



MNL



Newsletter of the Madurai Jesuits

DECEMBER 2013

(For Private Circulation)

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL



GOD WALKS WITH US AND INVITES US TO WALK WITH OTHERS

Dear Brothers,

Christmas is the time for celebrations and to express our love and concern to all people, particularly those whom we serve or work with and also to our own dear and near ones. Christmas is also the time for spiritual renewal, as it reminds us that He came down to teach us to love and serve others. He took the human form in order to be with us (Emmanuel = God is with us). Through His incarnation, He has given us two messages: Firstly, God is with us and He walks with us; Secondly, we have to imitate Christ, by walking with others, in their life, struggles and aspirations.

If God Himself is with us who can be against us? Christmas is a time for us to realize this deeply and be filled with a sense of joy and gratitude. The God of history is always with us and will continue to be with us. A deep and personal realization of this reality will surely give us a tremendous sense of hope and courage to carry out our

mission, which is in fact His mission. As long as we carry out the mission entrusted us, we are assured of His presence with us. In such a situation nothing will disturb us and nothing will stop us from moving forward in His service.

Secondly, as His disciple, each one is invited and expected to be an "Emmanuel" to one another and to all the people with whom or for whom we work. He came down to serve and not to be served. Our call to be a Jesuit is exactly the same. We are Jesuits in order to serve others, with no other desire or dream. The guiding principles of our commitment in the Society are: a) To empty ourselves and spend ourselves in His service; b) To be available for His service, anywhere and anytime. May the twin-Jubilee inspire each one of us to imbibe this spirit in our personal life, so that each one of us can become "Emmanuel", to others through our life, service and availability.

Fraternally,
Sebasti L. Raj. SJ
Provincial



*The Provincial
and the members
of the Curia wish
all the readers
of the MNL a joyful
Christmas and a
grace-filled 2014!
May the Christ Child
and His Virgin Mother
bless you
and all your dear ones!*

Provincial's Programme:



DECEMBER 2013

- 01 Visitation: KARISAL
- 05 Jubilee Functions: St. Arulanandar HS School, Oriyur
- 06-7 Visitation: Oriyur
- 08-09 Visitation: De Britto, Devakottai
- 11-13 Visitation: Arul Kadal, Chennai
- 14-17 Visit to Mauritius
- 18-19 Visitation: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 20 Meeting: Jubilee Action Plan Committee -- Beschi Illam
- 21 Meeting: Headmasters and Correspondents -- St. Mary's, Madurai
- 22 Meeting: Principals and Secretaries -- St. Joseph's, Trichy
- 24-25 Manalur: Visitation and Christmas
- 28 Consult

JANUARY 2014

- 01 New Year
- 02 Meeting of Commission Coordinators -- Beschi Illam
- 03 Meeting with Auditors -- Beschi Illam
- 04 Ordination: St. Joseph's, Trichy
- 05-06 Visitation: DNC, Pune
- 07-12 Chapter Guidance: Holy Spirit Sisters, Pune
- 13 Chennai Mission Assembly -- Chennai
- 14-17 Visitation: Beschi Illam, Dindigul
- 18 Meeting: Treasurers -- Maduralaya
- 19 Consult
- 20 Workshop: FSPM Sisters -- Madurai
- 21-22 Visitation: Xaveriana, Tuticorin
- 23-28 Visitation: St Xavier's, Palayamkottai



Announcements



2015: Consecrated Life:

Pope Francis has announced that the year 2015 will be dedicated to **consecrated life**. He made the announcement at an audience with 120 Superiors General attending the 82nd General Assembly of the Union of Superiors General that ended on 29 Nov in Rome.

New Provincials:

Fr General has appointed **Fr Francis Parmar** the Provincial of Gujarat and **Fr Scott R. Santarosa** the Provincial of Oregon (ORE).

New Liturgical Calendar for the Society:

Fr P Antony Witwer, SJ, President of Society's Liturgical Commission, informs that the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship has approved the Missal Proper to the Society. The original text, in Latin, has to be the basis for translations into other languages. The new liturgical calendar of the Society will come into force **from 1 Dec '13**.

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

December 2013

- 01 Thirumanur
- 02 Meeting with Bishop of Kumbakonam: Salem Core Committee
- 07 am: Resource Mobilisation Committee
- 10 Core Committee of Mission Assembly
- 11 Dalit Christians Meet, Delhi
- 14 Writers' Forum
- 15 Chennai Mission Consult
- 18-19 Dhyana Ashram
- 20 Inauguration of Commerce Building, Loyola, Chennai
- 28 Province Consult

January 2014

- 04 Ordination, Trichy
- 12-13 Chennai Mission Assembly, Loyola, Chennai
- 17 Chennai Mission Consult
- 19 Province Consult
- 24 AICUF Programme
- 26 Jubilee Celebration at Chennai

PCF's Programme

December 2013

- 01 Pre-Novitiate, Vilangudi
- 02-04 Satya Nilayam
- 05-07 Arul Kadal
- 08-11 Berchmans Illam
- 12 AHC, Loyola, Chennai
- 13 Vallam
- 16 Vadampakkam
- 17 Kuppayanallor

January 2014

- 02 Co-ordinators' Meeting, Beschi
- 03-04 Ordination, St. Joseph's, Tiruchy
- 06-08 St. Joseph's, Tiruchy
- 10 Kalalngarai
- 12-13 Chennai Mission Assembly, Loyola
- 14 Formation Commission Meeting, Loyola
- 15 Ranipet
- 21 Vocation Promoters' Meeting, Kalangarai
- 28-31 DNC, Pune

JEPASA Silver Jubilee Convention:

All the Jesuit pastors are welcome to celebrate the silver years of JEPASA and the bicentennial of the restoration of the Society and to update, refresh and renew our ministry. Theme: 'Alert to the Spirit, Alive to the World'. Dates: **18 Feb '14** (9 a.m.)-**20 Feb 2014** (2 p.m). Place: **JDV PG Block, De Nobili, Pune**. Contribution: Rs. 2000 per person. Contact: Your Province Coordinator of pastoral ministry to book your place or <georgetps62gmail.com>or jepasasecretary@gmail.com

- George Anthony

Ordination in Trichy:

Seven of our deacons - Clement Jesudoss, Jayaseelan Saminathan, Jeyabaskaran, Lawrence Benedict, Leo Anand, Maria Felix Kennedy and Theresunathan - will be ordained priests by the Bishop of Tiruchy at



a liturgy that begins at **5.30 p.m.** on Saturday, **04 Jan '14** at **St Joseph's, Trichy.**

Chennai Mission Assembly:

The Chennai Mission Assembly will be held on **12-13 Jan 2014** at **Loyola Campus, Chennai.** We invite all Madurai Jesuits to attend the two-day proceedings. Please do join us. - **The Mission Office**

Jesuit Scientists Meet:

The meeting of Jesuits in Science and Technology Forum will be held on **15-16 Feb '14** at **St Joseph's, Bengaluru.** For details contact Fr Ignacimuthu,SJ at: imthusj@gmail.com

Acting Provincial:

During the Absence of Fr. Provincial from the Province from 14 to 17 December 2014, Fr. Joe Antony, Socius, will be the Acting Provincial.

Status of the Tertians from Shembaganur:

- Fr. Baskar Antony S. – Arul Kadal
- Fr. Dominic Jeyakumar M – Secretary and Treasurer, Chennai Mission Office
- Fr. Infant Kingsley – Assistant PP, Sentharaipatty

Jubilee Functions:

The Province will have the common Jubilee functions in two places: At **St. Joseph's College, Trichy**, on **01 February 2014** and at **Loyola College, Vettavalam**, on **02 February 2014.** The Jesuit Provincial of France and some other Jesuits from France will participate in both these functions. The details regarding this twin-commemoration will be communicated to the Province later.

Jubilee Action Plans for the Option People:

Fr. Provincial has appointed a Committee consisting of Frs. Joseph

Christie (Convener), Jebamalai Raja, Britto Bonaventure and Aloysius Irudayam to study the various suggestions from our communities regarding our concrete and visible response to our option people on the occasion of the twin Jubilee and make specific recommendations. These recommendations will be studied by the Consult and the Provincial will announce the approved action plans that will be carried out by the Province.

Approval for Diaconate:

After due consultations, Fr. Provincial has approved **Schs Antony Markus, Berchmans Maria Joseph, James Antonysamy, John Paul K, Philip Kumar, Sebastian Crossian, Sebastian Thangadurai** and **Viji Bose** for ordination as deacons.

Renewal of Province Structures:

In response to the direction of Fr. General to all the Provinces to work out a detailed renewal of province structures at all levels, Fr. Provincial has entrusted this task to the Commission Coordinators. They will prepare the draft proposals on the basis of the evaluation of ministries and formation. The communities and the Local Superiors/Team Leaders will discuss the draft proposals and assist the Provincial in finalizing the Renewal Plan, which will be submitted to Fr. General.

Committee for Berchmans Illam Renovation:

Fr. Provincial has appointed a Committee consisting of Frs. Joseph Christie (Convener), Henry Jerome and Jerome Manyahi, to study and propose plans for remodeling and renovating Berchmans Hall, so that it has enough facilities to become an International House of Studies, where mostly Jesuits from other provinces can reside while they do their studies in Chennai.

New cell phone:

Fr James Suresh Kumar (PEAK, Shembag) has a new cell phone: 8300173834.

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST MASS!

S. CLEMENT JESUDOSS
St James' Church
Palakurichy
Trichy Dt.
05 Jan 2014
6.00 pm



JAYABASKARAN
Lourdipuram
Kodaikanal
05 Jan 2014
9.00 am

S. JAYASEELAN
St Joan of Arc Church
Madampattu
Villupuram Dt.
05 Jan 2014
6.00 pm



LAWRENCE BENEDICT
St Antony
the Hermit Church
Sivagangai
05 Jan 2014
5.30 pm

LEO ANAND M.A.
Santhome Cathedral
Santhome
Chennai
11 Jan 2014
6.00 pm



MARIA FELIX KENNEDY
Our Lady of
Assumption Church
Pondy, Cuddalore Dt.
05 Jan 2014
5.30 pm

THERESUNATHAN
St Antony's Church
Aranthangi
Cuddalore Dt.
05 Jan 2014
5.30 pm





Events



REVIVED

The magazine of the students of **AHAL's** evening studycentresanddrivingschool, called Ilayor Ezhuchi, has been revived after a long time. On 10 Nov AHAL animators were introduced to "law and rights" by Mr. Rosario, a lawyer and a committed social activist. The participants resolved to raise their voice for their rights.

- **Selvendhiran**

A NEW, ELEGANT CHAPEL

The new, elegant chapel at the Jesuit residence here at **ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE**, Karumathur was blessed by Fr Provincial during his visitation on 28-31 Oct. Fr Provincial felt at home here and frankly shared his views. *On 31 Oct Fr Basil Xavier pronounced his last vows in the Society in the company of more than 50 Jesuits, his parents, and family. *The community went on a picnic on 16-17 Nov to Coutrallam, Papanasam,... The highlight of the picnic was the thunderous applause the 87-year-old Bro Aaron received from the public when he bravely bathed in the mighty Coutrallam falls. *On 20 Nov to mark the twin Jubilee Dr Paul Gnanasekaran, the HoD of History, talked of the Madura Missions - the Old and the New. *Fr L.X. Jerome's visit to the community was a pleasant surprise.

- **Rufus**

JUBILEE

Fr Darwin pronounced his Final Vows on 1 Nov at a solemn

Eucharist at **ARUL ANANDAR SHRINE**, Oriyur presided over by Fr Provincial and concelebrated by a good number of Jesuits and priests. After the Mass, we had a felicitation function and dinner. *Ten children received Baptism at Mandalakottai, a substation of Oriyur and rectification of marriages also is taking place now after the unfortunate incident of last year.*The Golden Jubilee celebrations of St Arulanandar Hr Sec School, Oriyur will conclude with the function on 5 Dec '13.

- **Robinson. A**

ON ALL THE COUNCIL DOCUMENTS

On 06 Nov, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the second Vatican Council, the students and staff of **ARUL KADAL** made a multimedia presentation on all the 16 documents of the Council. * Schs Victor Desoza and Michael Pugazhendhi presented a paper at the Chennai Inter Theologate Seminar held at Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee on 14 Nov. *While Fr Britto Peter conducted a two day course to the Novices of the Sacred Heart Brothers, Fr Alangaram participated in an All India Ecumenical Conference on Indian Church. *Fr Maria Arul Raja is recuperating after a surgery for a fracture.

- **Vargheesh**

PSYCHO-SEXUAL INTEGRATION

After the 1st term exams in October, the Juniors here at **BELGAUM** went on a three day cultural tour to Hampi, in Karnataka. It helped us appreciate the cultural

heritage of the ancient kingdom of Vijayanagar. *After we began the 2nd term with fully charged batteries, we delivered a variety of poems in public. Frs Fermin D'souza(GOA) and C. Drago (PUN) gave us a meaningful course on 'Psycho-Sexual Integration' that helped us grow in emotional maturity and integrity. *We extended our service unreservedly to St Francis Xavier's shrine in Old Goa during the feast day novena.

- **P. Theophine Michael**

SANG A NEW SONG

The second year novices at **BESCHI** had a course on 'Healing the Inner Child' by Sr. Selva. Later they had an 8-day annual retreat directed by Fr. J.Y. Emmanuel. *Fourteen first year novices finished their Long Retreat on 12 November under the guidance of Fr. Ilanko Xavier, our Novice Master. *Frs John Wilson, Paulraj and D. Jeyaraj directed retreats for various groups of Sisters. *Some of our Brothers and from St Mary's Dindigul went on a picnic to Thoothukudi and Palayamkottai. *On All Souls Day after the blessing of our cemetery, we visited the tombs of Jesuits buried elsewhere in Dindigul. *At the Community Mass on the feast of St Stanislaus Kostka we sang a new song on the saint, "எழுச்சியூட்டுதையா", written by Fr R. Dhanaraj and set to music by Fr Michael Amaladoss.

To celebrate the restoration of the Society

and the Jesuits' return to the Madurai Mission, Beschi community and St. Mary's community organized a pilgrimage to Malayadipatty, where Jesuits worked for a long time. Fr Devadoss outlined the history of Malayadipatty using PowerPoint and we offered a thanksgiving Mass there. *Our CIS centre has started offering Monthly Recollections to Sisters in and around Dindigul and a Jubilarians' Programme for Sisters who celebrate their silver or golden Jubilees. For these two initiatives all the active priests at Beschi serve as resource persons. *Fr Marivalan convened the Annual Meeting of the Regional Co-ordinators of the Apostleship of Prayer and Eucharistic Youth Movement in Vadodara, Gujarat, at which the Delegate of Fr General served as the Resource Person. As the National Secretary of AP/EYM, Fr Marivalan participated in the Catholic Council of India (CCI) held at Varanasi (UP) and submitted a report of the activities of Apostleship of Prayer for the first time.

- **Karthick Raj**

NEW COLOURS

Superiors, Team Leaders and scholastics of the **CHENNAI MISSION** area, along with the Consultors and the Task force Co-ordinators of the Mission, have met three times in the past five months under the leadership of Fr Jebamalai Raja, the Mission Superior. The meetings have strengthened our unity and offered clarity on what we ought to do. Jesuits working in the four Social Centres here had a one-day consultation at which measures

to improve our work and new initiatives to serve the Tribals and the migrants in small cities and the western part of Tamil Nadu were discussed.



The core committee of Salem and Dharmapuri - Frs A. Joseph, Joe Arun and Manu - are consulting the clergy, religious, youth, women and the parish councils of Salem Diocese to find out how we can serve their needs best. * Fr Provincial attended the November Mission Consult and assured all help towards the development of the Mission. * Painted in new colours, the Chennai Mission Office now wears a fresh look.

- **A. Leolin**

'MAGIS CLUBS' IN OUR COLLEGES

On behalf of the **HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION** I organized two on-going formation programmes on the charism of the



Society and Ignatian Spirituality in November for the staff of our colleges. The Spirituality and Dialogue Commission helped us organize these. Frs James

Thamburaj, Louis Xavier, D. Jeyaraj and Rex Pai, Fr Singarayar, SVD, Dr Adelaide Vaz, Dr Geetha and Dr Kalpana were the Resource Persons. Inspired by what they learnt, the 129 participants have decided to form in their institutions 'MAGIS Clubs' that will promote excellence in every sector. A group of staff from our colleges has come forward to write a book titled, A Guide to Jesuit Heritage. - **G. Pushparaj**

JUST TRICKS

On 26 Oct, the death anniversary of 4 students of **CARMEL**, Nagercoil, a programme on first aid and life-saving interventions was organized for 11th std students.

* Cultural programmes on Deepavali revealed the dangers of fire crackers and meaningful ways to celebrate the festival of lights. * JMADD and its Director, Fr Martin successfully completed the 74th de-addiction camp. * The magic show on Children's Day made the students understand that these feats are just shrewd tricks that have nothing to do with magical, supernatural powers.

- **M. Vincent Amal Raj**

NATIONAL AWARD

Jesuits and the staff of **DE BRITTO**, Devakottai went on a pilgrimage to Vedalai - where Fr Antonio Criminali died a martyr in 1549 - and to St Arulanandar Shrine, Oriyur. *To honour the selfless service of Fr Albert Machado to our school in his birth centenary year we launched a state level football tournament. Teams from 20 schools participated and Little



Letters from abroad

FROM AFGHANISTAN: SEPTEMBER

We started a six-month-long Teachers' Training Program (TTP) on 1 Sept for 35 in-service-teachers of Mariam School, Kabul. A team of three resource persons headed by Selvam is running the entire show. In response to a request from yet another school management, we have just begun a new mission for the visually challenged students. Selvam is giving his best to this challenging enterprise. Three of our students were selected by the American Access Organization and were sent to Turkey for a one-month training program. Ms Narges Rahimy, a JRS-trained staff, is one of the 20 students to be selected to pursue her Bachelor's degree in Kyrgyzstan. Two others have been elected to be Student Counselors at programs to be held in Jalandar, India. JRS, in collaboration with KACSO, a local NGO, has successfully launched a two-year English and Computer training program at Jebreal, home for the Hazara migrants. - M. A. Selvam

FROM BERKELEY: AUGUST

I reached Berkeley, U.S. on 12 Aug for the sabbatical programme at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University, Berkeley, California. We are a group of 11 - men and women religious as well as diocesan priests and a lay person - from 8 countries - a very diverse and stimulating mix! Fr Vincent Amalanathan from Andhra Province is my companion here. Because they find it difficult to pronounce my full name, I told my Rector that they can call me "Samy." So I am known here as Samy.

After a few days of rest we went for a directed retreat to Los Altos, a Jesuit retreat centre on a hill overlooking Santa Clara and San Francisco. We began the Fall Semester on 3 Sept after the Labour

Day. This Jesuit School of Theology strives for ecumenical and interfaith understanding and explores the intersection of theology with other disciplines. I am impressed by the active participation of the student community of JST in the liturgy.

This year we are 88 Jesuits here. We live in eight different communities in six different buildings. Each community has a House Coordinator and House Treasurer.

We, the three Jesuits doing the sabbatical programme, and visiting staff are housed in the third floor of a building. Since each sabbatical student has to take two courses to fulfill the requirements of the University, I have taken Pastoral Counseling and Ignatian Discernment. Every Wednesday 'the sabbatical cohort' comes together for a seminar, Eucharist and dinner. Once a month we go to a far off place for an outing. I am benefiting a lot from the group because the group is rich with their varied life experiences and deep faith. I enjoy the beautiful climate and the Bay Area of Berkeley.

- Kulandaisamy

FROM MALAYSIA: SEPTEMBER

I travelled to Malaysia in August to preach a retreat at the invitation



of Fr Andrew Manickam OFM Cap., who asked me to direct a retreat for his parishioners in Kuala Lumpur (KL). There were 120 retreatants, and it was held in a seaside resort called Port Dickson, 60 km from KL. I was overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response I got for my talks and for the generous hospitality they showered

on me all through my stay in KL. Each day I was taken out by someone or other to visit some of the important landmarks of the city of KL, such as the Twin Towers, the tallest building in East Asia, and the Batu Caves on a steep hillock, which houses a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Muruga. As you approach it a huge statue of Murugan greets you. Besides, I was entertained at every meal by some family or other with foods of different flavours, such as Chinese, Indian, Japanese, English and Malay.

The Parish Priest arranged for a trip for me to Malacca, a city sacred to the memory of St Francis Xavier, whose body was first buried there before it was transported to Goa. The grave site is preserved in the old dilapidated church, now in ruins. I am still savouring the pleasant memories of my visit to Malaysia. - James Rodrigues

FROM JERUSALEM: SEPTEMBER

Since I have finished my mission for three years in the Holy Land, I came back to the Province for good in September. The Society was generous to allow me - before I return home - to visit the holy places connected to St Ignatius in Spain and France. - Br Tony

FROM SPAIN: JUNE

My wonderful stay in Spain came to a memorable finish on 19 June with the public defence of my doctoral thesis in applied mathematics. More than 40 esteemed guests - professors, students, friends and Jesuits - were there, when my hard work for about four years got me a 'Cum Lauden' for my doctoral defence. My sincere thanks to the Jesuit friends of Castilla Spain Province for loving me generously these four years. Adios Spain! - Justine Emmanuel

Events



Flower School, Salem won the Fr Albert Machado Rolling Trophy. *A novel ELT verb competition has attracted the attention of our students. *To celebrate the conclusion of the Year of Faith we organized a skit competition on parables of Jesus for the Catholic schools of Sivagangai diocese. *The National Drawing Association has conferred on De Britto the best school award in appreciation of the successful participation of our students in competitions, helped by the Drawing teachers and the Headmaster. *Through a seminar Fr D. Jeyaraj enlightened our staff and students on the suppression and the restoration of the Society and the new Madurai Mission. *Fr Cyril has returned home after his long visit to Middle East and European countries to raise funds for St Arulanandar shrine development project.

- J. Kennedy S.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

IDCR had invited research proposals on Interreligious Marriages in India and out of 12 proposals, 4 have been selected for cash awards. At a meeting of scholars researchers made their presentations. *The month of October was a good occasion for discussion on a book on Jinnah and Gandhi written by Roderick Matthews (Hachette, 2012). Sathish Kumar, a Salesian theology student, presented the contents of the book and a discussion was initiated by Mr Moosa Raza, a scholar in ancient Indian history. *The last two months saw the Peace Rangers busy with recruitment,

input sessions and a religious tour for nearly 40 students, drawn from various Chennai city colleges. *IDCR celebrated a festival of lights, combining the feasts of Deepavali, Moharram, Guru Nanak Jayanti, Karthigai Deepam and Christmas. We had a prayer service, and gave prizes to children who participated in devotional singing and painting competitions. This year IDCR honoured the well-known Artist Jeyaraj, a Catholic. *Vincent Sekhar had a first round of meetings with the Province Coordinators for dialogue in the North-Central zone. *Fr Michael Amaladoss has been mostly busy with research and writing.

- Vincent Sekhar

CLERGY RETREATS

Fr Thambu, Superior, **DHYANA ASHRAM**, preached retreats to the clergy of Madurai and Coimbatore and addressed professors from our colleges on the Ignatian charism. *Fr Jerry guided the clergy in Eluru, Andhra and animated parish youth and taught in the Georgian Seminary, Mumbai. *Fr Xavier Irudayaraj conducted seminars for lay professionals, members of the Vincent De Paul Society and teachers of Santhome High School. *Fr D. Jeyaraj directed a retreat for the clergy of Tuticorin.

- Xavier Irudhayaraj

TO REVISIT

ICRDCE, Chennai conducted the 31st Teachers Training Programme for the Community College. 38 delegates from 7 States participated.

Fr Wenisch's Birth Centenary

Fr P. Wenisch of happy memory has made an indelible mark in the Sacred Heart ministry and in the faith-formation of the children of India, particularly of Tamil Nadu. He is the founder of the Institute of the Heart of Jesus (IHJ) at Beschi premises. His birth-centenary (1914-2014) was inaugurated with a concelebrated Eucharist on 27 Oct '13 at Beschi attended by the Province Consultors, other Jesuits and laity. Fr Sebastia L. Raj, our Provincial, presided and inaugurated the year-long commemoration. Fr. Deva, Superior, Beschi preached an inspiring, reminiscence-filled homily.



After the Mass the participants visited the tomb of Fr Wenisch. Fr G. Ignacy paid floral tributes, followed by a short prayer service, led by Fr S.P.Savarimuthu. Fr Arockiasamy Antony conducted a devotional and thought-provoking Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the Sacred Heart Residence chapel, where Fr Wenisch had spent hours on his knees for nearly 30 years.

In the subsequent sessions those who were linked with Fr. Wenisch (recruits, beneficiaries, collaborators, friends and former Directors of Apostleship of Prayer) shared their rich experiences very movingly.

A number of suggestions were made by the participants for the revamping of the ministry of Apostleship of Prayer which includes Eucharistic Crusade, devotion to the Sacred Heart, etc.

- Marivalan

There was a special team from REEMAP, Andhra Pradesh, as the State government is planning to start 15 Community Colleges soon. *Fr Xavier Alphonse has been appointed the Chairman of the Expert Committee of UGC to revisit the guidelines for Community Colleges started by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. *He was a Resource Person for three Faculty Enrichment programmes organised by the AIACHE at Kuttikanam, Kerala, Bangalore and Kodaikanal.

- Xavier Alphonse

TO THRIVE IN A VUCA WORLD

When he concluded his Visitation (Nov. 12-19) at **LOYOLA, CHENNAI**, Fr Provincial - to the joy of the community - mentioned during his exhortation that the positive points of the community this year outnumbered those that required reflection and change. He also joyously congratulated many individuals on their contribution to the Jesuit atmosphere in the community. The Mission Superior and the Socius too shared their perceptions of and suggestions for the life and ministry lived out in Loyola campus.

LIBA held on 15 Nov the annual national Business conference called INSIGHT '13 on a relevant theme: VUCA (acronym for Vulnerability, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity) – of the new world, the new reality. Excellent speakers from different fields talked about how to cope with and thrive in a VUCA world. On 23 Nov LIBA celebrated

the Alumni Silver Jubilee and Crystal Jubilee Meet in the presence of former Director, Fr Louis Xavier along with his deputies, Frs Jothi and Peter Xavier.

At the Joint Steering Committee Meeting between Loyola College Society and ICAM in November, progress was reviewed and future direction deliberated upon. The Institute-



Industry Network Meet of **LICET** brought in numerous delegates from companies and their sharing regarding the formation of engineering students for the needs in industries was very helpful. LICET and LIFE jointly organized the 14th Asian Bioethics Conference, attended by Delegates from 13 countries.

At an official ceremony on 26 Nov an MoU between Loyola College Society and the Times of India group was signed. People instrumental in making this happen are Frs Xavier Alphonse and Casimir Raj as well as Mr. Kumar from the Times of India group.

Frs Anto and Francis Xavier travelled to Taiwan to attend Asia Pacific Universities Collaboration Forum. Loyola College and LICET (along with SJC and SXC) signed an MoU with Fu Jen University, Taiwan where Francis P Xavier lectured on 'Renewable Energy' and 'Time Management'.

*The University of Madras

has authorized Fr. S. Maria Packiam to be a Supervisor to guide Ph.D. students.

*Fr Ignacimuthu received the 'Eminent Scientist' award given by E-Padasala Trust, Chennai. He also delivered the keynote address on 'Vision of Catholic Education' at the Diamond Jubilee Conference at Chengancherry Diocese.

Loyola Campus Ministry, under the stewardship of Fr Vincent Sekhar, its Director, organized the Harmony Day in the college campus. Students flocked to the college church to pray for peace. Earlier, there was a bi-cycle peace rally, organized by the Brahmakumaris.

- Emma

ARRUPE DAY

On 03 Nov officials of MISEREOR met all **JRS** Field Officers, CEC teachers, counselors, and college going students to assess the service of JRS in all the camps and they were happy about our service.

*On 4 Nov in Mullaikkudi, Trichy the 25th Girikini batch celebrated their valedictory function. Fr John Britto, Rector of St Joseph's College, Trichy, presided over the function and saw the exhibits of the students.

*A State-level quiz on Arrupe was inaugurated on 10 Nov by Fr Devadass, Superior, Beschi Illam for all the zones at the Dindigul JRS office. The Covai zone came first. *On 14 Nov Arrupe Day was observed in all the camps and prizes and sweets were given to all the students.

- Mag Bay

THOUSAND TREES

Students and staff of

Arul Kadal and Salesians in Vellore guided the retreats of the students of **LOYOLA, VETTAVALAM**.

*Fr G. Arockiyaraj, the College Secretary, preached a one-day recollection to the Vellore diocesan priests on 30 Oct.

*Fr Alphonse Manickam served as a resource person and presented a paper on "Jesuits & Lay Collaboration: Historical Perspectives" at the seminar organized by the South Zone Jesuit Provinces in Secundrabad on 04-06 Oct.

*Our students showcased their English efficiency in the Inter Departmental English Skit Competition piloted by the English Department. *Miss Valarie and Miss Neeraja, representing Porticus, the funding agency from the U.S., visited our college on 14 Nov to see for themselves its growth. The plantation of trees in our college premises is in full swing, with more than 1000 trees already planted.

- Alwin

EVALUATING SHEPHERD

Fr M. Arockiasamy Xavier of **ST JOSEPH'S**, Trichy participated in a three day Jesuit Junior Research Scholars' Meet at the Curia, Rome on 31 Oct-02 Nov. The meeting initiated

discussions for the renewal and strengthening of the intellectual apostolate in the Society. He also delivered a keynote address at an international conference at Fu Jen Catholic University, Taipei, Taiwan on 08-10 Nov. *Fr Andrew, the Principal, too went to Taiwan to sign an MoU with the Fu Jen University. *In order to evaluate the activities of SHEPHERD which has completed 25 years the College Administration has formed a five-member Evaluation Team led by Fr Louis Arockiaraj, SJ, Loyola, Chennai. The Team will submit its report by January 2014.

- Jesu Nesam

200 SAPLINGS



On 02 Nov '13, to mark the bicentennial of the Restoration we planted 200 saplings with the help of **SATYA NILAYAM** Eco-club and guidance of Fr Robin. On 11 Nov classes resumed after the enjoyable semester holidays. Sch Selukas attended a seminar on interreligious-dialogue at Kalady,

Kerala. Fr Anand Amaladoss, who had gone to Germany, returned on 24 Nov. - Jayaraj

Moved

The Juniors of **VIDYANIKETAN**, Trivandrum, attended the the annual function of a Palliative Care Centre in a neighbouring hospital. We were moved by the incurable sufferings of its patients. Fr George (KER) taught us Social Analysis and Mr Babu Waste Management. During his visitation Fr PCF encouraged us to work harder.

- David Francis

TWO NEW STUDY CENTRES

PAATHAI Centre, Vallam, organized a two-day training programme for the senior members of the IACM cultural team on 04-05 Nov inspiring them to re-commit themselves to the cause of social liberation through arts. On 18 Oct, At the IACM-Evening Study Centre animators meeting animators from 5 civil districts of north Tamil Nadu assessed their activities. We have conducted special coaching camps for the 10th std students at three centres. In the past two months we have opened two new evening study centres - one in an Arundhathiyars' hamlet called Saveriar Nagar near Vandhavasi. And the other at Thirunilai of

Abide with the Lord

Br Merlin Pereira, 78/57, (JAM) on 12 Oct '13.

Fr Motilal Hasdak, 61/44, (DUM) on 17 Oct '13.

Fr Daniel Kamath, 80/57 (BOM) on 20 Oct '13.

Fr Christian de Brouwer, 89/71, (RAN) on 28 Nov '13.

Mr Jeyanth Amalraj, 30, nephew of Fr P. S. Arul and Fr P.S. Amalraj (AND) on 29 Sept '13.

Ms. Kamalam, 67, younger sister of Fr Michael Jeyaraj on 04 Dec '13.





Kanchipuram District. On 24 Nov in Susaipuram of Tiruvallur District, a special coaching camp concluded with the Children's Day celebration. Around 250 villagers attended the program.

- Regis

LEARNING TO DANCE

Ms. Julius offered a three day course on folk dance to our candidates here at **VMI**, Vilangudi. The course came to an end with a cultural show that showcased what the candidates had learnt. At an inter-congregational meet at Santa Maria Illam, Kumbakonam, our candidates had a chance to meet other Religious and ponder over their vocation and its purpose. Fr Britto Peter taught a course on Personality Development.

- G.S.Thayriam

ALL THE WAY TO MARS

On 28 Oct **ST XAVIER'S** College of Education organized a one day seminar on Time Management in collaboration with St Ignatius College of Education animated by Fr Lawrence Amalraj.

*In collaboration with CEDAR (Centre for Education Development and Research), JCRT organized a one-day in-service training programme to the pre-primary teachers of Tirunelveli District. 240 Kindergarten school teachers benefitted.

*In collaboration with SALIS (Society of Advancement of Library and Information Science) a two-day UGC-Net preparatory programme for

LIS (Library Information Science) professionals was organized in November.

*Fr Maria Augustine inspired our B.Ed. students through his PowerPoint presentation on Effective Teacher Leadership during the inauguration of the Students Council. Fellowship Day and Children's Day celebrations showed the creativity of Fr V. Augustine, the Director of our school's Alumni Association.

*Our hockey senior and super-senior teams have qualified for the Republic Day games and Bharathiyar Day games respectively.

*While attending a conference at Fu Jen University, Taiwan, Fr Joe Arun signed an agreement between XIBA and the Business School of Fu Jen University for academic collaboration.

*An alumnus of our school and college, Mr Subbiah Arunan, has done us proud. A Space Scientist hailing from Kodhaicherry village near Valliyur, he is the project director of Mars Orbiter Mission of ISRO, called Mangalyaan.

- Baskar

GREENING THE CAMPUS

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI celebrated the Bible Day with a procession, sharing, singing, acting and dancing, guided by Br Kulandairaj, the HM and Fr Felix Joseph SJ, director of campus ministry. On the Environment Day five drawing magazines were released. The students who took an active part in greening the campus and Inigo Garden were honoured. On the Children's Day, the staff with their innovative singing, dance and drama entertained and challenged the students to be men for others. Fr S. M, Selvaraj directed the Staff retreat focusing on the relevance of

faith. Fr Arockiasamy, Rector, coordinated the students' retreats with the help of 14 teachers and Sisters. The Annual Day of the Evening Study Centres brought more than 250 students from 11 sub-stations of the parish. Competitions, cultural events and a sumptuous dinner, supervised by Fr Victor Roch, were part of the function.

- A. Felix Joseph

THIRD TIME AS PRINCIPAL

During his visitation to **VIDYAJYOTI**, Delhi in October, the PCF, Fr I. Raj, motivated and encouraged us. Fr Leo has been appointed the Principal of Vidya Jyoti, Delhi. This is his third term as the Principal. He taught a course on the history of the Society to the Jesuit tertians in Goa. The third year theologians will begin their Diaconate Retreat in December.

- Antony Markus

MARATHON BIBLE READING

At **XAVERIANA** we had a Bible Marathon Day on 23 Nov to mark the conclusion of the Year of Faith. There were competitions for Bible Recitation, Bible Quiz, Bible Exhibition, a quasi marathon reading of the Bible, hymns and dances on Bible themes. The celebration ended with a Mass at which the students offered things that could be donated to the Home for the Aged. *Our school was the venue for the diocesan one-day seminar on the conclusion of the Year of Faith on 24 Nov. *On Children's Day it was the teachers' turn to entertain the students with music and dances.

- Rajan

Obliged to vote for the most qualified



Francis Borgia died on 1 Oct 1572. The Third General Congregation opened on 12 April 1573, under a dark cloud caused by two separate and discordant factors: first, a regional feeling of resentment against the Spaniards then current among some Jesuits; and second, an antipathy, forcefully expressed by the Portuguese monarchy, toward the New Christians, those converts, real or pretending, from the Jewish faith who resided in the Iberian peninsula.

In some areas Jesuits resented Spanish prominence in the Society. The first three Generals had been Spaniards; so also were several other higher officials. Spanish superiors in Italy, ignorant of Italian ways, governed in a style which Pedro Ribadeneyra called a *la Espanola*. In some Roman circles, therefore, there was the desire that the next general be from another nation. Pope Gregory XIII shared this view. Through Cardinal Alessandro Farnese he informed Polanco of his feeling. Polanco sensed that the anti-Spanish sentiment was directed largely against his own person since he, so well versed in the Society's government as secretary under Ignatius, Laynez, and Borgia, was a likely choice as General. He therefore, with his accustomed magnanimity, asked the Pope that his own name be suppressed but not that an entire nation be excluded in the election.

Three days after opening of the congregation with Salmeron and a few others, he went to Pope Gregory to ask his blessing.

Gregory inquired about the nationality of previous Generals. He remarked that he would like to see a non-Spaniard elected. Polanco respectfully protested, pointing out that *each delegate was obliged to vote for the man he thought most qualified*, and that the debarring of an entire nation might make the fulfillment of that obligation an impossibility. Gregory insisted that his preference was for a non-Spaniard, and mentioned Everard Mercurian, a Belgian, as a possibility. Again Polanco protested. Gregory stopped him, gave his blessing, and dismissed his visitors with the words: "Go in peace and run a good election."

The second discordant factor that affected the congregation was the antipathy of the Portuguese monarchy to the New Christians (Jews who, for genuine or other reasons, converted to Christianity). This came to the fore with the arrival of the Portuguese delegates headed by Leao Henriques. Henriques acted as the intermediary through whom King Sebastian and Cardinal Henry most insistently asked the Pope that he not permit the election of a New Christian as General of the Society. At the same time a story was abroad in Rome that Polanco was either a Jew or looked with "sympathy toward the New Christians". 22 April was the date set for the election. A few days before, Henriques received another letter from King Sebastian to be delivered to the Pope. On 21 he rode to Frascati where Gregory was then staying. Sebastian's missive, another regal intervention to forestall a man with Jewish blood becoming the Jesuit General, merged with

Gregory's personal desire that a Spaniard not be elected. Since Spain was the principal country with a New Christian population, an efficacious way to satisfy the Portuguese monarch, and at the same time achieve his own desire, was to give a clear-cut order that a non-Spaniard be elected General. Gregory's personal preference hardened into a command.

On 22 Tolomeo Gallio, the Cardinal of Como, entered the aula of the congregation and announced that the Pope clearly forbade the election of a Spaniard. Distress swept through the assembly at the removal of their freedom of choice. All eyes turned on the Portuguese as the villains of the piece. Henriques, appalled at the extreme results to which his action had led, with genuine sorrow, expressed his regret and offered to speak to the Pope. With four other delegates he went to Frascati and earnestly asked Gregory to restore to the congregation its complete liberty. Reluctantly Gregory withdrew his command, but insisted that his personal preference for a non-Spaniard remained.

The next day, on the first ballot, the congregation chose Everard Mercurian. This 59-year-old native of Marcour in Belgian Luxembourg, known for his prudence and sense of proportion, brought to his new task a wealth of administrative experience gained as Provincial, Assistant, and Visitor in Germany and France.

- William V. Bangert, SJ
in *History of the Society of Jesus*
(sent by Leo Correya, SJ)



SECRETS FOR WELL-BEING AND PEACE

Thomas Merton, in perhaps his most-famous text, shares how he once had a quasi-mystical experience in the most ordinary of circumstances. He had been living in a Trappist monastery outside of Louisville, Kentucky, for nearly 20 years and one day needed to go into Louisville for a medical appointment. He was standing at the intersection of 4th and Walnut streets, when suddenly the ordinary changed into the extraordinary. Everyone around him began to shimmer with a deep, divine radiance. They were all walking around, he wrote, "shining like the sun." And he adds: "Then it was as if I suddenly saw the secret beauty of their hearts, the depths of their hearts where neither sin nor desire nor self-knowledge can reach, the core of their reality, the person that each one is in God's eyes. If only they could all see themselves as they really are. If only we could see each other that way all the time. There would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed... I suppose the big problem would be that we would fall down and worship each other."

Yet all of us are hopelessly prone to see almost everything in an over-familiar way, namely, in a way that sees little or nothing of the deep richness and divinity that is shimmering everywhere under the surface. So the challenge is: We need to learn the secret of seeing the extraordinary inside of the ordinary, of seeing divinity shimmering inside of humanity.

This kind of vision, seeing the world as transfigured with haloes around familiar faces, is ultimately the meaning of Christmas, the meaning of the incarnation, and the mystery of God walking around in human flesh. Christmas is not so much a celebration of Jesus' birthday as it is a celebration of the continued birth of God into human flesh, the continuation of the divine making itself manifest in the ordinary; God, a helpless baby in a barn.

But to have this vision we need to pray. Prayer is our major safeguard against the familiarity that breeds contempt and is one of the few ways in which we can begin to see with the deeper eyes of the heart.

- Ronald Rolheiser

Memories



THREE CLASSES OF CATECHISTS

We have three classes of salaried catechists and *pandarams* (catechists for lower castes): First, the Village Catechist, or Teacher-Catechist, a man chained to his school, away from the headstation. He is the spokesman of the local community and the guardian of its chapel and school who must watch over public morality and the daily worship in the absence of the priest.

Secondly, the catechist in charge of catechumens, enquirers and non-Christians. He prepares the ways for the Gospel, as forerunner of the priest. Thirdly, the Parish Catechist, the companion of the Father in his apostolic journeys. He acts in turn as clerk, secretary, master of ceremonies, instructor, examining magistrate, public prosecutor, counsellor, jurymen at the paternal court of the missionary, and middle-man between the pastor and the flock. He is everything according as necessity requires; the alter ego of the missionary.

- Joseph C. Houpert, SJ

*A South Indian Mission -
The Madura Catholic Mission*



Congratulations

To the new 'Doctor,' **Fr Amal Kulandaisamy**, who defended his doctoral thesis successfully on 22 Aug '13.

To our hardworking and efficient Estate Managers, **Br Antony Savarimuthu, Fr Royappan Kulandaisamy, Fr Amalraj Savarimuthu, Fr Arockiam Savarimuthu** and **Fr Anthony Samy** and their co-ordinator, **Fr Selvanayagam**, the Province Treasurer, for winning the 'First Grade Quality Coffee' award from Nespresso, Switzerland and Ecom Gill Coffee Trading Pvt Ltd.



Just for...

The Judge was in a merry mood, as it was just a week before Christmas. He asked the accused, "So...what did you do?"

"I did my Christmas shopping very early, Your Honour" replied the accused.

"That's not an offence. How early did you do your shopping?" asked the Judge.

"Hmm. Before the shop opened, Your Honour."