Aug. His friends and collaborators joined the celebration.

Teams from 25 schools took part in the second Loyola-Mary&Turgay Inter-School Volleyball Tournament, successfully organized by the sports committee of the college on 22. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Sports Meet of LCV was held on the 29 Aug. Mr A. Rajkumar, Director of Alagendran Group of Companies and former Captain of Basketball team, Loyola College, Chennai

was the chief guest and Mr. G. Jaiganesh, Hockey Coach, Loyola College, Chennai was the Guest of Honour.

- Alwin

## Two new ministries

When the **LTI** community celebrated the feast of St Ignatius along with Religious, Priests and the Staff, Fr Maria Singarayar, Superior, introduced the two new ministries in the LTI campus - JESCO and LENS - and their diverse contributions to all sections of people. On 7 Aug the one-month bridge course concluded with the valedictory function in the presence of Sr Fatima Kanikai, the Principal and staff of Fatima College. The dignitaries were impressed by the students' programme in English. The students, who were encouraged to speak in English, were grateful to the team of M. Phil. students who taught the first year students.

Fr Irudaya Raj, Director, LENS, conducted two one-day orientations for both first and second years on "Knowing Oneself" and made them realize their innate strengths. On 14 Aug the Canara Bank provided free uniforms and books to some poor students. Bro Tony unfurled the National Flag on 15 Aug and gave an inspiring speech. He enthused the students to take up Dr Abdul Kalam as their model in all aspects of their life. The new academic year was inaugurated with the Mass of the Holy Spirit presided over by Fr J. Jeyaraj, Vicar General, Madurai Archdiocese. On 21 Aug Fr Irudaya Raj conducted a one-day workshop for 70 students in Salem on the Impact of Social Media on School Students.

- Mag Bay

## Monk from Bethlehem

We are two – John Silvester

and I, Salamon J. Praveen – doing our novitiate here at Ka Rympei Arrupe Jesuit Novitiate, **MEGHALAYA**. On 11 July along with the novices from two other Congregations we attended a course on Personality Development at the Don Bosco Technical School, Shillong. On 21 July Fr Agapitos, a monk from Bethlehem, Israel, spent an hour with us by sharing his monastic life and answering our questions. We planted more than 300 saplings around our house. On 29 July nearly 45 disabled students from Ferrando Speech and Hearing Centre and Salesian students of the theology came to our house. Fr. Richard Jaraiñ, our novice master, Fr George SDB, and the sisters from Ferrando arranged this short fraternal gathering. We had fun games and action songs. We tried to learn their sign language. John Silvester and his team organized a treasure hunt. On 30 July Fr. Master helped us discuss Fr POSA's letter on "The Strengths and Viruses" in our Assistency.

In spite of heavy winds and rain on 31 July several priests, religious, and lay people joined us for the feast day of our Father St Ignatius. Fr Neli Linus, Rector, Oriens Theological College, was the main celebrant. We enacted a skit on St Ignatius in Khasi, the local language, which was appreciated by all. Archbishop Dominic Jala of Shillong was present for the programme. Fr Fernandez Scotus (KAR) and Fr Arun Babu took charge as Socius and the Administrator on 17 Aug. On 15 Aug we went to Siloam, a neighbouring Salesian community, for our recollection, organized by Fr George SDB. On 17 Aug we had a send-off programme for Fr Anbarasan Savariraj (MDU), who served the novitiate as Socius and Administrator. Now he has taken charge as the Assistant Parish Priest at Umbir.

- Salamon J. Praveen, NSJ

## Services appreciated

It was a rejuvenating

experience for the **PAATHAI**, Vallam community to celebrate the feast of our founder with prayer services during the novena. Bishop Neethinathan of Chengalpattu graced the occasion with a good number of religious and diocesan priests from the area. They used the occasion to appreciate the service done in and around Chengalpattu by us Jesuits. Fr Yesumarian has been very successful in finding solutions to a number of issues of the local diocese, religious congregations and people. Fr Tony, taking a keen interest in neighbourhood ministries, helps out in several parishes. He also takes special care to promote greenery in the campus.

- Alex G.

## Youthful, sportive look

All of us at **ST ARULANANDAR, ORIYUR** were inspired by the exhortation given by Fr Gabiri on 'Discipleship' on 29 July to prepare us for the feast of the Founder. With a concelebrated High Mass, the Community celebrated the feast in a grand manner on 31 July. The well-wishers, alumni, co-workers, local religious, priests, higher secondary and primary school staff participated in our agape that doubled our joy. Distribution of free bicycles given by the State government was on 10 Aug. Mr K.C. Aanimuthu, District Councilor, presided over the function. Our boys and girls won the championship in athletics at the zonal level competitions. On 17 Aug, Fr Stany, after 15 months of service and guidance as HM at Oriyur, left on medical leave and Bro Doss took over as the acting Head Master.

On 19 Aug the entire school had a youthful, sportive look with different sports competitions conducted in view of the 52<sup>nd</sup>

Sports Day. Our alumni - Mr A.Maria Arul and Mr S.Lourduraj - were the chief guests of the day. The whole gallery wore a colourful look as the students wore caps and T-shirts according to their houses. On the Annual Day on 20 Aug a galaxy of doctors - all alumni - Drs.K.Shanmuganathan, K.Deepan, S.Arun Kumar, A.Ramanathan and K.Kannan graced the function. Each represented a field of specialization like Orthopaedic Surgeon, Veterinary Consultant, Medical Officer etc. Fr Stany, the Head Master of Arulanandar School, Oriyur, succeeded in getting 804 students onto the stage during the Annual Day programme. The 39 class teachers found as many creative ways in presenting a message - mime, dances, playlets etc designed to 'edutain' the audience. The cultural fiesta included 'Annihilation of Caste' - a declamation from Dr Ambedkar, 'The Merchant of Venice,' a Shakespearean skit and folk dances. - **Amal**

### Salaries at last

Finally, **ST JOSEPH'S**, Trichy succeeded in getting the long-awaited salaries for 24 assistant professors with retrospective effect from their appointment in June 2012. We thank God that we could achieve this through a long legal struggle without yielding to the prevalent corrupt practices. Soon we hope to get salaries for another 21 lecturers appointed in June 2013.

Master F. Giftus T. Philomine of our school won the coveted award from the State Govt. of Tamil Nadu for standing State First in 10<sup>th</sup> Std by securing 494 marks out of 500, under the category of SC Christian Students. A cash gift of Rs. 25,000 along with a certificate of appreciation was awarded to him in Chennai on 24 Aug. had its pomp and jubilation on 08 Aug.

Dr. C. Sylendra Babu IPS, ADGP, Coastal Security Group, Tamil Nadu, presided over the Annual Day function on 08 Aug. He spoke for two hours in the afternoon, inspiring and motivating the students of 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Std. Mr V. Govindasamy, DSP, Trichy was the Chief Guest for the school Sports Day on 17 July.

Fr Francis Thamburaj conducted a month-long Organ Donation Awareness Program, as part of the Meditation in Action Movement (MAM), at Holy Cross College, Trichy. Students wrote articles or poems, made charts or dolls, came up with photographs or short films on the importance and need for organ donation. Information on organ donation and procedures to donate the organs were disseminated by printing 5,000 brochures and 5,000 leaflets in Tamil and English. These were distributed both in the college and in the 25 adopted villages. As a finale, around 5,000 women students marched in an Organ Donation Awareness Rally through the main roads of Trichy. The rally got a good coverage in the media. - **V. Viji Bose, SJ**

### Guided by Novices

**ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL** successfully celebrated its 105<sup>th</sup> Sports Day on 14 Aug. Mr. K. J. Anto Anburaj, an alumnus of our school and the General Manager of Mining Jakarta, Indonesia accepted the guard of honour and announced the commencement of the events. All the Catholic students participated in a retreat on 22 Aug guided by our Novices from Beschi. The school organized a Drugs Awareness Programme with the help of JMAAD, for 10 and 11 std students on 28 Aug. - **Doni Raja**

### Memorable get-together

The Catholic students of **ST MARY'S, MADURAI** had a one day retreat, preached by Fr James Antonymsamy, with the help of a few

Scholastics and lay teachers. Fr Rector, the Correspondent and the Campus Minister organized the programme. The presence of the Vocation Promotion Coordinator, Fr Viji Babu, was helpful.

The old students of 1976 batch gathered in our campus for a grand and memorable get-together on 15 Aug. They had invited Fr. James Rodriguez of Berchmans Hall and Fr Arockiaraj of St Mary's, Dindigul to be with them. The usual annual gathering of the Parents, Teachers and their students had a class-wise meeting. Fr Packiaraj preached two retreats to the clergy and the religious in the Baroda diocese of Gujarat. The Pokkuvarathu Nagar, a popular substation, celebrated its annual feast with a grand, well-attended procession. Fr Arockiaraj, P.P., with his two Assistants, coordinated the programme. - **G. Packiaraj**

### Nine young preachers

*Community: ST XAVIER'S* community orientation was held on 25, 26 July. Vaan Muhil Mr Britto was the resource person on the first day. His input on legal safeguards to protect the minors was quite enlightening and an eye-opener. His presentation facilitated our deliberations on protection of minors and vulnerable adults. Various committees worked to make the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola, memorable. We had a concelebrated solemn High Mass in the morning followed by breakfast for the staff, alumni/ae and well-wishers. In the evening Bishop Jude Paulraj officiated at the Benediction attended by the clergy and religious of the diocese. The fellowship dinner that followed helped us interact with the clergy and the religious. Fr L. Francis Xavier, Correspondent, is one of those chosen this year

for the National Best Teacher Award. The awardees have been invited to Delhi to meet the Prime Minister on 04 and receive the award from the President on 05 Sept.

*College:* Fr Arulanandam, Director of Campus Ministry, brought 9 young retreat preachers to our campus for a one-day retreat on 8 Aug for our Catholic students. Mr. R. Manickam, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Tirunelveli City, was the Chief Guest at the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sports Day on 14 Aug. The English Language Lab was refurbished and blessed on 10 Aug by Fr Danis Ponniah, Rector. A two-day workshop on 'Computing with R' was organized by the Department of Mathematics. Dr. P. Ramesh from the Central University, Thiruvavur was the resource person.

*School:* Bishop Jude Paulraj of Palayamkottai was the Chief Guest at the Annual Day celebrations held on 21 Aug. The change of venue and invitation extended to the parents by Fr Wilson, our Headmaster, brought a large number of parents to the celebration.

*XIBA:* A two-day Placement Training Programme was conducted for the II MBA students by Mr Raj Rajendran and Ms Bamini Pattabiraman from KRIATE HR, Chennai on 07, 08 Aug. Dr Selvaraj Gabriel, Correspondent, Magdalene H.S. School was the chief guest at the inauguration of the academic year on 12 Aug. Fr Rector and Fr Principal touched upon the core values that need to be nurtured and the core skills that need to be developed in order to blossom into responsible persons. *The XIBA Manual of Policies* for the students was released by Fr Rector. In the afternoon, fresher's day function was organized by the II MBA students to welcome

the first year students.

- Jesu Raja

## How to attract the youth?

We, the six deacons, had our first socio-pastoral sharing of **SUPAM** on 17 Aug at Sammanasur. Fr Arockiaraj, the Supam Director, Fr Britto Vincent, PCF, and Fr Maria Arul Raja, Dean, AK helped us with their thought provoking insights. The sharing helped us realize the need to find out the ways and means of attracting the youth, empowering the women who actively participate in the church activities and those who remain at home, and to read the signs of the time so that we don't blindly repeat traditional practices. The sharing ended with a meaningful Eucharist recalling all that we shared. We are grateful to Fr John Peter, parish priest, for hosting our get-together. We had our Ordination retreat guided by Fr Joe Mike at Manikandam, Trichy.

- Alex Yagoo

## Protest on Black Day

A large number of students and staff of **VIDYA JYOTI**, Delhi participated in a protest on Black Day for the cause of Dalit Christian and



Dalit Muslim sisters and brothers on 10 Aug. Organized by CBCI's SC/ST Commission it was held in front of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Delhi. They were guided by Fr Leonard Fernando, Principal and Fr. P.R. John, the coordinator of Field Work. It was an opportunity for us to make our theology contextual and praxis-oriented. Fr Leo presented a much-appreciated paper on "Reformation

and Its Enduring Relevance: A Catholic Perspective" in an International Conference held at United Theological College, Bengaluru, 04-07 August. Madurai Jesuits in Delhi came together for a get-together on 22 Aug at VJ Residence. It was indeed a time of fun and frolic, friendship and fellowship.

- Vargheesh

## New solar plant

After the inauguration of the academic year, orientation and community building, the Juniorate programme at **VIDYA NIKETAN**, Trivandrum, is going on in full swing with 24 Juniors. Novena prayers and recollection prepared us for the feast of our founder. We celebrated the feast with St Xavier's college community. Representatives joined the celebration in Loyola, Mukundara, Sreekariyam, Poovar and Puthenthope parish. With a welcome dinner St Xavier's community made us feel at home in the campus. After the course on art appreciation we visited the art galleries in the city.

An attack of dengue kept Sch Sujin in the hospital for two weeks. He is now back in the community. The sudden death of Sch. Praveen's father, Mr. Arockiasamy, was quite unfortunate. In an attempt to save a cow from the railway track he fell down and lost his life. We remembered his family in a special Eucharist.

On 15 Aug we honoured our Blessed Mother and gratefully remembered the freedom fighters. We were glad to receive a copy of the CD with songs and music composed by our Novices for the vows day. Thanks to the untiring efforts of Fr Deva we now enjoy uninterrupted power supply from the new solar plant in Vidyaniketan. We eagerly await the Onam celebration at

the end of the month.

- Anand

### On a pilgrimage

On 14-18 July, all of us at **VMI, VILANGUDI**, commemorated the silver jubilee of St John De Britto Parish, Thirumanur. Jesuits from other communities joined us in the celebrations. On 24 July, we went on a pilgrimage to St. Ignatius Church, Kokkudi and on 27 July, Fr Arul Dhas gave the pre-novices an exhortation talk in view of our founder's feast. We celebrated the feast of the Assumption of Mary and the Independence Day in the presence of Fr PCF. The pre-novices showcased their talents through a march past, pyramids, and speeches. Mr Saminathan, one of our co-workers, hoisted the national flag. Fr Bella gave a day's recollection to a group of students at St. Joseph's, Trichy. Ten French students visited our parish and helped parishioners build five houses in substations.

- Kamilas

### At Our Lady of Snows church

The **XAVERIANA** campus and the Jesuit residence now look neat and tidy after the meticulous cleaning work supervised by Fr Ignaci, our Superior. Those who come to Xaveriana will see that it is eco-friendly. On 31 July we had the Feast Day Mass at Our Lady of Snows church with our students, staff, alumni, retired staff and our well-wishers. It was followed

by breakfast. At 12.15 pm there was a prayer service conducted by Fr Vincent Amalraj, our Headmaster, followed by Benediction conducted by Fr. Superior and dinner. More than a 100 priests and religious of this vicariate participated in the celebration. Fr S. Ignatius celebrated his 81<sup>st</sup> birth day on 31 July. Our bishop Most Rev. Dr. Yvon Ambroise honored him with a shawl. The highlight of the celebration was that all the community members planted a sapling each in the campus.



Fr. Vincent Amalraj, our HM, was elected the secretary of district PTA (Parents Teachers Association). Independence Day assembly was conducted on 14 August.

The 131<sup>st</sup> School Annual day was celebrated on 21 Aug. Dr Vijayan and Dr Sivalingam, our alumni, were the president and the chief guest. Their sharing of their life experiences motivated the students. The cultural programmes delighted the audience.

- Valan

## Mattam Chacko, SJ

1919 - 2015

Fr Mattam Chacko V. SJ was born on 07 July 1919 and he joined the Madurai Province of the Society of Jesus on 09 Oct 1943. He was ordained a priest on 21 Nov 1955 and made his Final Profession in the Society on 02 Feb 1959. Soon after his ordination in 1955, in three different spells, he generously and efficiently served the students community at St. Francis Xavier's Hr. Sec. School, Tuticorin in different capacities - as a Teacher, Headmaster, Correspondent, Warden and Superior between 1956 - 1967. He was a hostel warden for a year at St Joseph's, College, Tiruchy. He was the Headmaster and Warden in St Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Madurai from 1967 to 1971. Then he served at Loyola Public School (L.P.S.), Guntur in Andhra Pradesh as a Warden and Teacher from 1971 to 1972. After that he worked in L.T.I, Madurai as a Warden and Teacher from 1972-1974. After his retirement he did a commendable work as pastor, and helped the poor and needy students and people in the parishes of Sattur, Thangachimadam, Mahabalipuram and Rayapuram from the year 1974 to 1996. He also served as an able Superior of Shembaganur from 1981 to 1983. From 1996 to 2008 he served as the Spiritual Father at Arul Anandar College, Karumathur.



Since 2008 he has been resting at Beschi Illam, Dindigul till the end came on 17 Aug. The Funeral Mass on 18 Aug was presided over by Fr Sebastia L. Raj, the Provincial, with a lot of Jesuits and two of his priest relations. Fr. Leo Tagore, in his homily, stressed he was a great friend of the poor students. He was a builder both of buildings and of human persons. Fr. K.C. George and Fr. Ignatius Puthiyadam paid tributes. They highlighted the human qualities of Fr. C.V. Mattam, how he helped hundreds of poor parishioners and students with financial assistance, motivated and inspired them to do better in studies and live more meaningful and dignified lives. On behalf of the family of Fr. C.V. Mattam, Fr Jose Mathew SJ (KER) expressed his sentiments of thanksgiving to the Madurai Province, to the Beschi community, and to the staff of the Beschi Infirmary and St Joseph Hospital for their nursing and loving care in his last days. The commendation and the final committal were done by Fr Provincial and Fr Albert Joseph respectively. He was laid to rest in the cemetery of Beschi Illam, Dindigul.

- Manuel Savariar, SJ

## Congratulations



To **Fr Felix Joseph** who has come up with a booklet, called 'Anubhavam Pesuthadi,' on the lessons he has learnt through his life experiences.

To **Fr R. George**, the second edition of whose earlier book has been published now by New Century Book House and released at the Madurai Book Fair on 29 Aug. Its new title is 'Kazhugu Malaiyil Kilarchiyum Valarchiyum – 1895'.



## Memories

### St Joseph of Lyon Sisters in Madurai

From 1910 the charity of St Joseph's Sisters entered a new field. Not content with opening in their convent a home for derelict aged men and women, they sought permission to work in the local (government) Hospital. In 1916 the Sisters were given shelter in the hospital and in February the following year a room was set apart as a chapel with the Blessed Sacrament. The three Sisters living in the Erskine Government Hospital formed an independent community.

When in 1932 Sr Jeanne Augusta, the Matron, retired after 20 years of service, she was made the recipient of the Silver Kaiser I Hind Medal. Mr Scott Brown, the Collector, who attached the well-deserved medal to her frock, had an astounding piece of news to give the town gentry gathered under the lofty arches of the old Nayakkar Palace. Sr Augusta, he said, had found a way to occupy her pensioned leisure, by opening a convent in the centre of the Kaller Nadu – in Usilampatti. Her foundation at that time was no other than a narrow mud hut with hardly enough room for one to stretch for the night rest. The Sister remained for months alone with a young teacher to teach in the school and an orphan girl to cook. It was not before 21 March 1934 that the first building was completed and blessed. Two companions came to the rescue from Madura with four Immaculate Conception Sisters.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1943)

## Just for...



Women with straight hair want curly hair. Women with curly hair want straight hair. But men, you see, are simple. They just want the hair on their head to stay.

## Secrets

*for Well-being and Peace*



## Praying for others

In intercession God sends his loving care through his human friends to those who are in need of help... In my prayer life I intercede by remembering with tender love each individual who comes into my mind from a carefully remembered mental list. I am already "in God" – in a state of love and dedication – and so my loving contact with the person whom I remember brings, I believe, the full presence of the Holy Spirit to the soul of that person. I believe, in the words of Ephesians 4: 25, that we are all parts of one another. Thus I can support anyone through my concern, provided it is sincerely expressed and not neurotically obsessional nor an attempt to prove God by results...

But how do I remember the person, including many whom I have as yet not met in the flesh? It is soul contact, evoked somehow by the full name of the person. When I remember the name of someone, whether or not known to me, the love of God flows through me to that person... Sincerity, devotion and faith are the measures of effective prayer, and I have many people to remember.

- **Martin Israel**  
in *How I Pray*,  
ed. by John Wilkins