

MINL DECEMBER 2005

*Fr. Provincial and the members of the Curia wish every one of you a meaningful **Christmas** and a promising **New Year**.*

“Look, I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my call and open the door, I will come in to you and have supper with you, and you with me.” Rev. 3:20.

May we keep our hearts and minds open for the Lord to be born and by his grace, to live the life of the Spirit.

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Contact Visits:

Dec	20	Arrival at Pune
	21	Pune: De Nobili College
	22	Arrival at Chennai
	23	Consult
	24-27	Chennai: Loyola College
	28	Chennai: Berchmans Illam
	29-30	Chennai: Arul Kadal & Satya Nilayam
	31	Chennai: Dhyana Ashram
Jan	01-02	Chennai Mission
	03-04	Dindigul
	04	Tiruchi: JRS - 25th Anniversary
	05	Ayyampalayam - Manalur
	06	Kodaikanal: SHC, Shembaganur
	07	Perumalmalai: 10th Anniversary of Bodhi Zendo & Palamalai
	08	Dindigul
	09	Oriyur
	10	Devakottai: De Britto
	11	Dindigul

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **POPE** has appointed:

Fr. Santiago Maria De La Rasilla (69) Peru Province, Apostolic Vicar of Jaen (Peru).

- **Fr. General** has appointed:

Fr. Peter Pappu (56) Provincial of Darjeeling Province.

- On November 14 Father General delivered a speech in Bologna where an exhibition of the art work of Father Giovanni Poggeschi (1905-1972) was opened. He was a prominent and recognized artist. Poggeschi's decision to join the Society of Jesus caused a great surprise in artistic and literary circles. As a Jesuit his main apostolate was among the university students, and as spiritual director in a Seminary. The topic of Father General's discourse was "The Jesuits and Art".

- In connection with Jubilee 2006, Father General has made a contribution towards the renovation of the La Storta chapel, a place held in great esteem by the Jesuits and the subject of a number of paintings.

- **Scholastics' Summer Camp:** If the team leaders and the directors of works need any scholastics, kindly contact the first year theologians at Arul Kadal. **Contact Person: Sch. Loyola**, Arul Kadal, 136, Santhome High Road, Chennai - 600 028. **Email:** loyolasj@jesuits.net

- **Please note the following changes** (in address, tel. no. etc.)

Fr. Rajarathinam has a new **cell** no: 9443059996 **email:** rajasjcppal@yahoo.co.uk

Fr.S. Arockiam has a new email: arockiams@hotmail.com

Br. Rayappan Susai (AAC) has a new cell no: 94420-35890

- Novice Bertram Godwinpaul Ignatius left the novitiate on 02 December 2005.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

VIDYANIKETAN, SICJ, THIRUVANANDAPURAM

Fr. L. X Jerome was with us from Oct 31 to Nov 4 exposing the power of the Mass Media and spoke about the film industry. Thanks to Fr L.X. Jerome for a fruitful film appreciation course. We had a wonderful celebration of the feast of St. John Berchmans, the patron saint of the juniors, with a good preparation of nine days' of novena and a Solemn High Mass on the Feast Day. On the same day we had 'Ghandhrava Mela', a singing competition where we had to sing a song in a language other than our own mother tongue. On this occasion Sch. Justin of our province, a budding pop star, grabbed a prize, judged as one of the three best singers of the day. Cheers to him! To relax ourselves we had a community picnic to Anjengo and Varkala beach on Nov 27. Along with fun and enjoyment we also spent the day with the coastal children studying at Loyola Study Centre run by the Kerala Jesuits.

Leo Anand

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

We began our II semester on 2nd November, after having refreshed ourselves and made our Triduum. Thanks to **Fr. Vincent Britto** who came along with **Prof. Sivasubramaniam** to give a course at JDV on Folkloristics and its challenges to Tamil Christianity. Both of them gave a detailed explanation on understanding folk, classical and popular streams of culture and on folklore's application for communication and conscientisation. Indeed this course made us feel proud of our Tamil culture and its richness and helped us go deeper into our roots.

BALMELA 2005 held at DNC on 12th November, grabbed the headlines of The Indian Express and of The Maharashtra Herald. The scholastics with their meticulous planning and execution made the children have a blast at DNC and offered them opportunities to explore beyond the confines of their homes. The innovative infotainment games, interschool science exhibition and cultural programme that day brought much fun to the children.

Fr. Paul Coutinho gave a course for four sessions on Ignatian Spirituality from 14th to 17th November. He instilled into us the spirit of our Holy Father by basing his talks on the Spiritual Exercises, St. Ignatius' mystical journal and testament.

Johnson.

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

Fr. Leo took part in the 13th Triennial Conference at Goa organized by the Church History Association of India. He presented a paper on 'A Hindu Catholic: Brahma Bandhab Upadhyay'. It was well appreciated by all. He also took part along with **Fr. Arokiasamy** in the symposium on 'Vatican II: A Gift and Task', organized by JDV, Pune.

The VJ campus wore a colourful look on 13th November when we conducted the BALMELA 2005 for the less privileged children in the neighbouring slums. It was heartening to see each one walking away with a gift. They thanked VJ for giving them the opportunity. If not VJ then who else.

Fr. C. Amal addressed the VJ College on 28th Nov. on 'War and Displacement'. He highlighted that displacement and poverty are due to the war-nature of globalization particularly in Third World countries and concluded that it is a challenge to the Church. He also appealed to us to respond positively to go as missionaries to African countries.

Gerlin

AIKIYA ALAYAM-ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI

Chennai Inter-Theologate Seminar (CITS 2005) was hosted by Arul Kadal on the issue of 'Leadership from Below' on 3rd November. Research papers were presented by the students of Theology from Gurukul, Sacred Heart Seminary, Department of Christian Studies of Madras University and Arul Kadal. Our warmest felicitations to Jacob and Pavalan for presenting papers on "Leadership from Unorganized Work Force." Needless to say that they came out with flying colours. Our profound gratitude to Louie and his team who by their magnificent service made this theological extravaganza memorable, joyful and successful.

We heartily appreciate **Fr. Jerry** for bringing out his 45th book 'Whisper With Fire' through which he tries to envisage a new definition of prayer by having a healthy tension with the struggles of the downtrodden.

'South Indian RTC Seminar - 2005' was held at Arul Kadal on 26th and 27th November. Staff and students from Kerala RTC and staff from Karnataka RTC participated and led us through well-animated and thought-provoking discussions. Thanks to all of them for zeroing in on our orientations for a better tomorrow of our mission in the Society of Jesus.

S. Baskar Antony

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

Our new magazine 'Verve' has been appreciated by many well-wishers and so the novices feel elated. We are grateful to all of them. After the Pastoral-Educational Experiment in Oriyur Parish, the senior novices were back home on 3 November. Sincere thanks to the Jesuit community of Oriyur for providing ample opportunities and facilities to the novices throughout their stay. They had a seven-day annual retreat, preached by **Fr. Singarayan**. After the junior and senior novices finished their retreats, they celebrated the feast of St. Stanislaus Kostka, the Patron of novices, in a grand manner. **Fr. Susai**, the Socius gave talks on the Bible to the Catholic teachers in three vicariates of Dindigul diocese. He participated in a consultation on dialogue, conducted by JCSA sacretariat in Ashirvad, Bangalore, regarding attitudes of people for human relationship & promotion. Fr. Dhanaraj delivered three lectures on the Bible to the staff and students of Madurai Kamaraj University.

The Sisters in CIS had their Ashram Experiment for eight days at Alandur, Tiruchi.

Gladwin

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

The community paid a prayerful visit to the tombs of **Frs. Decurio, SJ** and **Motieu, SJ** devoted missionaries who had laid down their lives in 1711 for the cause of the poor at Karuveppampooni, a village 10 km away from Uthiramerur.

With pomp, pageantry, colour and gaiety the Chennai Mission celebrated the 60th birthday of **Fr. Albert Joseph** on the 20th November.

Fr. Headmaster along with **Fr. Joe Xavier**, the A.H.M. visited nearly 300 students in their home-villages. Their friendly and inspiring visit has brought us closer to the struggles and aspirations of the people we serve.

Our senior girls volleyball team has done us proud by having won the divisional matches and got qualified to enter the State level matches.

"Know Thyself and Rule the World" was the profound message deeply imprinted on the hearts of nearly 90 LASAC students who attended a one-day camp here. **Sch. Wilson** ran the show elegantly, with creativity.

Leolin

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

The headmaster, Br. Kulandairaj Antony's arrangement of a series of retreats to the students of 8th, 9th, 10th, and 12th stds. has given them enough spiritual inspiration.

Our students went on a tour to Kerala and Mettupalayam Black Thunder and returned with delightful smiles. We express our sincere thanks to **Fr. Joe Arun** for enlightening us with a talk on 'Jesuit Identity'. His thought-provoking sharing gave us a powerful spur for better action.

Dominic

ST MARY'S, MADURAI

Former Archbishop **Marianus Arockiasamy** presided over the 325th birthday anniversary celebration of Beschi at St. Mary's H.S. School. A whole day was devoted to the study of Beschi and his impact on Tamil literature by **Fr. A. Lourdusamy**. A special assembly was organised for the students in the afternoon when Mr. Thembavani Thondar spoke eloquently on Beschi's life and his great role in Tamil Nadu. The president unveiled a beautiful picture of Beschi followed by a well appreciated "fjh fhyr;Nrgk;" by the talented Staff. Mr. Leoni with his wit and laughter made the

audience spellbound. **Frs.V.M. Gnanapragasam** and **Gualbert**, men behind the scene made the event ever memorable.

Deepavali and Ramzan festivals were celebrated in the school and hostel with enthusiasm and joy. A Muslim Imam and a Hindu councillor of the corporation honoured us with their presence during the special liturgy prepared for the day. **Fr. Wilson** conducted a month-long cultural festival and concluded it with a competition exhibiting the histrionic talents of the hostellers.

Felix Joseph

LTI MADURAI

Eight delegates from South African countries: Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Lesotho Kingdom visited Madurai Community College (MCC) on 17th November to learn about the community college systems in general and to get a field experience of the functioning of Madurai Community College in particular, so as to explore the possibility of having exchange programmes between India and Africa. The African visitors during their interaction session held discussions at various levels namely with students, staff, management and industrial partners of MCC. The meeting with the industrial partners was held in Pandyan Hotel in the presence of eight press people from various dailies.

Media Education and Value Education as part of the Life-Coping Skills are being given for the MCC students this year. with the help of the LASAC team which periodically conducts seminars on these themes.

Stephen J. Muthu was the resource person for the three-day perspective pastoral planning workshop of the diocese of Daltonganj attended by 25 Priests, 26 lay people and 41 Sisters. Moreover, at the request of an NGO, he made an on the spot assessment in a village in Jharkand to start a rural community college for the tribals.

On 11 November noon **Fr.M. Devadoss**, our New Provincial arrived at LTI Residence to have his contact visit. After meeting every member of the community, he left for DACA.

J.S. Jeyapathy

MCRDCE, CHENNAI

The MCRDCE organised at Chennai the 15th National Teachers' Training Programme for Community Colleges from the 7th to 12th of November 2005 in which 108 participants from 56 organisations participated. The programme was inaugurated by **Fr. Albert Muthumalai**, Principal, Loyola College, Chennai. The special feature of this training programme was the participation of 8 representatives from South Africa. The plan is to start 5 Community Colleges in Africa by June 2006. **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** was invited by the Backward Class Commission of Tamil Nadu to make a representation on the 22 November to members of the **National Linguistic and Minorities Commission of India**, regarding the relevance of the Community College System and the need for recognition.

Xavier Alphonse

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

Fr.M.J. Victor preached an eight-day retreat to 45 Sisters of St. Anne, Tiruchi between 28 October and 5th November. It was at Carmel Provincialate, Manikandam, **Fr. Rajendran's** sudden demise shocked us and our neighbours here. His one-year ministry here last year attracted many. His suave and spicy homilies with wit and wisdom were highly appreciated.

Having tied ourselves with bonds of love we went on a community outing to Munnar, the tranquility base on 15 and 16 November. On our way back some enjoyed bathing in Suruli Falls. **Br. Maria Susai** was ambushed and assaulted by a monkey - and our brother yielded a banana he had in his hand and bore meekly the grin of the monkey which meant to ask for more. Some visitors came from St. Lazarus Church, Chennai to be with us. The visit of the Provincial of Jamshedpur and a retreat made by Sr. Carmelin OSM, a missionary in Australia were some of the important events in November.

PEAK: Kodaimalai Ambedkar Makkal Iyakkam (KAMI) committee meeting was held on 30th October at Poombarai. Twenty-five persons took part in it from different villages.

Mr. Alexander, the Labour Officer of Kodaikanal Taluk addressed our animators and presented detailed information about unorganized labour; PEAK is implementing the scheme.

A ten-day Youth Cadre Formation was organized at IDEAS, thanks to the Superior of IDEAS Community. The training has helped them to become aware of the present scenario in India and also to empower themselves.

R. Stanislaus

BODHI-ZENDO, PERUMALMALAI

January 6th, 2006, is the tenth anniversary of the opening of Bodhi Zendo in Perumalmalai. Of course, BZ has a longer history. **Fr. AMA Samy** opened BZ in Dhyana Ashram campus, but soon found the place not conducive to Zen. He then bought some land in Yelagiri hills for a Zen centre. Meanwhile **Fr.D. Jeyaraj**, the then Provincial offered a place in St. Joseph's Estate: a fallow cow-grazing piece of land. A building was put up by late **Fr.D. Arockiam**, the then Procurator, with the supervision of **Br.A. Mariadoss**. The centre has gone through some difficulties; it is now a beautiful place. BZ is usually full for about six months of the year, and the other six months are lean months. The centre is becoming known internationally: "BZ has spread out its sails and is ferrying many souls to the other shore!, except Jesuit souls", says Fr. AMA! BZ is also doing a great service to the poor through the projects of Little Flower, run by Fr. AMA's disciples and friends. **Fr. Mathew Cyril** has joined Fr. AMA and is in charge of the administration. BZ has a devoted lay staff.

The anniversary function is on January 7th, Saturday, 2006: Eucharist at 10 am, a small function followed by lunch. All are welcome! Do inform us if you are coming.

M. Cyril

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

The north-east monsoon which played havoc in the State, did not spare Loyola. Out of the 3 spells of rain, the first spell caused the postponement of the semester exam and the shifting of the cowshed. The college remained closed till 6th Nov. However 2nd,4th,6th semesters started on 21 of Nov as scheduled.

The community had a dinner in honour of both the new and the outgoing Provincials. **Fr. Rector** welcomed **Fr. Devadoss** and wished him all the best in his new office and thanked **Fr. Francis Xavier** for leading the Province effectively for the past 6 years.

Aimed at bringing companies to the doorsteps of students instead of the other way round, the Career Expo 2005, a one-day exhibition organized by the students service centre in collaboration with Loyola alumni association witnessed the participation of more than 50 successful companies of the State. This Industry Institute interaction was an eye-opener for many students on their ability quotient and a reality check on job market requirements.

Fr. Ignacimuthu gave an orientation programme on quality education to the faculty of Nirmala College, Coimbatore. He also guided young Jesuit priests of Andhra province towards effective mission. The scientists at entomology research institute under his guidance have developed an ecofriendly pesticide using neem oil and pungam oil, which is being distributed to select farmers in Chengalpattu district with the help of the department of science and technology, Government of India.

Fr Joe Arun is back from Oxford university where he spent a month as a visiting research scholar at the Department of Anthropology to further his doctoral research and to conduct seminars for postgraduate students. He gave a talk on Christian Education: "Do we inform or form?", to CRI of Chennai Chapter. Inspired by his talk the CRI decided to appoint counsellors for students in their schools and to focus on personality development by assigning an hour every week for formation of character. He also presented a paper on "Lessons from Subaltern Movements" at a symposium organized by the Sacred Heart Seminary Poonamallee, Chennai.

The manuscripts and books on and by Robert de Nobili that were left behind by late **Fr Rajamanickam** have now been codified and organized into a system, although they need to be treated with acidification and Mylar encapsulation to conserve them for posterity. Thanks to the hard labour of **Fr V.M Dasan**, Director of Documentation at IDCR-DRC who spent long hours in sorting out and sifting through more than a hundred boxes of manuscripts and books.

Fr. Xavier Rajan who underwent a heart surgery is recuperating fast and the community seeks your fervent prayers so that he may join us soon and enjoy good health.

ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The inmates of St. Xavier's Institutions made a pilgrimage to St. Xavier's Cathedral on 29 November. The Holy Eucharist was concelebrated by a number of Jesuits from our community. **Fr. Rector** was the main celebrant. A fitting homily by **Fr. Charles** inspired the congregation. The visit of our province revisor to our community gave impetus to our fiscal planning and financial management. His suggestions were very relevant. St. Xavier's Institutions are busy with the preparations for the triple jubilee of our great pioneers. They are also getting ready to celebrate the feast of their patron St. Francis Xavier in a grand manner.

The Alumni Association of SXHSS conducted an eye camp with the help of the Arvind Eye Hospital on 1st of November. It conducted a 'herbal festival' on 14th of November. The herbal exhibition was informative and called on the audience back to natural medicine. All the students and the teachers were also benefited by the herbal treatment that was given that day. The films and slide shows on 'herbal use' were an eye-opener to all. There was also an inter-school seminar on

" ,aw;ifNahL ,izNthk; tskhf tho;Nthk;" for the XI standard students. Nammalvar, a natural scientist, enriched the cognitive and physical wealth and health of the students of 12 schools from the southern districts of Tamil Nadu by his inspiring and informative talk.

An exhibition cum competition on 'Protection of our Natural Heritage' was conducted by the ecological division of Jesuit Tsunami service (JTS KNT zone) on 25th of November. It was attended by students from 22 schools. Our school bagged the first prize in the competition with a cash award of Rs.2000.

Quarterly examinations for both the B.Ed and M.Ed students of SXCE got over on 18th of November and the B.Ed Students made an all-India tour to Delhi, Punjab and Agra from 18th to 28th November.

Fr. Britto Vincent with Prof.A. Sivasubramaniam taught a course on "Folkloristics and its challenges to Christianity" at JDV, Pune. For the fourth time FRRC organized 'fpuhkpak'; on 26th and 27th November in a grand manner in which nearly 2000 students from about 40 schools in Tirunelveli district exhibited their skills in singing, dancing , storytelling etc with much creativity, competitive spirit and enthusiasm. Two students from the Government Hr. Sec. School, Maruthakulam who had collected more than 1000 riddles were each given a cash prize of Rs.500 by **Dr.S.D. Lourdu**, the honorary director naming it '**Fr.Francis Jayapathy Special Prize**'. The government Museum, Tirunelveli collaborated with FRRC in organizing this mega event.

Clement

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

In just over a month, the north-east monsoon has played havoc on our campus. When we were just recovering from the floods that invaded the campus on October 15th and forced us to reschedule our semester exams, the monsoon struck again on 23rd November. Owing to heavy and incessant rains, the floods once again invaded the campus on 23rd November. The situation was worse than the previous one. The floodwaters not only engulfed the New Hostel and the playing fields but also entered the college office. The most affected on both occasions was the high school campus. People say that they have never seen anything like this for years! The college remains closed until further notice.

Forty-five rural youth from the SHEPHERD-adopted villages attended the environmental awareness programme at Anglade Institute of Natural History, Shembaganur from 14th to 16th November. Three workshops on "Awareness and Protection of Herbal Medicinal Plants" were organised on 18th and 19th November by the SHEPHERD Department along with the Department of Botany for the rural school children, youth, school teachers and panchayat people.

NCC Day was celebrated on the 26th November. Around 500 participants (NCC cadets of local colleges and their family members) attended the function. Two three days' seminars on 'Friends of Police' were organised at our Community Centre from 7th to 9th November and from 16th to 18th November under the leadership of the new Commissioner of Police, Mr. Predeep Philip, I.P.S. Friends of Police (FOP) is a unique movement which aims at removing fear and wrong notions that the

people hold about the police and affirms that the police have no better partners in crime prevention and detection than the people themselves.

Louis Xavier

THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

Fr. Joseph Nedungatt is busy preaching a 30-day retreat to the J.M.J. Sisters at Sirumalai Dindigul from November 10th to December 10.

Fr. Chacko participated in the Thanksgiving Celebration at Bangalore on Nov. 13th the occasion of the beatification of Charles de Foucauld, the founder of the Little Sisters of Jesus and the Little Brothers of Jesus. This was arranged by the spiritual family of Brother Charles of Jesus with whom Fr. Chacko has been associated for many years.

Christanand C. Valiaveetil

NEWS ABOUT FR. CEYRAC:

I met Fr. Ceyrac one evening at the military hospital of Paris <Les Invalides>. He looked well. He had a second fall in France. He has recovered. Anyway now he seems okay. He still has to wear braces, front and back, to keep his torso straight. But the doctors allow him to remove it for some hours during the day. Actually he had gone for a few hours this afternoon to the house of his niece. Now he can walk slowly with the help of a walking stick. By the end of this week Friday 25th November he may move to our house at Rue de Grenelle for convalescence. He said that he planned to make his retreat in our retreat house at Clamart in the outskirts of Paris some time before Christmas. The doctors have told him that he may be able to travel back to India by the middle of January. He hopes very much to be able to do so. He sends warm greetings to everyone.

M. Amaladoss

JESUIT TSUNAMI SERVICE, NAGAPATTINAM

Nagai is one of the worst affected districts by the recent floods caused by the incessant and unprecedented rains. People call this flood a 'Second Tsunami' chasing the poor from the low lying areas and temporary shelters to the roadside. Our staff members headed by the legal team visited all the flood hit villages and took stock of the situation. Although we are not providing any sort of immediate relief materials, we are closely monitoring the flood relief operation carried out by the government officials. The legal team does lobbying and networking in getting the flood relief for the deserving people from the government.

As part of the livelihood programme, we have laid foundation stones for the multi purpose community halls in two villages. Due to continuous rains, we are delayed in identifying the suitable places in other villages. After a detailed survey and study about the widows, we have started implementing the widows' project. We have given them loans to buy cows and open petty shops in the village itself. We have helped them open a bank account which they could operate and repay the loans gradually. **Fr. Paul Mike** is busy with this project.

Fr.A. Irudaya Raj conducted a one-day seminar for the Thanjavur Diocesan youth on Media Awareness Education. The diocesan clergy is very supportive, friendly with us. They always welcome us to take part in their diocesan activities.

Sch.Baskar is busy visiting all the evening study centres and distributing the study materials for the school going children. This helps us build contact with them and inculcate values through booklets published by **Fr. Xavier Antony** as part of LASAC & youth commission activities.

A. Irudaya Raj

MADURAIANS WRITES FROM SITAGARHA

We are extremely happy to share with you and all the friends in the Lord of our Province how God has been guiding us in this 'school of heart'. God led us all the Tertians beautifully in the month long Ignatian Spiritual Exercises and deeply made us realize his ever abiding and encouraging presence among us. This inward journey took us all to the realization of the famous dictum of Stephen R. Covey

that we are not human beings on a spiritual journey ; we are spiritual beings on a human journey. We whole heartedly render our sincere and heartfelt thanks for your prayerful supports and encouragements.

In October Bro. Arockiadoss had his experiments with the mentally challenged men in Karuna Bhavan run by M.C. Brothers in Dum Dum at Kolkatta. 'It was really a daring mission and God experience is essentially a pre requisite for this sort of mission' so says Doss after coming from his experience. Bastin preached an eight days retreat to 45 sisters of the congregation of St. Urusaline of Gumla province. As part of experiment he also spent a fortnight in the mission stations of Daltenganj and Jamuniatand of Hazaribag Jesuit province. It was first hand experience of witnessing the pioneering and daring spirit of Jesuits in the jungle of Jharkhand. It is absolutely true that the harvest is plentiful : but the labourers are few [Mt 9;37]. He also participated in the anniversary of the martyrdom of **Fr.A.T. Thomas .S.J** in the Punya Bhoomi on October 24. It is again a God experience of what it means to be 'a grain of wheat' today and what resurrection means here and now. The blood of Fr. A.T. has brought forth life into the dalits and raised their human dignity in the jungle.

The scorching summer welcomed us and the extremely bone biting winter is getting ready to bid us farewell. The tertianship programme here at Sitagarha comes to its fulfillment on 16th December and we eagerly await to see you all in our province.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Vincent Curmi, SJ (DAR) 87/66 died on 14.11.2005 at Darjeeling.

Fr. John Correia-Afonso, SJ (BOM) 81/59 died on 07.11.2005 at Mumbai.

Fr. Mathew Kalathil (GUJ) 69/51 died on 27.10.2005 at Vadodara

Mr. Anton Rudhalbert (33) elder brother of Sch. Anton Robert died last month in France.

Mrs Pragasiammal (85), grandaunt of Sch. Leo Anand died on 06.11.2005 at Dindigul

FR. RAJENDRAN M. SINGARAYAR, SJ

08.07.1948 - 13.11.2005

Fr. Rajendran joined the Community of Oriyur Shrine in June 2005. He was the Students' Counsellor and Assistant to the Parish Priest for the last six months during which time he endeared himself to the students and the staff as well as to the parishioners by his simplicity, straightforwardness, concern, witty talk and humorous sermons. He was very helpful in saying Masses at the substations especially during the visit of our novices. When he arrived in Oriyur in June he was not a very healthy person by any means. He was suffering from high blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol etc., He was constantly taking medicines to keep the devil at bay. He used to meet his doctor in Madurai every month. Just a few days back he returned to Oriyur after consulting him. **Fr.M.J. Victor** invited Fr. Rajendran to attend the marriage of his niece at Rayappanpatti on 13th morning. And so Fr. Rajendran left Oriyur on 12th morning for Rayappanpatti. In the evening he went to his sister's house in Madurai at Koodalnagar to stay overnight. He told his people about his plan to go to Rayappanpatti early morning the next day and asked for warm water for bath and an autorickshaw to go to the bus stand by 05:30 a.m. He was put up in a room upstairs. Around 5:00 a.m. he got up and went to the toilet. While returning he collapsed and fell down on the floor and remained there motionless. Not hearing anything from him his sister went up. The door was locked from inside. She could see through the window that he was lying on the floor. The door was unlocked with a duplicate key and they found to their utter shock Fr. Rajendran on the floor. They tried to resuscitate him without success. A doctor living close by was called in. After inspecting the body the doctor declared him dead about half an hour earlier owing to cardiac arrest The sad news was communicated to the Parish Priest of Anjalnagar. He tried to contact St. Mary's but did not succeed. He then contacted **Br. Victor** of LTI and informed him about the death of Fr. Rajendran. Br. Victor immediately informed the Superior of Oriyur community. He then arranged for the body to be taken to St. Mary's. It was kept in state for friends and relatives to pay their last respects. People from different places where Fr. Rajendran had been came in large numbers and paid floral tributes to their dear friend. The next day around 7:00 a.m. the body was taken in procession

to the Cathedral. The funeral Mass was attended by Fr. Devadoss, Provincial and a large number of priests. The **Most Rev.M. Arockiasamy**, former Archbishop, a close friend of Fr. Rajendran was the main celebrant. He recalled some of his happy moments with Fr. Rajendran. He remarked in his introduction that God calls to himself suddenly those whom He loves specially. After Mass Fr.M.J. Victor shared his memorable experiences of Fr. Rajendran. Mr. Susainathan from Oriyur outlined the sterling qualities of Fr. Rajendran. Finally his sister Ms. Gandhi Mary sobling spoke on her kind and affectionate brother. Then the Provincial gave the last blessing. The procession started towards the cemetery. **Fr. Arockiasamy**, the Superior of Oriyur performed the last rites over the body. The burial took place amidst heart-rending cries. While alive Fr. Rajendran used to say that he would not like to disturb anybody before his death and he kept his word. Fr. Rajendran who had counselled and consoled thousands of students in their difficulties has gone now to be consoled by the Creator Himself. May his soul rest in peace!.

M.S. Irudayaraj

FR. FERNANDO JACOB, SJ

11.07.1921 - 22.11.2005

Fr. Jacob Fernando expired on the morning of 22nd. November 2005 at the Van Reeth Nursing Home in Galle. He was 84 years old and had spent 62 years in the Society. His body was taken to Kahawatte, his former mission station, in Ratnapura district. At 10.00 a.m on Thursday, 24th Nov. the funeral Mass was celebrated by **Fr. Damien**, the Administrator of the Ratnapura diocese (sede vacante), in the presence of Bishop Elmo Perera, retired Bishop of Galle with over 40 priests from Galle and Ratnapura dioceses and Jesuits of Sri Lanka led by **Fr. Chryso Pieris**, the Acting Provincial. **Frs: Donatus, I. Arul and Leo Correya** represented the Madurai Province.

Fr. Jacob Fernando, the distinguished missionary, was eulogised in Sinhala and Tamil as a loving father, a caring and vigilant pastor, a strong defender and support for the poor and a fiery champion of the oppressed. His concern for the welfare of his people, made him start school for the estate children and he begged and cajoled teachers from outside to work in those schools. He sent promising students for training as teachers and in other life skills. Though he used to sadly say: "The Kingdom of God has not come to the estate", yet through his Herculean endeavours, he managed to build 13 schools for his children of the estate area.

Fr. Chryso Pieris thanked the Madurai Provincials, past and present, for the generous gift of **Fr. Jacob** to the estate people of Sri Lanka. He also thanked the dioceses of Galle and Ratnapura for accepting Fr. Jacob and also for looking after him so lovingly in his last days. Fr. Jacob's nephew, Mr. Eric Fernando, a leading media person in Colombo thanked everyone for the love they had shown his uncle, whose real greatness he came to know from their words. An estate worker and a teacher poured out their emotionally charged experiences of their beloved pastor. After the last blessing in the church by **Fr. Donatus** the body was taken to the grave. The estate people gave vent to their pent up feeling of love and heart broken grief in a universal lamentation. **Fr. Chryso** gave the last blessing at the grave and the body of this great missionary was lowered into the grave under a shower of flowers.

It was a moment of deep sorrow for us as we laid Fr. Jacob to rest. It was also a moment of deep joy and pride that our Province had produced such a missionary giant who had toiled for 47 years for a great cause: the uplift of the much discriminated estate workers of Sri Lanka. May his shining example stir up young apostles to take over from where he has left to champion the cause of the still downtrodden estate workers.

Leo Correya

Meeting of Major Superiors'

In accordance with the decree 23-C of the 34th General Congregation Rev Fr. General convoked the Major Superiors' Meet to be held at Loyola, Spain from November 26th to December 3rd, 2005.

The objective of the Meet was "to consider the state, the problems and the initiatives of the universal Society as well as international and supra-Provincial cooperation". After examination, prayerful

reflection and discussion of the diverse themes, recommendations to the entire Society will be proposed, keeping in mind the possibility of having or not having a GC.

The meeting started on 26th November evening. After the introductory session, the participants had Holy Mass. Fr. General in his homily, reflecting on the gospel passage from St. Mark 13: 33-37, said that the Lord has entrusted to us the responsibility of working in his kingdom. "he has need of us to make ready his coming in the fullness of his glory". Our Holy Father, St. Ignatius himself "expects that his companions would be steadfast and bold in whatever they undertake for the Divine service, full of zeal for the salvation of human beings so that they may gain their ultimate end from the hand of God, our creator and Lord. In every case, this aid to our neighbour is for the glory of God".

The next day the 27th Fr. General addressed the assembly. In his talk, he dealt with the Ignatian principles of apostolic activities in the Society and offered an overview of some of the present activities in which the Jesuits are engaged. After his talk, the assembly was asked to pray and reflect on what Fr. General had said. The afternoon session was devoted to comments and clarification.

On the 28th the Presidents of three Conferences of Provincials took up the topic: **governance of the Society**. They pointed out the advantages and difficulties they had experienced at the helm of their respective Conferences. They also offered suggestions to make the structure of the conferences a more efficacious instrument at the service of our apostolic mission. This session was followed by group discussions and reporting.

The fourth day 29th was set aside for discussion on our **apostolic preferences**. In 2003, Fr. General communicated to the whole society the five apostolic preferences he had adopted: (1) our special commitments to Africa, (2) China, (3) the intellectual apostolate, (4) service to the refugees and migrants, and (5) support to the international Houses and Works in Rome. The topic was initiated by Fr. Jacques Gillard and after his introduction representatives of the five **apostolic preferences** addressed the assembly. This was followed by group discussions and reporting. Practically every group was in agreement with regard to the choice of apostolic preferences.

The fifth day on the 30th was devoted to **formation**. Fr. Joye J. Karumathil emphasized the need for vocation promotion. The drastic reduction in membership of the Society of Jesus should be a concern to every one of us. He hit the nail on its head when he said, "The promotion of vocations starts with the quality of our lives as Jesuits: an image of God's call". The second speaker, Fr. Gerald J. Chojnacki reflected upon the quality of formation. He stressed the need for good, well-trained spiritual directors. He also insisted upon the existence of forums within the formation community where guided, structural spiritual conversation can take place. The last speaker of the day was Fr. Orlando Torres. He shared his findings made through interviews with 305 Jesuits who had left the Society between 2003 and 2005.

On the sixth day Dec 1st discussions were centred around an important topic: the collaboration of Jesuits with non-Jesuits as encouraged by decree 13 of the 34th G.C. After hearing three speakers on this topic, the assembly sat in linguistic groups for discussion. A number of questions were raised and several groups recommended to Fr. General the establishment of an ad hoc commission to study the theological and ecclesial roots of the problem without forgetting the juridical and financial implications".

The last day, December 2, was a day of consolidation. A committee formulated the recommendations in the light of the discussions of last one week.

These recommendations were taken one by one, discussed and clarified in the aula. Finally 21 recommendations were formulated and addressed to Fr. General. Fr. General in his speech thanked one and all. And with that Loyola 2005 came to an end.

(This was compiled from the reports received from SJ News Service.)

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