



Madurai Jesuits' News Letter



JANUARY 2016



(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial



Call of GC 36: Be Ambassadors of Reconciliation

Dear Brothers,

The second call of the Eternal King to the Jesuits is: "...as individuals and as communities, as pilgrims and friends, to be ambassadors of Christ's message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:20); thus to be agents of his peace, mercy and justice".

According to this call, each of us has to realize individually and collectively that we are pilgrims and at the same time friends. We move forward as pilgrims in the company of fellow Jesuits, each one of whom is a friend -- I have to be a friend to you and others. You have to be a friend to me and others. Others will have to be friends to you and me. We travel together in our pilgrimage, in the company of Jesuit friends.

Our mission is to be ambassadors of reconciliation, which is a sacred mission, because it comes from Christ. An ambassador loses his personal identity and assumes the identity of the one whom he represents. While we are privileged to be the ambassadors of Christ, we realize that we have no other identity except that of Christ. We lose our personal, social or cultural identity, so that we are in a position to assume the identity of Christ. Only then can we carry the message of reconciliation effectively.

The message of reconciliation carries three basic elements -- peace, mercy, justice. This is the new mission entrusted to us, as His ambassadors. When we speak about peace to others we need to have genuine peace within us. This genuine inner peace

will be possible, only if we lose our personal identity and assume the identity of Christ, having no other agenda except that of Christ. In other words, true inner peace is possible only when we surrender ourselves to God and His will.

The next message is mercy. Once again, only when we are personally kind and merciful to others in our relationships, can we communicate the message of mercy to anyone. Since it is a deep, personal and inner disposition, this cannot be given to someone as an external matter. Once that inner disposition of mercy is strong within, it is possible to preach about mercy. In fact, peace and mercy go together, as we cannot have one without the other -- no mercy without peace and no peace without mercy.

Neither can we experience peace nor can we claim to be merciful, unless we are just in our words, action and attitude. Thus, only a just person can truly be merciful and only a merciful person can really experience true peace. In order to practice justice, we need to be fair and objective in our inner attitude, external words and comments and in our relationships with our Jesuit companions. The same rule applies to our relationships with others and those whom we serve. When we are just, fair and objective in all our dealings with any person, we will be merciful to all and experience inner peace. Thus, we will qualify to be the ambassadors of Christ's message of reconciliation

Faternally,
Sebastien L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme:



JANUARY

- 03-05 Visitation: St. Mary's, Madurai
- 11-19 Rome – De Statu Meeting
- 23 Consult
- 25-29 Visitation: St. Joseph's, Trichy
- 30-31 Chennai Mission Jubilee -- Maduralaya

FEBRUARY

- 01-05 Visitation: St Xavier's, P'Kottai
- 07-08 Consult
- 09-10 Visitation: Clive House, Trichy
- 12-13 Visitation: St. Mary's, Dindigul
- 15-16 Visitation: IDEAS-LAAS
- 19 Visitation: PAATHAI, Vallam
- 20-21 Visitation: Loyola Kuppayanallur
- 22-26 JCSA Meeting, Hyderabad
- 26-29 Fr. General's Visit to the Province

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

JANUARY

- 05 Ooty
- 06 Mettuppaalayam
- 09 CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Lay Collaborators (Mission) at PAATHAI, Chengalpattu
- 23 Province Consult
- 24 CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Clergy & Religious (Mission) at LAV, Kuppayanallur
- 26 CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Scholastics (Province) at Loyola, Chennai
CM Silver Jubilee: Meeting of Young Priests (Province) at Loyola, Chennai
- 30-31 CM Silver Jubilee: Assembly of Senior Jesuits (Province) at Maduralaya

FEBRUARY

- 05 Mission Consult
- 07-08 Province Consult
- 19 Vallam
- 20-21 Kuppayanallur
- 27 Fr General at Loyola, Chennai
- 29 Maduralaya



Announcements

Acting Provincial:

During the visit of Fr. Provincial to Rome from January 11 to 19, 2016, Fr. Joe Antony (Socius), will be the Acting Provincial.

Transfer Requests and Proposals:

The Superiors/Team Leaders are asked to send in their requests and proposals for possible new appointments, assignments, transfers, etc., in their respective communities. The format is being sent to all the superiors through email. **Individual members**, who need transfers or change of responsibility or ministry, are welcome to write to the Provincial by email. Even those who have already spoken to the Provincial about this matter are expected to write to him once again.

CM Silver Jubilee Programmes:

Young Priests & Scholastics: 26 Jan (9 am to 5 pm) at Loyola, Chennai.

Senior Jesuits (those who have taken their Final Vows): 30 Jan (9 am) to 31 Jan (1 pm) at Maduralaya, Dindigul. *Contact:* Dominic Jayakumar (94889 79872)

Bodhi Zendo's 20 years:

Bodhi Zendo, Perumaal Malai celebrates its 20th anniversary on 06 Jan '16. Jesuits are cordially invited. 10.30am : Thanksgiving Function followed by an a gape meal. Those who would like to join the function, please inform Fr Mathew Cyril at 90475 46879 or Email: mail@bodhizendo.org

Retreat on Non-Violence:

Prerana, Bangalore offers an eight-day silent retreat on the *theme*, 'The Spirituality of Non-Violence.' *Dates:* 22-30 Jan '16. *Venue:* Dhyanaashrama, Mount St Joseph, Bangalore. *Resource Person:* Fr. T. Mariyathas, SJ (SRI). *Retreat Fees:* Rs 3,000. To register *contact* dhyanaashrama@gmail.com Cell: +91-99806 18124

Left:

Aaron Michael, a first year novice, left the novitiate on 06 Oct '15. Antony Regash A., also a first year novice, left on 04 Nov '15. Mano Albert Einstein E., a novice who was in his extended noviceship, left the Society on 06 Dec '15 from Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum. Antony Babu M., a second year novice, left the novitiate on 23 Dec '15.

New:

Fr Felix Joseph's new mobile number: 97897-84513. **LENS** (Loyola Education Network for Social Communications), LTI, Madurai: office- 0452- 3918046. Director: 0452-3918047. Cell phones: 87549 48619, 96265 13834. Email: lensnewmedia2015@gmail.com. Website: www.lensnewmedia.org

Transfers / Appointments:

Fr. Ignacy Arockiasamy	Tertianship, Shembag	Loyola College, Chennai	Assistant Director: LICET
Fr. Maria Packiam	Tertianship, Shembag	Loyola College, Chennai	Dept. of Entomology
Fr. Arockiadas	Tertianship, Shembag	Berchmans Hall, Chennai	Staff

Soon after the deluge

Jesuits plunge into flood relief work

Jesuits in Chennai and elsewhere, along with hundreds of daring youth, students, women and volunteers, jumped into relief and rescue work after the heavy rain and floods caused deaths and destruction in Chennai and some northern districts of Tamil Nadu. The Loyola Jesuit Community, Chennai, with the help of many dedicated students and staff of all the institutions in the campus and the Loyola Hostel, particularly the Outreach department, was fully involved in the relief work. They did it with much enthusiasm and commitment. Loyola, Chennai became a home for nearly 2,000 people for about 10 days. The system it followed in managing the disaster and carrying out relief work in the slums became the model for many other groups. It has also drawn sincere appreciation from the people, media and the civil society.

Chennai Mission Superior, Fr. Jebamalairaja, appointed three teams of Jesuits headed by Frs Felix Kennedy, Yesumarian and Sebastian Crossian to work in Cuddalore, Kancheepuram and Thiruvallur districts respectively. In the middle of our involvement, on 11 Dec we had an in-depth prayerful reflection at the Chennai Mission Office, based on the letter of Fr General on "Disaster Management" (2012/03). The scholastics of Arul Kadal, Berchmans Illam, Satya Nilayam, and Loyola worked with generosity and enthusiasm along with priests and other groups involved in the relief work.

Jesuits at Paathai, Ahal, Kuppayanallur and LCV community too took relief materials to the affected



people. With the help of local leaders and parish priests, our men found it easy to locate the deserving groups/villages which did not receive any help from other groups. Under the guidance of Fr Dominic, Chennai Mission office functioned as a nodal point networking with companies and individuals to mobilize relief materials. Loyola Institutions, Chennai, St Joseph's College & H.S. School, Trichy, St Mary's College, Tuticorin, St Xavier's Institutions, Palayamkottai, De Britto, Devakottai, St Mary's, Madurai, Vaigarai, Mettupalayam, OSM Sisters, St Joseph's College of Business Administration, Bangaluru, friends of Frs Rajanayagam, Casmir Raj and Roosevelt and others came forward readily to help.

At an evaluation of our relief activities done on 21 Dec at the Chennai Mission Office, it became clear that about 14,000 families have been reached by the Jesuits so far. We have reached about 120 villages in three districts and around 30 slums in Chennai. While this is praiseworthy, we still have a long way to

go, as there are many more victims who have not got any assistance.

Fr Provincial, in a circular sent to the province on 12 Dec, appreciated the contribution of Jesuit communities and individuals, asked communities to discuss how we can take this urgent work forward and promised to set up a Task Force (TF) and set aside some funds for the work. Later, in a letter dated 21 Dec, he announced that he is appointing a TF, headed by Fr Francis Jayapathy, and setting aside Rs 5 million (50 lakhs) initially for the work.

At the Local Superiors/ Team Leaders meet at Maduralaya on 30 Dec Fr Jayapathy, with a power point programme, explained TF's objectives and strategies. He said the TF will support the education of children in affected families, build up livelihood resources, enhance employability of youth and others affected, address recurrent problems of small farmers in Cuddalore district, help communities access government schemes, and funds from donors and animate and train people in disaster management. He said the TF will do also what is needed for effective and sustained relief work like fund-raising, research, contacting persons/organizations and public relations. He said the primary recipients of its services will be the isolated Dalit, Irular communities in Chidambaram-Pitchavaram belt, victims in Thiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts, the affected in Antoniyarpuram in Thoothukudi, families of widows in Nagapattinam, school/college students and unemployed youth.

- D. Jayakumar, SJ &
F. Jayapathy, SJ



In response to the floods

All of us at **Arul Kadal**, in response to the floods that devastated Tamil Nadu, continued their relief work for two more weeks (December 04-18) in the most deserving villages of Chennai, Thiruvallore, Kanchipuram and Cuddalore districts under the inspiring guidance of Fr. Felix Kennedy and Fr. Sebastian Crossian. Early on 19th Dec, about 70 lay leaders came together for a theo-session on 'Immersion of Tamil Nadu into the Rains and Floods' organized by AK for the candidates of '100-Hour Theology for the Laity'. Their spontaneous donation of Rs 4800 to the flood relief was part of their Christmas reach-out. On 22 Dec, another theo-session on the same theme stirred our minds and hearts to respond to the cry of the Mother Nature and the Marginalized People. The active participation of Fr. Jebamalai Raja, the Chennai Mission Superior, Frs Mark Stephen and Sebastian Crossian helped us deepen our insights.

- **Velankanni**

Renovated building for workers

On 02 Dec Mr Albert Fernando, a member of the

granite quarry investigation committee and a close associate of Mr U. Sagayam, I.A.S., enlightened us at **Beschi Illam** on the granite quarry scam and the investigation and responded to questions from the audience. On the same day, Fr Emma, Director, JESCCO, gave the novices a few enlightening sessions on psycho-spirituality.

On 03 Dec we celebrated the feast of St Francis Xavier with a community Mass at 6 15 a.m. in which Fr Stany preached a thought-provoking homily. In the evening the novices visited the Dindigul Book Fair 2015. On 5-7 Dec, Fr Ilanko Xavier, the novice master, guided a Triduum for the SMMI sisters at Thanjavur. On 12 Dec the parents of the six 1st year novices arrived in Beschi for the parents' meet. Fr Novice Master and Fr Socius guided the sessions. The Mass was presided over by Fr Tagore, who, in his homily, touched on the responsibilities of parents to encourage their sons to persevere and go forward in their resolve to follow Christ, and the latter's duty to cooperate with the formators and grow to maturity as Jesuits. In the afternoon the novices gave a cultural program for them and also shared with them about their life here at Beschi. The parents expressed satisfaction that their wards were happy and well looked after. On 13 Dec, as part of our ministry to the local religious, a recollection

talk was given by Fr Manuel to the CIC Sisters. In the evening we attended the ceremonial opening in the cathedral of the Door of Mercy ushering in the Year of Mercy.

Br Augustine James has shifted from St Mary's Madurai to Beschi after spending two weeks at St Joseph Hospital and looks fit and happy. On 21Dec the renovated building meant for our co-workers was blessed by our Minister, Fr Lawrence Benedict and Fr Superior. The old shack of a building has been transformed into a swanky suite consisting of four rooms, one for the women workers, one to be their T.V. room, a third to be the Wash Room and the last to be a multi-purpose room. It has been a long-standing need that has been finally fulfilled thanks to the efforts taken by the House administration, with the support, encouragement and guidance of Fr Sebasti L Raj, our Provincial.

At the community Christmas celebration on 21 Dec Fr Joe Mike, Superior, St Mary's, Dindigul gave the Christmas message. The Novices entertained the audience that included our co-workers, the Maduralaya Jesuits and their co-workers, with skits and carols. Everyone received a gift. Br Savarimuthu

kept us happy with cakes and sweet corn soup. The Minister, Fr Lawrence Benedict, and Fr Manuel, Socius to the Novice Master, planned and coordinated the evening's program. - Sam, N.S.J.

Beautiful Britto Hostel

The Alumni Association of **De Britto, Devakottai** and Gansoville Society, in collaboration with Madurai Meenakshi Medical Hospital, organized a medical camp for people with heart problems on 29 Nov. Dr RM.Krishnan and his team rendered tireless service for 234 patients free



of cost. The parishioners of Ramnagar blessed the inmates of the campus with carols and Christmas messages. We honoured our student, Kathiravan, who won a gold medal in the state level athletics. The beautifully renovated Britto Hostel was solemnly blessed by Fr Provincial on 20 Dec, with the students expressing happiness and gratitude to the Province administration for this magnanimous gesture.

- Salomon

Gains and pains

Fr Provincial's visitation to **Dhyana Ashram** was

relaxing and refreshing. Seeing the ministries we do, he suggested that we keep a record of ministries done by everyone throughout the year and also at the Centre so that we plan our activities appropriate to the needs of the people. He said that the laity must be the focus of our ministries. He proposed also renovating the Jesuit residence as the building committee has suggested.

In the wake of floods in Chennai we distributed clothes collected and given to us by youth. We felt inspired by the generosity and hard work of many, especially young people, who rushed to help the victims. With the help of friends, Fr Xavier Irudayaraj prepared and distributed food for families who lived on the banks of Coovum and so had lost everything. He got ready for the parishioners a simplified version of Pope's letter on the Year of Mercy.

Fr Thambu gave a retreat to IMS Fathers in Allepy on healing and deliverance. He preached a retreat to the parishioners of St. Anthony's church, Mugappair.

Fr Jerry travelled to Velankanni to address our Brothers who had gathered there for their annual retreat and seminar. He spoke to them on the three letters of Pope Francis on consecrated life, divine mercy, and caring for our planet. On 26 Dec he plans to start a retreat for a big group of 80 Sisters from different Congregations on the gains and pains of religious life.

- Xavier Irudayaraj

Festival of lights

IDCR celebrated the Festival of Lights 2015, honouring as

'Celebrity of the Year' Prof.S.F.N Chelliah, retired Professor of English at Loyola, Chennai and a reputed musician, who has composed and taught music for the last 5 decades. Mr Chelliah was moved to say that



IDCR was the first to honour him from the Catholic circle. He released a new VCD of songs on values for children with lyrics by Fr Mary John of Kuzhithurai set to music by Fr M. Amaladoss. Vincent Sekhar's new book, *'Let us Stand up for Prayer - Sacred Texts*



that Shape Perspectives' was introduced by Swami Bhakti Vratana from Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama, T. Nagar, and was released by Dewan to the Prince of Arcot, Mr. Mohammed Asif Ali. Swamiji, who said we should ensure that the book reaches all

schools and colleges, ordered copies to their Vedanta Book Stores. Prizes and gifts were awarded to students who took part in devotional singing, value-based storytelling, and painting on harmony. As he did in the past two years, Fr Vincent Sekhar, invited by Fr Yesudoss Perianayagam, parish priest, St Francis Xavier's parish, Broadway, addressed an inter-religious gathering at an interfaith Christmas function, organized by the parish. Fr Amaladoss went to Sri Lanka to give talks on the theology and practice of lay leadership to a pan-Asian group of Directors of Institutes involved in the formation of the laity. BLINK in IDCR is now busy with an opinion poll prior to the Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections 2016 in association with News 7 TV Channel. BLINK volunteers were involved in relief work after heavy rain and floods in Chennai.

- Vincent Sekhar

Training teachers

Fr Stan Fernandas, SJ, JRS/SA regional director, visited JRS/TN and shared about the work of international JRS and its expectations from the JRS/TN on 29 Nov. Ms. Brigit from MISEREOR's Programme co-ordinator for Asia, visited JRS/TN on 30 Nov - 01 Dec.

In the month of December all the four zones of Kovai, Nellai, T.V.Malai, and Trichy had their training for CEC (Complementary Education Centre) teachers in four places in which 189 teachers participated. This training has enriched their ability to deal with the students more patiently and to understand them better. AA (Alcoholic Anonymous) meeting was arranged at Gangaikondan camp on 09 Dec. The members of the AA group were honoured with small gifts and encouraged to meet regularly. On 12 Dec Fr Emma, Director, JESCCO, conducted a two-day refreshers' training at JRS Centre, Dindigul for 21 JRS counselors. 211 youth participated in the training programmes organized by Kovai and T.V.malai zones on 'Media Awareness' and 'The Importance of Healthy Relationships'. CRS review meeting was held in Tuticorin in which JRS staff actively participated in analyzing the activities and in making the plans for the next year.

The first phase of competition called *Ezhuthu Kathai Solum Poti* was conducted by JRS for the Sri Lankan Refugees. Twenty stories were selected from about 250 stories to receive valuable prizes. This gave them an opportunity to express their real feelings in writing and has helped them reduce their burden by sharing it openly. The 2nd phase of competition is

already announced under the title '25 years of my life in the camp and my expectation for the future'. We hope that this would bring out the real expectations of the people, so that we can accompany them in a better way. JRS rendered its service to four flood-affected Sri Lankan Refugee camps and a few villages in Cuddalore district. It plans to continue relief and rehabilitation works. JRS/ TN team had a tour to Vailankanni and Tanjore on 22 Dec and came back refreshed.

- Anto. A. Raja

To understand students

People's Watch, Tamil Nadu organized an awareness campaign at LTI on the occasion of International Human Rights Day on the role of students in protecting and promoting Human Rights. To prepare for the Year of Mercy Fr Maria Singarayar organized a reconciliation service on 19 Dec for all the Catholic students and staff. Christmas was celebrated in a very modest way with Dr John Bosco M.E., the Regional Joint Director as the chief guest and Fr Arockiasamy, Rector, St Mary's, Madurai delivering the Christmas message. Mr Balasubramniam, Manager,

Abide with the Lord

Fr Chellanthara Varghese (AND), 51/28, on 05 Dec '15 in Guntur.

Bro Blacius Ekka (RAN), 82/61, on 09 Dec '15 in Ranchi.

Bishop Emeritus Anthony Sharma, SJ (NEP), 78/59, on 09 Dec '15 in Kathmandu.

Fr Valerian Deepak D'Mello (PAT), 61/40, on 13 Dec in Delhi.

Mrs Catherine, 73, mother of Fr Louie Albert, on 22 Nov '15 in Coimbatore.

Mr Savariar, 82, father of Fr Manuel Savariar, on 28 Dec '15 in Karisalpatti.



Canara Bank donated sports T shirts for all the students. Bro Tony danced with Santa Clause to loud cheers from students.

Fr Emma, Director, **JESCO**, conducted on 02 Dec a one-day session for the first-year novices at Beschi Illam. On 04-06 Dec he conducted a training program at the JRS Centre at Beschi Campus for 45 teachers working at JRS camps. The purpose of this training was to equip the teachers with some basic skills to understand the students and to deal with their psychological problems. On 11-12 Dec he offered another intensive training in counseling to the youth who are already working as counselors in various JRS camps. Fr Emma conducted on 20 Dec a half-day program for 60 Catholic parents on psycho-spiritual integration needed to deal with the current issues in their families. After preparing 157 first-year students at the Loyola College of Education for their Social Service camp to be held in different villages, Fr Emma spent a lot of time on 21 counseling the students who had been traumatized by the recent floods in Chennai and its suburbs. he counseled also a few terminally-ill patients and their families.

Fr Irudayaraj, Director, **LENS**, conducted one-day media education programmes for JRS Girigini students at IDEAS and a session on media and women for the NSS students in Little Flower higher secondary school, Madurai. LENS was part of the organizing committee of annual short film festival in

Madurai and also hosted a one day programme in our campus. LENS has a new website: www.lensnewmedia.org and has published an online magazine called *Silambam*. People can download this magazine from our website. LENS staff team helped Philomin Raj of IDEAS in video shooting and photographing the two day national consultation on Prevention of Manual Scavenging and Rehabilitation act.

- Mag Bay

When houses collapsed

The continued rain caused the collapse of nearly 200 houses with mud walls and thatched roofs in our area. The **Loyola** institutes in **Kuppayanalloor**



rushed to the spot and distributed rice, mats, blankets and clothes. We reached out to nearly 1200 families of various castes and religions in 16 villages. The Province administration, Chennai Mission and Loyola College, Chennai, readily offered financial and material support. With the help of AICUF and CHAI, we conducted a one-day medical camp in Loyola Higher Secondary school, Kuppayanallur. More than 500 sick people in our locality benefitted. The students in our hostels and Good Samaritan orphanage remained with us due

to the floods in many areas.

- Victor Roch

With outstretched arms

On 29 Nov - 05 Dec Fr Victor, Superior, **Loyola Academy**, Vadamelpakkam helped the Sacred Heart Sisters, Vellore prepare for their Chapter. The newly-erected 6 foot statue of Jesus with outstretched arms was blessed by Fr Mark Stephen on 21 Dec at the First Block. To prepare for Christmas we had an Advent Wreath installed and the lighting of its candles daily prompted the students to learn about Christmas traditions and their significance. We had a Christmas get-together for our staff and their families on 22, which helped the Jesuits get to know the families of the staff and exchange greetings during the season of love.

- Rajasekaran

Campus flooded

The activities in **Loyola Industrial School**, Ranipet and in LIFE Engineering Works have been greatly limited for more than an month, as the recent rain that flooded our



campus isolated us with very little access to the town. The school and the hostel had to be closed for many days as they were water-logged. LIFE had

a bigger struggle as we had to deliver the goods in time; however we have managed to do our best. To express our solidarity with the people affected by the floods we had a simple but meaningful Christmas celebration in the school. The hostel boys did a wonderful job in making a crib depicting the destruction of the recent floods.

The government officials from Guindy ITI, who came for inspection on 22 Dec, were happy with the newly altered classrooms and labs. Fr Stephen and the staff did all that was needed. - **Franklin Rex**

Foundation for their progress

On 28 Nov Hostel Day of Arulagam was celebrated in a grand manner in our school in **Oriyur**. The Chief Guests, Dr M. Ramanathan and Prof K. Gopu, both alumni of the school, told the students that it was this school that had laid the foundation for their progress in their lives. Bro Arockia Doss and Sch Amal Raj went to Chennai to attend the Symposium on 'New Education Policy'. Fr Bastin, St Mary's, Dindigul, was the resource person for a motivation programme for the 10 and 12 std Dalit students. He spoke of their responsibilities to achieve their goals. Thanks to the efforts of Fr Yagoo and Bro Doss, the Central government has promised to approve an NCC unit in the school.

At the Christmas function in our school on 09 Dec Fr Justin Prabhu, the chief guest,

gave a touching message on the Incarnation. Poor students were given gifts brought by other students. On 20 Dec the Hostel too had its Christmas function and Sr Philo gave the Christmas message. The variety entertainment before dinner provided a chance for the hostellers to showcase their talents. Christmas gifts were given to our co-workers. On 21 Dec Fathers from nearby parishes were invited to hear the confessions of hostel students. - **Amalraj M.**

Tons of rice

The Jesuits at **Paathaigal**, along with DHRC staff and IACM cadres, were fully engaged at relief work to the people affected by floods in northern districts of Tamil Nadu. We followed a systematic approach to reach the relief materials, offered generously by donors from all over, to the victims. The Salesian Sisters of Vellore and the staff and students of their Auxilium College worked along with us in the affected villages of Cuddalore district. IACM cadres and Jyothibha Labour Union mobilized tons of rice and other materials. So far we have been able to help about 10,000 families in the five northern districts.

After successfully enrolling himself as a lawyer in the Madras High Court, Fr Arockia Dass S has started his practice as a junior in the Chengalpattu Court. He preached a five day retreat to the seminarians of Chengalpattu diocese. Sch Alex organized special camps for 10 std students in the Evening Study Centres in order to help them to write their public exams confidently and successfully. - **Alex G.**

Happy ending

Outlook, a national English weekly, (05 Oct '15) has ranked **St. Joseph's** Institute of Management (JIM), 82nd among the top 100 Institutes of Management Studies in India. MBA universe.com (*Hindu, Business Line*, 2016) has given JIM 57th Rank at the all India level. *Competition Success* has positioned JIM at the 6th place among the promising B-Schools in India and 9th Rank in Tamil Nadu among the private B-Schools. Further *Career 360* accredited JIM with AA+ within 25 per cent of 500 B-Schools and I MRB Business Standard has accredited JIM in A5 category as against A6 category in the last academic year at the All India Level. The JIM management thanks the faculty, non-teaching staff, visiting faculty and all well-wishers for their support.

On 28 Nov at a seminar on the New Education Policy for the staff and students Frs Joe Arun, Xavier Alphonse, Jothi and Pushparaj guided an interactive session. Their comments and the feedback were sent to the MHRD. SJC is one of the 25 educational institutions chosen by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board to be given equipment worth 1.5 crores to monitor the air pollution in the city. They will install the equipment and provide the necessary infrastructural facilities and salaries for the staff for one year.

A relief team headed by Frs Arockiasamy Xavier and Paulraj Packiam with some

Symposium on New Education Policy

Jesuit Council for Education, Research and Training (JCERT), Loyola College of Education (LCE) and Secondary Education Commission (SEC) jointly organized a one-day symposium on the New Education Policy (NEP) on 29 Nov at LCE, Chennai. A core group with eight Jesuits and the Principal, LCE was formed for this purpose and this group met twice at St Mary's, Madurai to plan for the symposium. Fr Kennedy took care of the programme and the resource persons, Fr Royce, all the local arrangements and Fr. Stephen, all the communications. This team worked together to make this symposium a grand success.

The aims were to examine the themes formulated by the Government of India for consultation on school education, to formulate



enlightened responses in the policy consultation document for school education, identify concerns that need further deliberation and research and conscientize other stakeholders. There are 13 themes and 88 questions for school education in NEP.

Mr Venkatesh Athreya, former acting vice-chancellor and Registrar of Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirapalli gave the inaugural address. He stressed that this NEP is only an outcome of the present government's neo-liberal economic policy and its real but hidden aim is to saffronize education. In this attempt to internationalize education and open education to the global

market, access to quality education to the poor will be completely denied, he said.

Dr V. Vasanthi Devi, former vice-chancellor of M.S. University, Tirunelveli, spoke on the Indian

perspective of the underprivileged majority of India. He noted that this policy emanates from the Hindutva ideology and tries to corporatize education.

There was a panel discussion



national educational policies down the decades. She observed that any revolution in any field should be preceded by revolution in education because it is the basis for everything. She gave a clarion call to all the participants to become enormously powerful educational activists for reviving



and sustaining our democracy and understand the communal context in which they are trying to introduce this policy.

Prof. R. Ramanujam, scientist, IMSc, Taramani, Chennai critiqued different aspects of the NEP. He stressed that we need to analyse any policy coming from the government from the

in which Mr. Isaac Mohanlal, Lawyer, Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court spoke on 'NEP and Minority Rights', Dr. S.S. Rajagopalan, an educational activist, on 'NEP and Teachers and Schools', Dr. V. Suresh, National General Secretary, PUCL, on the 'Constitutional Provisions and NEP' and Mr. P.B. Prince Gajendra Babu, General Secretary of Common School System, TN, on 'Social Implications of NEP'.

During the last session, moderated by Fr Joe Arun, there was a consensus among the participants to immediately respond to NEP collectively and come together as educationists atleast once a year on such educational issues. Principals, administrators, HMs of schools and a few educational activists, totalling 281, participated in the symposium. Fr Royce and his team made meticulous arrangements for its success.

- S.M. John Kennedy, SJ

(continued from p.8)

staff members and students distributed relief materials worth nearly Rs 9 lakhs in remote areas of Cuddalore district, devastated by the recent floods. Fr Kennedy chose the villages and coordinated the relief work. The Scholastics from Clives actively helped in the relief work. The management decided to celebrate Christmas at a low key and to give the money that would be usually spent on cakes to the victims in Cuddalore. On 22 Dec 43 staff members who were appointed in 2012 and 2013 got their salaries with full arrears. With this the long-standing legal battle has come to a happy end.

The staff, students and alumni of St. Joseph's school contributed Rs. 2,50,000-worth relief materials. Our 9th std student C. Ponkarthikeyan, has been chosen for the squad of seven members who will represent the NCC wing from Tamil Nadu in the Republic Day parade at Delhi on 26 Jan. Fr Xavier Alphonse was presented with 'Makkal Kalvi Semmal Virudu' by the United Christian Writers Association of Tamil Nadu in November. He was invited by the government of Kerala in December to be a panellist in a National Skills Development Workshop. He was also a resource person to discuss the New Educational Policy at St Anne's College, Periyakulam and Stella Maris College, Chennai.

- V. Viji Bose, SJ &
G. Pushparaj, SJ

Holy Door opened

To inaugurate the Year of Mercy at **St Mary's** Cathedral Church, **Madurai** the Archbishop opened the Holy Door on 13 Dec in the presence of a large number of priests, religious and laity. For about three weeks in December our parish choir and representatives, led by Frs Arockiaraj and James, visited all the Catholic houses, singing carols and wishing them a Happy Christmas. Fr Arockiasamy, Rector, presided over competitions for the students of evening study centres in our substations. In our school, Christmas prayer services and celebrations were organized for the staff and the students. An inspiring message was given by Fr Alphonse, SDB for the students and by Fr Madurai Anand to the staff members. The students also made a generous contribution to the flood victims. Fr George, Hostel Warden, organized a motivation programme for the students. There was also a media education workshop for the students by Fr Irudayaraj, Director, LENS. Fr Joseph Maliyakal has joined the group of senior citizens of our community. - G. Packiaraj

Chapel renovated

Community: With generous financial assistance from the Province, the chapel at Irudayakulam Jesuit Residence, attached to **St Xavier's**, has been renovated. The renovated chapel was opened by Fr Sebastia L. Raj, our Provincial and blessed by Bishop Jude Paulraj of Palayamkottai on 01 Dec. About 200 people, including the Jesuit community, priests and Religious drawn from the area took part in the function. Br Sathanandam, Br Santiago

and Br Xavier coordinated the event efficiently. The new look of the chapel won praises from many.

On 17 an Inter-hostel Christmas Carol competition was organized by Fr L. Arulanandam. The School community and the Rector celebrated Christmas with differently-abled children on 19 Dec at Anavarthanallur. At this function organized by Fr. L.



Francis Xavier, Director, Alumni Association the children were given gifts and a delicious meal.

Fr John Kennedy was invited by Fr. P.S. Amal, Provincial of Andhra, to be a resource person for the evaluation of their schools and guide the team appointed to carry out this work. After helping them in the evaluation and preparation of the final report, Fr Kennedy attended their extended consult on 12, 13 Dec that discussed the report. His services have been well appreciated.

College: Our College students donated Rs. 1,52,000

and materials collected worth around Rs 5 lakhs to the flood victims in Chennai. An international conference on 'Materials Science and Its Applications' was organised by the Department of Chemistry on 16 Dec. As part of STAR college programme sponsored by DBT, New Delhi, another international conference on 'New Dimensions on

level competition conducted in Naamakal in December. At state level youth cultural competitions, our students performed mime and secured the first place. They have been selected for participating at the national level competition. On 05 Dec the alumni association organized Fellowship Day when our students had a great time, eating, dancing, playing fun games, and lucky dip.



Mathematical Biology' was organised by Dr Lourdusamy and Dr Anto Kinsley, Department of Mathematics on 18 Dec.

In order to create awareness of the implications of the New Education Policy, announced by the Central government, a seminar was organized on 02 Dec. Fr Gilbert, Principal, explained the objectives and Dr V. S. Joseph Albert, Deputy Principal, served as the resource person who explained all the aspects of the Policy. Fr Danis Ponniah, Rector, appealed to the Staff to send individual responses to MHRD. More than 175 teachers, including 12 teachers from other Catholic institutions, attended the workshop.

School: Our super senior volleyball team won the first place at a state

On 19 Dec we celebrated Christmas in our school with a message given by our alumnus, Fr Viyagappa Raj, the superintendent of the schools of Palayamkottai diocese. STAAR movement of our school distributed clothes to poor students and unaided non-teaching staff.

College of Education: The college witnessed on 01 Dec the opening and blessing of the new library building, named after Fr Utarid, by Fr Sebasti L. Raj, our Provincial. We recalled that Fr Britto Vincent, our former Rector and Fr Thomas Alex took the initiative for this much-needed venture. We organized a five-day community camp on 17-22 Dec in the flood-affected Cuddalore. Pitching their tent in the midst of the flood-affected victims in Semakottai and Periyakattupalayam near Panruti, our students engaged themselves

in distributing relief materials, conducting medical camps in collaboration with the Sisters of Holy Cross and conducting a survey in order to take stock of the situation. Fr Felix Kennedy made all the arrangements for the camp. The Principal and the staff motivated and guided the students in helping people at a time when they needed them most.

- Jesu Raja & Danis

As new priests

We gathered for our post-ordination **SUPAM** meet at Siluvaipuram on 25 Nov. As new priests we shared our life and our ministry. We shared the concerns that our life in the parish evoked: consumerism, forced migration, marriage relationships broken by suspicions, over spending in order to compete with others, hiding one's identity for the sake of survival, falsehoods spread by Hindutva forces, lack of ecological concern etc. We realized the need of the hour is to propagate the recommendations of Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, and learn inter-religious values, generosity and faith from the simple people.

Frs Arockiaraj, Britto Vincent, Britto Peter, Alangaram, and Baskar helped us in this pastoral theo-reflection. We visited Bl. Devasagayam Pillai's shrine and other places. This was organized by Fr Poody Rajan and Fr Joy, parish priest of Siluvaipuram.

- M.Vincent Irudhayaraj

Congratulations



To **Fr Anbarasu Maria Raj** for successfully defending his Ph.D. thesis at St Xavier's, Palayamkottai on 18 Dec '15.

To **Fr Mariadoss Siluvaimuthu**, who has compiled inspirational quotations and photographs of late Dr Abdul Kalam, for a booklet, 'Igniting the Young Minds.'

To **Fr Vincent Sekhar** who has compiled sacred texts of various religions for a new book, called 'Let Us Stand Up for Prayer.'

To **Fr Xavier Irudayaraj**, whose Tamil booklet called, *Aayiram Potri*, has now been translated into Gujarati and published with the title, *Sahastravali*, by GSP, Anand.



Memories

Saprams in procession

1935: Malampatti, a small village lost in the Pudukottah State jungles where 300 Christians live peacefully, saw again this year splendid manifestations of piety towards St. Francis Xavier. Owing to the general depression, the offerings have indeed been less numerous, but faith and piety seem on the contrary to gain ground. It is genuine devotion and not mere love of show that impels pilgrims to flock there, not only from the vast Pangoo of Avur, but also from other distant places of the mission. The church of Malampatti is an insignificant building, allowing people to "see" Mass from the outside through open doors and windows. The statue of the great missionary of the Indies is but a very small wooden one. But this privileged spot by a special favour of God attracts crowds of Christians. Towards 3 a.m. the "saprams" were dragged in procession. The Statue of St. Francis Xavier following those of Our Lady, St Joseph, St Michael, St Ignatius, and St Sebastian amidst lights and buntings, whilst the multitude of stars twinkled in the sky.

(from *Caritas*, Jan 1935)

Just for..



The suspicious wife checked her husband's mobile phone, when he was away. She was puzzled to see so many numbers stored as 'new Bird,' 'neighbour Bird,' 'old Bird,' 'upstairs Bird,' 'college Bird', 'supermarket Bird'...etc. Unable to understand whom these 'birds' referred to, she wanted to find out how he has saved *her* number. After a frustratingly long search finally she found it. It was not in her name nor 'wife'. It was 'Angry Bird.'

Secrets

for Well-being and Peace



Don't postpone living!

Too many human beings postpone living. We say that we will live our best lives when we have more time or when we finish the pressing projects that are consuming us. We tell those around us that we will be more loving and passionate when things slow down. We promise ourselves that we will get into world class physical condition and eat healthier food when we have a little bit more time. Yet, deep within us, each one of us knows that there will never be a better time to love our biggest life than now. And if not today, then when?

Most of us live as if we have all the time in the world. We put off living and reaching for our highest and best. And yet, the days slip into weeks, the weeks slip into months and the months slip into years. Before you know it, your life will be over. And most people, when they are on their deathbeds, have the same regrets: that they did not take enough risks, that they did not realize their highest personal potential. And they did not give more love.

There are no extra days. There are no meaningless days. This very day is the day that you can make a choice to stand for something higher and be the person you know in your heart you have always wanted to be. Today is the day you can make the decision to get into outstanding physical health or to be a genuine leader at work or to be more authentic as a human being or to take more risks and run towards your fears. To me, that's what leadership is all about. Seizing the moment and living your life as an example to others of what's possible for a human being to create. Keep thinking about what your best life will look like.

- Robin Sharma

(from *The Mastery Manual*)