

MNL

AUGUST 2008

(For Private Circulation)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Aug

05-06	Nochiodaipatti: LIFE Centre: Pastoral Commission GBM
17	Dindigul: Consult
23-24	Palayamkottai: Secondary Education Commission GBM
25-29AM	Palayamkottai: Visitation: St. Xavier's College
29-30	Thoothukudi: Visitation: Xaveriana
31	Kottur: Visitation

Sept

01	Kanyakumari: Visitation: Thozhamai Illam
02-03	Nagercoil: Visitation: Carmel
04	Alavanthankulam: Visitation
06-07	Tiruchi: JESCOM GBM
11	Dindigul: Consult
14-25	Holland and France

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

☩ **FACSI:** Fr. General in his 10 July letter, makes the following points: new requests will be considered after a Province has given an account of previous grants; the deadline for the next round of applications is 1 October 2008; this is the date the application must be in Rome.

☩ The **POSA** has appointed:

Fr. Thomas Kuriacose (DEL) : Secretary for Dialogue (JSD)

Fr. Victor Edwin (DEL): Ph.D. in Islamic Studies at Birmingham University, U.K.

☩ **Fr. Provincial** has appointed:

Fr. K. Arockiam, Parish Priest of Pappanallur.

☩ **Fr Joseph Neuner** (PUN), former Professor of JDV completes 100 years on 19th Aug 2008.

☩ **Please note the following changes:**

Fr. Maria Singarayar's Cell No: 94430 30464

☩ **SUPAMITES' ADDRESSES:**

Sch. S. Baskar Antony, C/o Fr. Vicar Forane, St. John de Britto Church, Satyamangalam – 638 401, Erode Dt; Contact Tel: 04295-245206, 245281

Sch. A.Loyola Antony Savari, Catholic Church, K.Morur PO – 636 354, Omalur Tk., Salem Dt; Contact Cell: 94872-08754

Sch. A. Michael John, St. Xavier's Church, Saral Villai, Yettacode, Veeyannoor – 629 177, K.K. Dt; Contact Cell: 93828-27702

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

We had a chance to go to the Episcopal Ordination of the **Most Rev. Antonysamy** the new Bishop of Kumbakonam on 9 July, 2008. It was an opportunity for us to come in contact with the priests and religious from our diocese.

VMI was graced with the visitation of Fr. Provincial on 15 July. We were fortunate to have Fr. PCF too, along with Fr. Provincial on the same day. His sharing with the pre-novices rejuvenated and geared their spirits.

Fr. A.Victor made a brief stopover at VMI and celebrated Mass for the pre-novices. He inspired them to become and bear credible witness to the values of the Gospel. VMI is buzzing with a lot of enchanting activities in view of the feast of St. Ignatius.

The pastoral sharing of the pre-novices, after their weekend apostolate needs a special mention; it reveals that they are gripped by the harsh realities of life and learn how to face them. A hearty welcome to Fr. Joseph Srinivasan, who was away for a while from VMI for medical treatment.

Clement

JESUIT JUNIORATE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

We had the Mass of the Holy Spirit presided over by **Fr. Clement Wilson**, the Superior, on 25 of June, followed by the Inauguration of the academic year 2008-2009. **Fr. Sunny**, the Principal of St. Xavier's College, Thumba, was the chief guest of the inaugural function who enthused us by his thought provoking inaugural address. Thanks to **Fr. Anbarasan**, KARISAL team leader, who conducted a two-day orientation in a novel way through greater participation of the juniors helping them realize the importance of our stay here. With high expectations we began on 12 of July our '**Gramapravesam**' - to know the simple and sincere faith of the people, living on the coastal belt. On 17 and 18 of July a course on Art Appreciation was conducted by **Fr. Britto Vincent**, the Rector of St. Xavier's College, Pallayamkottai and **Mr. Purushothaman** which added fresh impetus to the juniors in the field of Art and Culture. A supervised visit to the art gallery in Thiruvananthapuram gave the necessary practical inputs to the course. On 20th July the juniors attended a scintillating performance of the Kerala choral singers in Thiruvananthapuram.

F. Thomas

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

The first year novices completed their first probation with a triduum and merged with the Novitiate Community on 4 July. On 13 July, **Fr. Chelladurai** concelebrated Holy Mass with the parish priest of Vakkampatty on the first day of the novena to St. Mary Magdalene enriching the gathering with his 'Tamilisai Keerthanaigal'. On 14 July, the CIS Sisters went on a pilgrimage to Edaikattur. On the way, they spent an hour in the Shrine of Our Lady in Vadipatty. On 17 July, the novices were enlightened by a talk on 'Our Spirituality and the Upliftment of the Suppressed' by **Fr. Yesumarian**. The novena to St. Ignatius was conducted by the novices from 22 July onwards. On 23 July, Fr. Chinnadurai gave an exhortation to the Community. On 25 July, the Beschi Community along with the CIS Sisters went on a pilgrimage to St. Ignatius' Church, Anandarayankottai. The Community celebrated the Feast of St. Ignatius with Holy Mass in the morning and Benediction at noon followed by a grand dinner along with the St. Mary's Community, priests and religious of Dindigul diocese. **Fr. Arul Sivan** animated the Holy Cross Provincial Team.

K. Swaminathan

DNC, PUNE

Sch. Viji Bose won the third place in the 'On the Spot' essay competition conducted by JDV Students' Council. **Sch. Berchmans** was unanimously elected the Secretary of the JDV Students' Council.

Dwelling in the slums, **Schs. Pugazhendhi** and **C. Sebastian** are doing very well. Their residence that can hardly house them both and their companion, **Jesuraj** (DUM), overflows with children coming to attend their tuition classes. The Ghorpuri people are only too happy to have these neighbours who love their children and contribute their mite to their development.

Fr. Jeyaseelan Thomas Barnabas is now teaching Canon and Civil laws on Marriage for the JDV theologians. This year it appears that we are in for a terrible shortage of water as the monsoon has failed us.

V. Santosh

CLIVE'S HOUSE, TIRUCHI

On 19 June, **Fr. Paul Pragash** assumed office as the new Director of Clive's House. The same evening the community bade farewell to **Fr. Samuel Jeyaseelan**. We are indebted to him for having cared for Clive's for the past five years. In preparation for the feast of our Founder, we had a quiz programme which enabled the pre-novices to know St. Ignatius more deeply. The creative themes and presentation of the Novena to St. Ignatius by the pre-novices filled us with "his ignis". On the eve of the feast, we had a solemn Eucharistic Celebration followed by a cultural programme.

Gladwin

ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI

"A Fire that Kindles Other Fires" - the second decree of GC 35 was the theme of our monthly recollection which was meaningfully conducted by **Fr. Boniface Panna**, a delegate of GC 35 from Satya Nilayam. The faith-sharing session we usually have on recollection days builds and vitalizes our community life. **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** was unanimously elected President of the Tamil Theological Association in the recently held seminar at Tiruchi. Hearty congrats to him. **Schs. G. Joseph Ignaci** and **Maria Packiam**, the student representatives also attended the seminar. Faith formation as the focus of a one-day retreat to the Catholic students of Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur was ably guided by the scholastics. It was well appreciated by the Headmaster and his team. The news reached the other end of Tamil Nadu and the scholastics were invited to preach a one-day retreat to the students of St. Xavier's HSS, Thoothukudi. On their way to Adaikalapuram for a field-based course on the *Theology of the Laity* under the able guidance of **Fr. X.D. Selvaraj** they gave a well-appreciated one-day retreat on 26th July. Hats off to the theologians.

Fr. Xavier Irudayaraj has been called to animate Children's Mass every Sunday in Royapettah. He was invited to motivate the teachers of the High School in SUSAIPURAM to be involved in building up Anbiam Communities.

Following a field-based course in Adaikalapuram, the scholastics attended a week-long seminar-cum-workshop on *Meaning Systems of the Subaltern Cultural Soil* at FRRC, Palayamkottai. After the course they left for the Rural and Urban Immersions for first

and second years respectively. Meaningful preparatory sessions were conducted to the immersion programme and representatives from different NGOs and Movements were invited to share about their mission among the marginalized.

As the scholastics were out of Arul Kadal for the feast of St. Ignatius the Community advanced the celebration to 24th July. The celebration was aptly preceded by well-prepared novena days incorporating the themes of GC 35. The parish priests of our weekly socio-pastoral involvement areas in Chengalpattu diocese, the NGOs, the clergy and the religious of our neighbouring communities, collaborators and co-workers were introduced to our "Vision and Mission" through a meaningful prayer service on GC 35. **Fr. Raj Irudaya** highlighted the import of collaboration with clergy, laity and other religious congregations to make the GC 35 visible.

G. Victor Roch

FROM ARUL KADAL TO VIDYAJYOTI

From 15th April to 15th May we the five third year theologians had South Zone Pre-ordination Programme (POP) at Anekal, Karnataka RTC. Fourteen theologians participated in it. Under the able directorship of **Fr. Ralph da Costa** POP was well organized so as to meet the expectations of the Society in the vision of saintly **Father Pedro Arrupe**. Reflections on Ignatian Spirituality, Arrupe's letter on POP and affective maturity, workshop on Intensive Journal, classes on priesthood and Jesuit priesthood and talks on social and intellectual apostolates were the constitutive elements of the programme. These were handled by experts from Karnataka Province. A retreat guided by **Frs. Frederick D'Silva** and **Mohan** helped us towards deeper reflection and prayer. **Fr. Anil D'Mello** and his team deserve appreciation for their meticulous planning and hard work to provide us with sumptuous food amidst their hectic summer camp, catechism camp and parish feast.

We had a twelve-day course at Ranipet from 16th May to 27th May. Our sincere thanks to **Fr. Guna** and his team of teachers for coaching us in software skills. This was followed by a week-long workshop on computer hardware for us the five third year theologians and six regents at Karumathur by **Fr. Francis Xavier Raj**. It was well appreciated for we were taught to assemble a computer and upload windows. All the computers worked, after we had dismantled and reassembled them! This has made us hardware literates. May Fr. Francis Xavier Raj's mission of 'creating hardware literates' be beneficial to many!

In Bihar we had a month-long Hindi course. It was a *gurukul* experience. We stayed with **Fr. Jose Chirackal** of Patna Archdiocese in his presbytery at Masouri. He with his expertise in Hindi enthusiastically taught us to speak, read and write in Hindi. The trust he placed in us and the encouragement he gave us helped the three of us read the Gospel in the parish church on Sundays. A visit to Bodh Gaya and the Jesuit Institutions of Patna widened our horizon of mission. **Fr. Britto Peter**, our PCF, accepting our

suggestions made all arrangements for making the summer beneficial. We do appreciate and welcome his accompaniment in our growth.

The third year theology started with a day of orientation at the Jesuit Residence and a day of inaugural sessions at the College. The inaugural address by **Mr. Manoranjan Mohanti** on 'People's Movement' set the tone for the academic year 2008 – 2009. **Fr. M. Amaladoss'** course on Integral Mission gave us a homely start to classes at Vidyajyoti. Theologising at VJ is twinned with our involvement in various apostolates. We have been entrusted with mission work at Jantar Mantar, Janata Colony, Morigate and RK Puram. We have also volunteered for retreat and orientation ministry for school children and teachers.

Fr. S. Arokiasamy participated in the 13th colloquium of bishops and theologians at NBCLC, Bangalore, and presented a paper on 'Moral Law and Justice' in early July.

D. Inigo

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

Fr. Maria Joseph Mahalingam pronounced his Last Vows in the Society on the 28th June at a concelebrated Mass presided over by **Fr. A. Victor**. His narrative in chaste Tamil on his conversion to Catholicism and his subsequent joining the Jesuit Order could serve as meaningful lessons on discernment.

The scholastics of the 2nd block of the hostel through well-prepared and effectively-conducted prayers inspired and instructed the participants at the Evening Prayer service on days before the Feast on 31st.

The Kovalam Community College Convocation took place on 22nd July. The International Conference on Mathematics and Computer Sciences was on 25th and 26th July. **Fr. Muthumalai** was the Guest of Honour at the Melody of Joy, an extraordinary musical and cultural event on 27th July that provided a platform for exhibiting the talents of the spastic, the physically and mentally retarded and orphan children numbering 600, arranged by the city college students with the major contribution by the Loyola Outreach Department under the leadership of **Fr. Xavier Vedam**.

Fr. P. Christie, on 26th July successfully conducted the Convocation 2008. The Chief Guest **Dr. Gurucharan Das** referred to the two virtues, dedication and humility that should characterise the manager today.

On the occasion of the celebration to mark the arrival of the 25th Ph.D. student, the Physics department invited as Chief Guest **Fr. J. Inchakal**, former Principal and Secretary.

Fr. P. Francis Xavier, on invitation from the organizers of Metanexus Institute, attended an international conference in Madrid (July 12th to 16th) on: 'Subject, Self, and Soul – Transdisciplinary Approaches to Personhood'.

On 22nd and 23rd July **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** served as a UGC member to assess Dr. Ambedkar Central University, Lucknow for the 11th Plan grant. He was a resource person at the Conference of Open University Vice Chancellors and Directors of Distance Education Centres organized by IGNOU on 1st July.

Fr. P.Susai, the hostel warden reports that an enthusiastic student community participated in the concelebrated Mass presided over by **Fr. K.Amal**, Rector on the eve of the Freshers' Day. On 17th July, during the Freshers' Day celebrations, **Dr. P.Sagayaraj**, Dean of Sciences, the chief guest, motivated the freshers (numbering 520) to be task oriented. **Fr. K. Amal** and **Fr. N. Casimir Raj**, a former Loyola hostel director blessed and declared open respectively the renovated mess hall on 30th July.

Fr. A.G. Leonard addressed the Students Islamic Organisation Conference on the topic "Social Justice and Education Sector" at Periyar Thidal, Chennai on 20th July.

Fr. Ignacimuthu has been appointed a member of the Planning Board of Alagappa University by the Governor for a period of three years.

A.G. Leonard

LOYOLA TRAINING CENTRE, RANIPET

With young energetic students, we started the new academic year on 23rd July. **Fr. Joseph Antony Jacob** gave an orientation to the new students on 27th July. We continue to pray for **Fr. Vedanayagam** who joined the Community after convalescing for a while.

The surprise visit of **Fr. Joe Ubelmesser** gladdened us all. He was very much impressed by the students' mini entertainment programme. He had a bird's view of our work in the campus. Practical exams of TNOU were held on 19th and 20th July for 22 students.

Arul Oli

DHYANA ASHRAM CHENNAI

Fr. J. Thamburaj guided an eight-day retreat for JMJ Sisters in Dhyana Ashram. **Fr. James Rodrigues** organised a talk on St Paul by **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** for the Dhyana Ashram Community. Arul Kadal Community members participated at the interaction and a fellowship meal that followed. There was a shared homily on the characteristic features of St Ignatius' personality during a Community Mass as a preparation for the feast of St Ignatius. **Fr. Jerry** had three programmes for Tamil-speaking parishioners of the Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur especially for the lay-collaborators and women leaders. He facilitated the GC 35 retreat for thirty Jesuits of the region of Malaysia-Singapore. He had a three-day seminar for the MTh students on 'Current Socio-Political Challenges' at St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore. He gave a leadership programme on 20th July coinciding with the World Youth Day (WYD) in Australia for the youth of the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore.

The Dhyana Ashram Community organized a seminar for the Ignatian/Jesuit collaborators on 26th July, when Fr Jerry explained in limpid style the gist of the GC 35 documents. It was followed by Eucharist and tea.

J. Thamburaj

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

'That a man on a mission listens to the Word of God, learns the strategies to communicate it without delay, loves the Lord ardently and graciously leads his flock to the Father' is the gist of an inspiring talk given by **Fr. A. Victor** as an essential part of the community orientation programme.

On 11th July the school campus was in a festive mood, with the students wearing colourful group uniforms. **Fr. Gerlin** and his team deserve our praise and appreciation as they gave the 14th School Sports Day, a professional touch, preceded by a month-long preparation involving strenuous work. The Arul Kadal scholastics under the leadership of **Fr. Raj Irudaya** provided a spiritual treat for our Christian students on 12th July.

On the 13th July **Fr. Joe Ubelmesser** the former German mission procurator made a casual visit and celebrated Holy Mass in English. Later during the cultural evening he congratulated the hostel students on the formation imparted and received. On the 20th July **Fr. Yesumarian** gave a talk on the "Dalit Reality" to the LIBA students attending a rural exposure programme. **Fr. K. Arockiam** of Pappanallur is the Principal of the newly started Loyola Nursery School named DAWN.

Gnanam

ST. PETER'S H.S. SCHOOL, VIRAGALUR

Three hundred girl students danced to the tune of Vande Matharam in rhythm which was a great attraction on the Sports Day. Nearly two thirds of the student population participated in the mass drill, pyramids, gymnastics, asanas and other events which were very much appreciated by the President of the day. All glory and honour goes to **Fr.B. Anandanathan**, Headmaster.

One week of cultural programme brought out the creative spirit of the students; also the personality development programme drew many students to it.

Felix Joseph

ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

To bring out the latent multifarious talents of our students, a cultural week was organized in the first week of July. Students participated enthusiastically in all the competitions. **Mr.Raj Kumar**, film director, distributed the prizes to the winners on the final day.

The staff of the elementary school and higher secondary school together took part in the two days' orientation programme, organized by the SEC on 11th and 12th and benefited much from all the sessions.

The birth anniversary of **Mr.Kamaraj** was celebrated as Education Development Day in our

school. **Mr.M.P Kuppusamy**, Principal, Adhithanar College, Tiruchendur and **Mr.R.Natarajan**, retired Principal, G.T.N.Arts College, Dindigul, both our alumni, spoke highly of his dedication and commitment to the welfare of the downtrodden in Tamil Nadu.

Our 10th and 12th Std. students with our staff and Jesuits went as usual to the Church of St. Ignatius in Anandarayankottai on 28th. Everyone was edified and enthused by the spiritual fervour exhibited during the pilgrimage.

Environment festival was celebrated in our school on 29th. The Hon'ble Minister **Mr.I.Periasamy** inaugurated all the annual environmental action plans. He also released 10 books, written by **Fr.S.M. John Kennedy**. There are many ecological activities planned to be carried out in the school this year.

Our alumni association organized an interschool seminar on environmental awareness. About 1000 students from nine neighbouring schools participated in this seminar. **Mr. Nammalwar**, noted environmentalist was the resource person.

We celebrated our Founder's feast on 30th in the school assembly. **Fr. Dhanaraj** spoke on the illustrious qualities of our Founder during his presidential address.

S.M. John Kennedy

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

On 1st June, in a simple but meaningful ceremony, **Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj** took over the Rectorship from Fr. Stephen Kulandai, who was profusely thanked for all his services during the past three years during which he had to do a very difficult job especially in the legal and financial areas, solving many problems very successfully. Later Fr. Jebamalai conducted a one-day seminar on "Women and Reservation" for the AICUF students at Nanakudi and also gave an orientation course to our teachers at Oriyur and Devakottai.

A new pastors' team with **Fr. Mount Joe** as the head and Frs. Anthony Samy and Bastian as his assistants took over the pastoral responsibilities of the Cathedral parish from **Fr. Felix Joseph** and **Fr. Stephen L. Pragasam**, who were also thanked very much in the presence of the V.F. for all their zeal with which they served their flock during the past years. **Fr. Vincent Amalraj** as the new Headmaster, with his able assistant Fr. Stephen L. Pragasam began the academic year. **Fr.R.Irudayaraj** has joined the community to take up spiritual ministry in and around Madurai. Unfortunately **Fr. Emmanuel Raj** met with a minor accident involving a leg injury while crossing the road at Chennai. He was operated upon and is recuperating satisfactorily.

On 7th and 8th July, the visitation of the Provincial highlighted the various aspects of our life and mission according to the spirit of GC 35. Particular emphasis was laid on fostering different kinds of leadership. As a follow-up of the Provincial's visitation, the Community had a very enjoyable and useful orientation programme for two days under the able leadership of **Fr. Joseph Antony Samy** of St.

Joseph's, Tiruchi, in a very calm and prayerful atmosphere at the retreat centre at Nilakottai.

The Cathedral parish celebrated the annual Eucharistic procession which not only brought spiritual graces upon the people but also a heavy shower of rain which was the need of the hour.

The Freshers' Day and the Cultural Night marked the events of Britto Hostel which has newly-built additional halls. The newcomers to the hostel exhibited their artistic and cultural talents that will be very useful during the centenary celebrations of the school.

This year specially marks a glorious chapter in the history of St. Mary's H.S. School as it is going to celebrate the Centenary Year of its existence and its yeomen service to thousands of people of this region. The inaugural function of the five month-long celebration began on 27th July under the presidentship of our Provincial and in the presence of Thiru. **P. Perumalsamy**, the Director of School Education Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, who eulogized the remarkable service rendered by Jesuits especially in the field of secondary and higher education. The organizing committee has drawn up a series of programmes to make the Centenary Celebrations a memorable event and the local press also brought out a synopsis of the same.

M.S. Bastian

LATI, MADURAI

Fr. Provincial's presence enlivened us during his annual visit to LATI.

Madurai Community College commenced on 21st July and the inaugural function was presided over by **Fr. Maria Louis**, the Asst. Director of MCC.

On 19th July the students of Loyola ITI bade farewell to their Principal and staff and expressed their deep and sincere gratitude for helping them in their growth during the two preceding years.

On 26th July Madurai Community College had its Governing Body Meeting presided over by Fr. Provincial. The Board members drew attention to the current trend in vocational training and its challenges to society. The students of Loyola ITI successfully completed the All India Trade Examination on 26th July.

We made the novena to St. Ignatius with different themes reflecting on the Ignatian vision of the cyber world, along with the students of Loyola hostel who creatively decorated and made our novena vibrant and vivacious.

On 27th July we had solemn celebration of the feast of our Founder in anticipation with our lay collaborators, priests, religious, staff and students. We distributed the booklets on GC 35 written by **Fr. Jerry**.

I. Inigo

ST. ARULANANDAR, ORIYUR

The 61st Anniversary of the canonization of St. John de Britto, was celebrated on a modest scale at our Shrine. **Fr. A. Wilson** from Devakottai hoisted the

flag and presided over the Concelebration. As a special venture "Annathanam" (free meal) was arranged; nearly two thousand persons were fed.

By way of preparing the pilgrims and the parishioners, a one-day charismatic retreat, was conducted by **Prof. Philip** and **Prof. Immaculate** from Nagercoil and it was well received.

The **Most Rev. Edward Francis**, Emeritus Bishop of Sivagangai, presided over the Feast Day Mass and a beautiful homily was preached by **Fr. V. George**, our Asst. P.P. "Ananda Cultural Troupe", newly formed by Oriyur Parish, gave a short but sumptuous cultural performance, followed by MELODY Orchestra.

Silver Jubilee of Marriage was celebrated at parish level on the occasion of the Canonization Feast. Eighteen couples participated in the special Liturgy and were given mementos. **Fr. A. Arockiasamy**, Secretary, Ananda College, Devakottai, was the Chief Guest.

In order to mark the Ignatian month, July, a small team of our parishioners started to make the 19th Annotation Retreat under the direction of **Fr. Matthew Moollel** and are continuing. The Vicariate level Family Welfare Movement conducted a daylong workshop at our Shrine guided by **Fr. Marivalan**. About seventy members participated in it actively.

We greeted **Fr. Jerome Kulandaisamy** who professed his final vows. It was a special occasion of grace for us to have Fr. Provincial in our community for his visitation.

We had our community orientation on 12th of July at Gansoville. **Fr. A. Stanislaus** enlightened us on the documents of GC 35. Jesuit Fathers and Brothers, the Staff and the X and XII Std. Catholic students went on a pilgrimage to **Karkathakudi** on 26th of July. It was a fitting occasion for us to share the joy of our Founder's feast day with a day of recollection on 27th of July for the nearby religious communities.

Ishak arock

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

An orientation programme was organized for the community. Fr. Provincial was with us on 26th and 27th June. His presence made us feel happy. His words of appreciation boosted us to continue the educational work in the spirit of magis. **Fr. Joseph Nedungatt** is busy preaching retreats to several groups and he preached a five-day retreat from 7th to 14th of June to the Daughters of St. Paul in Mumbai. We wish him all the best in animating the spiritual guidance of the Sivaganga diocesan priests. Parents' Meet was held on 12th July and **Fr. A. Wilson**, the Headmaster, highlighted the necessity of quality education for children and he also made the parents understand the need for academic fee collection. **Fr. S.M. Kennedy**, along with a team enthused the school staff by an orientation programme on the 18th and 19th in Amaithiyagam. The staff participation was very good and enriching.

M.F. Kennedy

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

In an attempt to rediscover and revitalize its mission and functions, the Carmel Jesuit Community gathered on the 8th July, for a prayerful sharing. Each member had the vision of his mission and functions for the next year elucidated, while the Community had the same for the next month, particularly for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and of our founder, St. Ignatius. As a preparation for the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the patron of our school, the flag was hoisted on 14 July followed by a concelebrated Mass at the grotto. The next day a novena Mass was celebrated for students and staff in the Church.

On the 16th, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the **Most Rev. Remigius**, Bishop of Kottar, presided over a concelebrated Mass, at 6.30 am and enthused all with an inspiring homily. More than 250 guests were welcomed at the school hall for the festive breakfast. The school band played a solemn welcome music. On 24th July **Br. Paul Chinnappan's** power point programme at the National Symposium on Devasahayam Pillai was very much appreciated. In right earnest we started on the 21st, preparing for the feast of our Holy Founder, St. Ignatius, with Community novena prayers.

On the 25th, as usual we went on a pilgrimage to the Church of St. Ignatius, at Ramanathichanputhur. We offered a concelebrated Mass for the village congregation in the evening, presided over by our Superior **Fr. PS. Arul. Fr. Francis Xavier**, preached an eloquent homily. The feast of St. Ignatius was celebrated on the 31st, with the Bishop of Kottar, presiding over the Mass, concelebrated by over 20 priests, at 11 am. We were happy to listen to a touching homily on St. Ignatius by the Bishop. The guests felicitated the Jesuits at dinner.

S.M. Arockiam

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

It was a historical moment in AAC when a *Touch Screen* for Life-long Learning (L3) for farmers was inaugurated and *Britto Bioinformatics Centre* was established to realize the agreement between the Common Wealth of Learning and Arul Anandar College. The farmers from the neighbouring places were present during the inauguration and learnt to use the *Touch Screen* that gave them valuable and latest information on agriculture.

On 16th July **Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj**, was the chief celebrant of the Mass of the Holy Spirit. The Bridge course was completed after 15 working days for the first year UG students. The inauguration of PG courses was held on 14th and **Fr. Stephen Rodrigo**, the special invitee, felicitated and blessed the first year PG students. Inauguration of the All Academic Association was held on 22nd for the aided and the self-financed courses separately. **Mr. V.K. Sanjeev**, General Manager of BSNL, inaugurating the A.A. Association of the aided courses recalled his memorable days as a student of AAC. **Mr. T. Ravi**, former President of MADITSSIA, inaugurated the A.A.

Association of the self-financed courses and motivated the students to become professionals.

On 18th the Students' Union election was held and the College used for the first time the electronic system for voting. The news was flashed in the dailies and was appreciated by all. To the elected representatives of the A.A. Association classes were given to develop their soft skills and become efficient leaders. The department of Applied Psychology took a lead in this training programme.

It was a special occasion for the Community to have our Provincial with us from 27th to 30th July for the visitation. The "Loyola Cup -2008" of the volleyball tournament was well conducted with the primary aim of deepening the relationship among the religious Congregations in and around Karumathur.

Fr. Vincent Sekhar presented a paper on *Stereotyping and Prejudgments* about our religious neighbour in a National Seminar at National College, Tiruchi. On 5th and 6th July, **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** facilitated a two-day session for the SEVA Missionary Sisters in preparation for their Chapter.

D.A. Stephen

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated on 4th July in the College church. **Fr. Lazar**, the Rector was the main celebrant. On the same day, we had a three-in-one function: welcoming of the freshers, investiture ceremony of the office bearers of the students' council and the inauguration of the activities of the Fine Arts Association.

The second week of July was memorable for book lovers of Tiruchi. They could witness the release of seven books on different subjects with interesting titles on the College campus. Notable among them was the book titled "Tholkappiyar and Northrop Frye: a comparative study" by **Mr. S. P. Benjamin Elango**. The Valanar Tamil Peravai of the College launched its activities for the current academic year by releasing three books. Also a biannual research Journal entitled "HERMES" was released on 11th July by **Dr. K. Chellapan**, on behalf of the Department of English.

A one-day leadership training seminar was conducted for all the class representatives of Shifts I and II on 18th July. The annual pilgrimage by the Jesuit Community, the staff and students of the College to the Holy Redeemer's Basilica was on 22nd July with the usual piety and devotion.

The football team of the College, won the State level championship in the tournament held from July 6-14th at Sattur. St. Joseph's Institute of Management (JIM) was solemnly dedicated to the patronage of St. Joseph on 18th July. A statue of the Saint was installed in front of the institute and was blessed by Fr. Lazar. Thanks to the efforts of **Fr. K.A. Augustine**, the school Percussion Band was revived and the boys' maiden performance on the occasion of the pilgrimage to the Holy Redeemer's Basilica was a cynosure of the pilgrims and the parishioners. Kudos to the four students of the College Band who have been selected

for the Tamil Nadu State Police Band and to one selected for the Navy Band of the Defence Services of the Central Government!

Five Ph.D scholars under the guidance of **Fr. John Britto Bonaventure** defended their Ph.D theses in June. Currently Fr. John Britto Bonaventure is engaged in two national network research projects: assessment of Carbon Pool in Tamil Nadu forests, sponsored by the Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehra Dun and the other project is on the national level documentation and preparation of Passport Data on rare, endangered and threatened medicinal plants of Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH) and National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi. The Anglade Institute at Shembaganur is stepping into the 25th year of environmental awareness generation.

In a recent interview to the New Indian Express, **Fr. R. Rajarathinam**, our Principal has rightly pointed out the impact of globalisation on our present day educational system. It has resulted in the gradual decline of conventional courses. To meet the demand for job-oriented courses, the College has introduced "Add on Courses" by which students of any stream could earn an additional certificate or diploma in a job-oriented course simultaneously with the regular curriculum. Seeing the growing importance and demand for communication skills in English, the College has increased the duration of the bridge course to a full semester. The College campus will have 30 Chinese students by the first week of August. They will be given English language training for about a year before they are inducted into the regular academic stream. The College has now an international office in a separate building to cater to the needs of foreign students and to firm up its linkages with foreign universities.

Louis Xavier

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

ICRDCE organized a day's Consultation for all the Community Colleges in Tamil Nadu to discuss the GO of Tamil Nadu on the 3rd July. **Dr. Palanichamy**, the Vice Chancellor and other officials of Tamil Nadu Open University, **Mr. Ganesan**, IAS, Secretary, Higher Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu participated in the Consultation. Ninety-four participants from 76 Community Colleges contributed their valuable insights and suggested a few modifications to the GO which were well accepted by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

Fr. Xavier Alphonse was a special invitee at the *Pan Commonwealth Conference (PC5)* organized by Commonwealth of Learning in collaboration with the University of London from the 14th to 17th of July. He chaired a session in which there were 7 presenters from different countries. The theme of the Conference was Education for Livelihood in which 729 participants from 73 Commonwealth countries participated.

ICRDCE organized in collaboration with Madhya Pradesh Seva Samaj Sanstha a two-day workshop on the Community College System at Bhopal on the 24th and 25th of July in which representatives from 14 dioceses of Madhya Pradesh and Chattishgarh

participated. We hope to have a few more Community Colleges by June 2009.

Xavier Alphonse

DACA, MADURAI

The 6th batch of DACA's computer and tailoring students appeared for exams conducted by the government on June 26 and 27. The first year students of teacher training institute had their annual exam from 26 to 29 of June.

The Zonal and Regional coordinators of SHG (Self Help Groups) and ESC (Evening Study Centres) came to DACA for their monthly meeting on 27 of June and made a yearly plan for each region.

It was a happy occasion for us when Fr. Provincial visited DACA on July 9. His visitation boosted us to move further with greater enthusiasm. Our Province regents had their recollection in DACA on 12th July guided by **Fr. P. Antoniraj**.

Ninety newcomers were admitted for computer, tailoring and teacher training courses. **Sch. S. Packiaraj** gave a two-day orientation programme for the computer and tailoring students. We extended a hearty welcome to **Fr. Vazhapilly Francis** the new campus treasurer. Ceyrac Medical Foundation (CMF) is busy conducting medical camps villages in and around Madurai.

S. Packiaraj

IDEAS, MADURAI

Silver Jubilee Year Inauguration! IDEAS, the first social institute of Madurai province, will be completing its 25th year on 20th Sept. 2009. A proud moment it was for us to inaugurate the Jubilee Year on 27th July with Eucharistic celebration in the company of religious women and men, social activists. As has been the annual practice of holding a two-day workshop for them on the eve of St. Ignatius' Feast, around 40 religious from 13 Congregations responded to our invitation for a solidarity gathering on 26 and 27 July to reflect on "Social Action Ministry of Religious in Tamil Nadu: Mapping for the Future". The simple and meaningful function of installing in our chapel the portrait of *Our Lady of the Way*, to whom St. Ignatius had a special devotion, marked the Jubilee Inauguration.

Preceding this memorable event were the training programmes held in the campus for 46 widows from KALANGARAI on social analysis on 04 and 05 July, for 34 persons from different Dalit movements and NGOs on legal literacy from 17 to 21 July, and at Villupuram for 35 *Thurumbars* of *Puthirai Vannar Iyakkam* on cultural analysis on 12 and 13 July. Organized by Social Action Coordinator **Fr. Eugene**, the Fifth Annual Meet of our Lay Co-workers from eight social centres was hosted by IDEAS on 23 and 24 July. **Sch. S. Packiaraj** introduced the two-day programme. Copies of **Fr. Jerry's** booklet on GC 35 were distributed to them with explanation. **Frs. Anbarasan, Michael Raj, Stephen** and **Eugene** responded to the many questions raised in the Meet. Having shared information about the various

programmes run in their respective social centres and discovering that they had much to learn from one another, the 20 participants felt happy to have had this opportunity to renew their friendship and experience a sense of belonging. The Inigo month of July came to a close with a staff dinner on 30th and a homely Eucharistic celebration on 31st.

Hearty congrats to **Sch. Arul Durai** for having passed through successfully the rigours of a written exam and an interview and securing admission in the Madurai Institute of Social Sciences! Subsequent to the earlier order he received for his book *eprrakhf elq;fS k; rhj i d kfs pH* published in 2000, **Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj** is now once again in the spotlight! Kudos to him for the recent order he received from the TN Directorate of Libraries for 1000 books each of his three publications in 2006 to be distributed to all the district libraries in the State: *j fty; ngWk; c hpi kr; r l; k;*, 2005: *Nfs; tpfS k; gj py; fS k;*, *l xJ f; fPL k;*, *l Hg; ghLfS k;* and *thf; fhs g; ngUk; fNS!* **Fr. Aloysius Irudayam** was away in Guwahati on 22 and 24 July to attend a workshop on networking among NGOs working with Dalits, women and tribals in the north-east region and in the rest of India.

Aloysius Irudayam

THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

Fr. Gabriel Lawrence had arranged monthly recollections for the sisters belonging to the neighbouring religious communities. 15 sisters benefited from the recollection.

Fr. Korko Moses conducted a three day retreat for lay people at Chennai. He visited Asha Niketans in Chennai and Bangalore to guide the volunteer Assistant working there. He also participated in the Tamil Nadu Ashram Aikya meeting in Coimbatore along with **Fr. Maria Jeyaraj**.

Fr. Rex Pai preached a six day discernment retreat for 18 sisters belonging to different religious congregations. **Frs. Gabriel Lawrence and Chacko** also participated in the retreat. Our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Rex Pai for his inspiring example and guidance.

C. Valiaveetil

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

A new batch of 17 tertians arrived on June 4 from 12 Jesuit Provinces including one from Poland.

After a prolonged struggle, the Paliyars of Kumparaiyur and Valaigiri with the guidance of PEAK and the help of government officials got their community certificate. The outgoing peak regent **Sch. Innacimuthu** had taken much pain to help the tribals in this effort. The certificates were distributed by Mr. I. Periyasamy, Minister of Revenue and Law at the Flower Show inaugural function in the Briant Park. The tribal people also had a celebration on 22 June in Valaigiri to thank all those who had helped them in this struggle.

We bade farewell to **Br. Augustine** and **Sch. Innacimuthu** for their selfless and dedicated service to the Community and PEAK Team, and warmly

welcomed **Frs. George Thottungal, Michael Alosanai, Schs. Vargheesh** and **James**.

The Community had its orientation on June 26, reflecting on the identity and mission of the Sacred Heart College.

On June 29 the community was in a festive mood; we celebrated fifty and seventy years in the Society of **Fr. AMA Samy** and **Br. Mariasusai** respectively. Jesuits, Sisters, relatives, friends and well-wishers came in good numbers to wish and honour the Jubilarians with shawls. Thanks to **Fr. Kulandaisamy**, who made this day a memorable one. The tertians had their long retreat under the able guidance of **Fr. D. Jeyaraj** and **Fr. Michael Alosanai**.

More than 180 members of the Catholic Health Association of Tamil Nadu (CHAT) were present in S.H. College on 18 and 19 July for their annual meeting when the **Most. Rev. Remigius**, the Ecclesiastical Advisor of CHAT graced the meeting.

The long-awaited dream of PEAK Team was finally realized in the form of AMBEDKAR (mKNgj :fh) a magazine, in the name of Kodaimalai Ambedkar Unorganized and Construction Workers Welfare Union. It will be an instrument to bring out the talents of the target people in Kodai hills. On 23 July we had a recollection conducted by Fr. Michael Alosanai on Ignatius' passion, vision and mission.

James

KARISAL KADUTHASI

KARISAL team marches ahead with its new team leader, **Fr. Anbarasan**.

Fr. Provincial's visitation on July 10 gave us new enthusiasm and vigour to our involvement in mission. **Fr. Kingsley** is back to KARISAL after his medical treatment at Madurai. He had a bad fracture in his right hand owing to a bike accident in the month of May. Now he is getting better. **Fr. Michaelraj** is recovering from *Typhoid* fever. **Sch. Vincent** attended the *Colloquium of Social activists* held at IDEAS on July 26-27.

Our health unit conducted a medical camp at *Thotiapatti* on July 27. Karisal organized a one-day seminar on '*Women Empowerment*' at Rajapalayam on July 6 under the able coordination of our field workers. In addition, our field workers participated in the training programmes on '*Empowering Dalits through Law*' and '*The GC 35 towards Co-workers*' conducted in IDEAS from July 17 to 21 and from 23 to 24 respectively.

Mutham Illam shines with a new batch of students who are taking up the first midterm test. Our Media Unit is busy making a docu-film on '*Arunthathiar-Ul-Ida-othukkeedu*'.

M. Vincent

LAAS ILLAM, MADURAI

Fr. Stephen Kulandai has joined LAAS. **Fr. Jeyaseelan** has gone to Pune to enlighten the third year theologians of the JDV regarding Marriage Laws.

Fr. Philomin Raj held a one-day programme for 50 unorganized youths in Coimbatore district in June with the help of the Arunthathiyar Munnetra Munnani. Many youths who recently came out of the RSS movement participated in the programme and their sharing on how and why they got out of the movement was a great awakening to the entire youth force in Coimbatore. In another programme sponsored by IDEAS at Oddanchathiram, **Fr. Philomin Raj** explained how to make use of the "Right to Information Act" to a group of 50 men and women from different villages. A five-day Legal Awareness Programme organized for the Dalit field workers at IDEAS brought them much hope to function without fear. The programme was meticulously designed to suit their needs.

Fr. Philomin raj pronounced his final vows on 13th July at LAAS Illam.

We obtained an order from the Madurai Bench in favour of 22 Dalit families residing at Sivaganga district for the issuance of patta. For the past 4 years they were facing eviction at the hands of the Revenue Department. This order was of great relief and a boon to them.

In another case we got an interim order through which 6 families of bonded labour have been rescued from Maharashtra from the clutches of two factory owners. In the same Habeas Corpus petition we got yet another interim order for the constitution of a team consisting of high level police officials to go to Maharashtra to rescue another group of 25 Arunthathiyar families kept in bondage. All these families are from Sivakasi.

Fr. A.Santhanam got an order in a very complicated domestic violence case in favour of a woman against her brother. The court ordered payment of Rs. 5000/- per month to her for maintenance.

Philomin Raj

KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

Forty leaders of '**Widows' Movement for Livelihood Rights**' took part in a three-day training on Social Analysis and Leadership, organized in IDEAS, Madurai. 'Kumutham Reporter' a biweekly magazine picked up the event and brought out a two-page write-up lauding the innovative effort in organizing widows as a force. Towards the end of the training programme, the first issue of 'tj i tapd; FKwy;' a magazine carrying the plight of widows was released. Congrats to **Sr.Vinnarasi** who took the lead in bringing out the long-awaited magazine.

As part of Fr. Provincial's visitation held on 14th July, the Jesuit team along with its collaborators had a fruitful interaction with him regarding the future ministries at Nagapattinam in which Fr. PCF too was present.

The inaugural function of St. Joseph's Community College (SJCC) for the current academic year - for the fourth batch of students - was held on 12th July. Two of our industrial partners and three of our old students shared about the fruits of meaningful training given at

SJCC. The good news is that all our students who completed their diploma courses are placed in jobs in Chennai and Puducherry.

On 29th July, the Jesuit team and the collaborating Sisters had a one-day recollection on the decrees of GC 35 at Vailanganni, as a preparation for the feast of St. Ignatius. **Fr. A. Irudaya Raj** led the team. Prior to this he also preached a two-day retreat to students of St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai.

A. Irudaya Raj

JAAT EC MEETING

JAAT (Jesuit Alumni Associations of Tamil Nadu) was organized and sponsored by the Alumni Association of St. Mary's, Dindigul. Office bearers of all the associations, numbering about 100 participated in the daylong meeting. **Fr. Jerry** gave a lively presentation on the 'Deliberations of GC 35 and the role of the Alumni'.

ADDICTION AND RECOVERY

On 14th July, 105 participants of the Guest House Summer Conference on Addiction and Recovery were addressed by **Fr. Francis Jayapathy**. He spoke on The Trauma of Addiction of Catholic Priests and the Role of Church Leadership. The talk highlighted the peculiar problems of alcoholic clergy in India and specifically the cultural responses to addiction. He called for continuing efforts to educate the Church leadership on the nature of addiction, which is a brain disease, and ways of dealing with the addicts. The Conference participants were mostly Priests and Brothers of the Church in USA. Among them were two Jesuit superiors, one from Boston and another from NewYork. The Conference was held in Minneapolis, USA.

Francis Jayapathy

FROM THE "SJS HEADLINES" (ROME)

☛ In the Kandhamal district of Orissa, a State which saw acts of violence against Christians in December 2007, fighting broke out anew on 8 July. Sparked by reports that a cow had been killed by Dalits who habitually eat beef, around fifteen men from the town attacked the local Jesuit residence. A local Jesuit **Fr. Antony Raj** reports: "[They] destroyed both the gates, entered the premises and broke a Cross in the chapel, beheaded the statue of St. Ignatius of Loyola and threw the liturgical books and the Bible out. They also broke a few windows, two cabinets, a washbasin and a refrigerator in the residence and spread the rumour that there was beef in the fridge. They also stole things from three rooms that were not locked."

☛ In July ALBOAN, an NGO of the Loyola Province, presented its 2007 Annual Report, summarizing the work carried out last year, at various press conferences:

Ten million euros administered throughout the year and more than 180 projects in International Co-operation are some of the highlights worth mentioning regarding the work of ALBOAN in 2007. In addition, the number of people taking part in courses and

activities has tripled and ALBOAN has been encouraging more than 400 teachers to use ALBOAN's educational materials. The report also highlights ALBOAN's research in the areas of Education for Citizens, Decentralized Official Development Assistance and International Volunteering.

Regarding future challenges, the Annual Report emphasizes the need for more continuity among the organisation's volunteers, as well as the need for increasing the number of proposals so that local organizations can be more involved in development initiatives. Finally, it stresses the need for speeding up the growth of the grass roots movement.

☛ Two weeks ago, from 11 to 13 July, over 800 Catholics and other people of faith gathered in Philadelphia for a Convention for the Common Good, convened by Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, and NETWORK, a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby. This historic gathering brought together delegates from more than 20 Catholic social justice organizations and religious communities, including dozens of individuals from Jesuit schools, parishes, and sponsored ministries.

One goal of the Convention was to affirm the Platform for the Common Good that would then be signed by thousands of Catholics across the country and sent to both Presidential candidates prior to their conventions this summer. In an effort to strengthen the Ignatian family's work to promote the Common Good, the Ignatian Solidarity Network encourages you to read the Platform, share it with friends and family, and sign the document: www.votethecommongood.com. Catholics in Alliance and NETWORK are working to secure 10,000 signatures by mid-August. www.ignatiansolidarity.net.

☛ France: Véronique Antelme has been awarded a scholarship by the magazine Pèlerin (Pilgrim) to do a "Tour de France of the Suburbs". She is being supported by the Ignatian family, including the Jesuit community of Cergy.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Chettipuzha Stephen (KER) 76/56 on 16 July at Calicut

Mrs. Dhanaseeli (85) mother of Fr. Francis Jayapathy on 6 August at Ramapuram

b