



## JANUARY 2011

(For Private Circulation)

### PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

#### January

- 01-02 Tiruchi: St. Joseph's College  
 03-04 Visitation Nagapattinam, Vilangudi, Thirumanur, Kumbakonam  
 08-09 Dindigul : Beschi Meeting of Superiors, DoWs, Prov Coordinators and Consultors  
 15- 16 Chennai : Formation Commission GBM  
 17-18 Chennai : Visitation : Dhyana Ashram  
 19-21 Chennai : Visitation : Arul Kadal  
 22 Chennai : Consult  
 23-29 Chennai : Visitation : Loyola College

#### February

- 05 Dindigul: Beschi Illam: Youth Commission GBM  
 07-15 Tiruchi: Visitation: St. Joseph's College, Ariyamangalam & Poondi  
 12-13 Madurai: IDEAS: TVET Commission: GBM  
 14 Tiruchi: Visitation: SUPAM

### NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **New Province Decreed.** Father General has approved the Decree to officially unite the Chicago Province and the Detroit Province into a single apostolic entity (Chicago-Detroit Province (CDT)) from January 1, 2011. **Fr. Timothy P. Kesicki** is the Provincial of the new Province.
- ◆ **Fr. S. John Britto Bonaventure** has assumed office as acting Rector of SJC, Tiruchi.
- ◆ **Fr. Paul C. Jesuraja** is back in the Province after overseas assignments that lasted for about 12 years. He is assigned to Carmel, Nagercoil.
- ◆ **Fr. R. Rajarethinam** moves from St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli to DACA, Madurai.
- ◆ **Fr. Ignatius Puthiadam** moves from Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari, to St. Xavier's College, Thiruvananthapuram.

- ◆ **JESA** is organizing the following programmes:

#### a) Right to Education and its implication for Social Action:

The focus will be more from the perspective of our priority groups and not from the institutional point of view

Dates : March 3 (pm) – 5 (pm), 2011 (2 full days)

Venue : Vinayalaya, Mumbai

#### b) Training on Right Based Approach (RBA):

Dates : May 3 (pm) – 8 (pm), 2011 (5 full days)

Venue : ISI, Bangalore

Please Contact: JESA Secretary, ISI, 10, Institutional Area, Lodi Road; New Delhi - 100 003 11-49534164 / 49534163

### NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

#### ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI

குடிசைகளின் குருதியில் (Slum Eviction) a documentary by **Sch. Jeya Baskaran** was selected for the National Short Film and Documentary Film Festival 2010 on 22 Dec 2010.

*M.F. Kennedy*

#### LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

We had the cultural festival, *LOYO FEST '10* from 20 to 22 Dec. We have a new sound and PA system thanks to **Fr. Ignatius Amalraj**. On 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. we had Christmas celebration with **Fr. Bellarmine** as the chief guest of the day.

On the same day **Fr. M. Elias**, the Principal gave away the certificates to the DCA students who had done a diploma course in our College organized by the Government of Tamil Nadu under the scheme of *Mahalir Thittam*. He proudly announced that all the students who did this course were now employed.

*Poondi Rajan*

## LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RANIPET

On 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, the religious of Ranipet Parish went on a pilgrimage cum picnic to Our Lady's Shrine at Acharappakkam and Vedanthangal organized by the parish priest. It rejuvenated their missionary unity.

The hostellers had a one-day seminar on Legal Awareness in view of Human Rights Day. Surely it helped them to become aware of their rights.

On 16th, the hostellers had a Christmas Tree celebration. Prior to the celebration, they had a one-day recollection preached by **Sr. Josephine** SCB.

On 20th, we had the Christmas Mass presided over by **Fr. Antony Samy**, the Rector of the Inter-diocesan seminary, Veppur. On 22<sup>nd</sup> there was Christmas celebration in the school in which **Fr. Dayalaraj**, the Manager of RCM school of Vellore diocese, delivered the Christmas message.

The LIFE engineering company, Auxiliary unit of BHEL, Ranipet, achieved a record: high production of 115 tonnes of fabrication, thanks to the systematic hard work of **Fr. Dominic**.

We had a constant inflow of officials from the Revenue Department to finalize the land acquisition for the proposed construction of a railway track that cuts across our campus.

*Vedanayagam*

## BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

We thank **Fr. Paul C. Jesuraja** for the classes that he handled for the novices during his short stay at Beschi before moving to Carmel, Nagercoil.

**Fr. Dhanaraj** gave a course on the finer points of *Tamil Grammar* to the novices from 13 to 17 December.

**Fr. Vinny Joseph** gave an exhortation to the Beschi Community before Christmas. St. Mary's Community also attended it. On 23 December the Community had the Christmas celebration along with the co-workers. **Fr. Premkumar** gave the Christmas message and the novices performed some cultural items.

**Fr. Arul Sivan** preached an 8-day retreat to the Sisters of CIC. He also conducted a 4-day Workshop on Discernment to a group of Sisters. **Fr. George Thottungal** is undergoing medical treatment in Beschi. **Fr. R.George** is undergoing a check-up for his ailing heart.

*A. Vino Selukas*

## VIDYANIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM

The Juniors had a two-day course on contemporary science by **Fr. Jerome Manyahi** of Eastern Africa Province. It opened a window to the wider world of modern science and its commendable developments and inventions.

On 3rd Dec., we all went to St. Xavier's college where we had a special prayer and celebrated St. Francis Xavier's feast with St. Xavier's community and the college staff.

The second terminal examinations commenced on 17th and culminated on 23rd December. It was a learning process and helped us to know areas of improvement.

We had community celebration and different competitions were organized from 27 to 29 of December. This paved the way for us to become more rooted in the spirit of Magis and unity.

On 30th December, we went on a one-day cultural tour to Kanyakumari. This trip helped us to understand the different aspects of Tamil culture and its art and architecture. It was a good exposure to all the Juniors.

*Vimal*

## DNC, PUNE

The vibrant **Sch. Christu Raja** has been elected as the new coordinator of Madurai Province. As **Fr. Job Kozhamthadam**, the President of JDV has become an emeritus, the faculty of Philosophy felicitated him for his tireless and magnificent work in JDV. Now we are busy with Christmas celebrations in our ministry places. **Fr. Arul Jeevan** has gone to Chennai for specialized Stereotactic Radiation Therapy (SRT). He stays at Loyola and goes to the Apollo Hospital for his SRT. Please keep him in your prayers. On 10th Dec., JDV Tamil Association had a solemn Christmas Mass in a creative way with dance. Madurai scholastics could now be reached on their common mobile phone: 8308323796. **Fr Robin** attended a week-long workshop on Inter-faith leadership training in Amritsar. He also preached a two-day retreat for a group of laypersons in Chennai, besides taking a few classes for the scholastics in Satya Nilayam.

*Y. Baskar*

## DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

We had a Solemn Concelebrated High Mass on 3 Dec, the feast day of St Francis Xavier. **Fr Leo Tagore** preached a homily on *Thirst of St. Francis Xavier to bring people to Jesus*.

Britto Hostel Day was celebrated in a grand manner on December 4<sup>th</sup>. It was indeed a good occasion for our hostel students to bring out their cultural talents.

The Christmas celebration was held in our school on December 9<sup>th</sup>. **Fr Bastin**, Director of Valan Illam was the chief guest and gave a beautiful Christmas message on *The Incarnation of Jesus*.

Motivation programmes were arranged for X and XII std. students separately. A team of people from *Valikaati*, Chennai and a group of our school teachers gave motivating talks and showed some documentary films.

**Fr. Nedungatt Joseph** was very busy for the past two months preaching several Ignatian retreats to the clergy of Vijayawada diocese, the Missionaries of Charity in Punjab, Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy in Visakhapatnam, Nirmala Sisters in Vijayawada and a long retreat to the Sisters of St Anne in Chennai.

*M. Selvam*

## ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

It was a kind gesture on the part of the hostellers who shared their pocket money with some of the poorest students in and around Dindigul. It was indeed a meaningful Christmas celebration for them. Congrats to **Fr. Stephen** for initiating this noble thought among the kids.

Christmas was celebrated in various sectors, insisting on the importance of sharing with the have-nots. It should be spontaneous was the theme of all the celebrations.

Our super senior hockey team won the gold medal at the State level Bharathiar day games for the second time consecutively. We congratulate the team, its trainer **Mr. Victor** and **Fr. Gerlin**.

*Gerlin*

## ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

St. Francis Xavier Apostolic Home celebrated its 92<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary on the Feast of its Patron Saint. A week-long novena, with the participation of the community members delivering homilies each day, ended with a Concelebrated Mass presided over by **Fr. Paulraj**, the Province Vocation Promoter. In the evening there was a cultural programme when the talents and skills of our students were brought out. They won many prizes in the extra curricular activities. **Fr. Jebamalai Raja**, Rector, appreciated very much not only the students but also the care and watchful concern of **Fr. Arokiaraj**, the Director and his assistant **Mr. Beschi**, for making the Apostolic Home a formation house for would-be priests and religious.

The Cathedral Parish arranged a series of programmes, beginning with a seminar in connection with the Christian Dalit Liberation Sunday. The various other programmes were: the Sports Day for the Catechism class children, the youth, pious associations and sports for the children of the evening study centres. On Christmas evening, a cultural programme was arranged by the parish youth for non-Christians who thronged to seek the blessings of the newborn Babe Jesus. Thanks to **Fr. Xavier** and **Sch. Vargheesh** for making all these events both successful and fruitful.

Seminars on RTI Act 2005 were conducted by Fr. Jebamalai Raja for the MSW students of Bishop Appasamy College, Coimbatore and a group of students of Gandhigram University. **Fr. V. S. Manickam** is in great demand for giving community recollections and addressing various groups.

*Bastin*

## ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The curtain came down on INDEP 'X', inter-departmental cultural bonanza on 15.12.2010. It was a glittering finale to the College Fest. The packed house in St. Joseph's College reverberated with roars and thunderous ovations. A wide array of events including group song, writing of poetry, poster making, elocution, collage, spot photography and short film formed the core of the events on 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> December. Performances ranging from traditional to western dance held sway over the audience. Mimicry artistes brought to life many a matinee idol. The students gave a big applause to the Chief Guests: **Ramesh Prabha** of Sun TV fame and **Mithran R. Jawahar**. The MBA department won the overall championship in Shift I and the IT department took away the honours in Shift II. **Fr. Mani Valan**, the Vice-Principal deserves all praise for looking after everything with meticulous care.

**Fr. Sebastian Anand** addressed on 5.12.10. the Andhra Jesuits in Higher Education on their evolving corporate policies. He also conducted a seminar on "Teaching Learning" to the staff of ARJ College of Engineering and Technology at Mannargudi on 16.12.10.

The sudden and totally unexpected demise of **Fr. Susai**, our Rector, spread a pall of gloom and sadness in the campus and the College remained closed on 20.12.10. A condolence meeting was held in the School on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. All the students filed past the coffin of Fr Susai. A condolence meeting was held in the college on 21.12.10. The College also advanced the closure for Christmas vacation cancelling all Christmas programmes in homage to our Rector who died in harness.

Two three-month diploma courses, DTP (Desktop Printing) and Electrician, are conducted under the auspices of SHEPHERD funded by *Mahalir Thittam* of the Tamil Nadu Corporation for the Development of Women.

On 18<sup>th</sup> Dec., the II yr. MBA students went on a pilgrimage, most of them walking, to the Shrine of Our Lady at Poondi to seek God's blessings before they embarked on their placements.

In the 29<sup>th</sup> inter-collegiate athletic meet of Bharathidasan University, St. Joseph's College emerged victorious. Fifteen gold, six silver and seven bronze medals were won. New records were created in 800 metres dash and long jump.

The Christmas celebration and PG talent show in New Hostel were held on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. **Fr Aruldoss**, the Rector of Amalashram was the Chief Guest.

The School had its Christmas celebration on 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. **Fr. R. Anthuvan**, Director of Kalai Kaviri College of Fine Arts, an alumnus of the School, gave the Christmas message.

*Sebastian Anand*

## ST. XAVIER'S INSTITUTIONS, PALAYAMKOTTAI

It was a time of blessing for the whole community as Fr. Provincial was with us from 28<sup>th</sup> Nov. to 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. for his annual visitation of the St. Xavier's Institutions, Palayamkottai.

On 6<sup>th</sup> Dec. as part of the extension activity of SXCE, the B.Ed students have established a study centre at Samathanapuram, one kilometer away from the college.

On 15 and 16 Dec. a two-day State level seminar on Research Methodology was conducted specially for M Ed and M Phil students.

The 60 years (Diamond Jubilee Celebration) of academic journey of SXCE was gratefully remembered through a thanksgiving Mass presided over by the **Most. Rev. Jude Paulraj** Bishop of Palayamkottai

The students of SXCE had a meaningful Christmas celebration with differently abled children at Anaiyarkulam on 22 Dec.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> Shift I and Shift II organized a prayer service and paid homage to St. Francis Xavier the patron of St. Xavier's Institutions. On the feast

day, staff and students of all the institutions participated in a meaningful Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Provincial.

As a preparation for NAAC visit the IQSCR core committee started visiting the departments from 6 Dec. onwards to check and ensure the documenting of all their activities.

On 10 Dec. the Human Rights Day was celebrated. **Mrs. Radha** of M.S University addressed the students on media and Human Rights.

On 11 and 12 Dec. the General Body meeting of the Higher Education Commission was held at St. Xavier's. The focus of the GBM was Fr. General's talk in Mexico. Other issues discussed were Right to Information Act and Rights of the Minorities.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> the newly constructed research Larvae Culture Lab in CARE was blessed and inaugurated.

*Francis Xavier*

## IDEAS, MADURAI

Groups of young women and men kept IDEAS campus alive and busy: the meeting of Media Education Trainers' Club members on 28 November, the Integrated Personality Development training of 41 JRS-Grihini young women students from 01-05 Dec., the Training of Trainers' programme for 40 trainers from 14-16 Dec., and the Socio-Cultural Analysis training on 18 and 19 Dec. for 30 Arunthathiyar youth from Virudhunagar dist.

Determined to complete his doctoral research by the close of this calendar year, **Fr Stephen Martin** worked hard all these months to keep to his chosen deadline. No doubt it was a moment of great achievement and joy for him to submit his findings to the Madurai Kamaraj University on 23 December. **Fr. Aloysius** was away in New Delhi from Dec. 08 to 23 to assist the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR) and the Working Group on Human Rights (WGHR) in organizing interaction programmes in New Delhi and Jaipur for **Prof. Gay McDougall**, UN Independent Expert on Minority Issues and **Mr Graham Fox**, Programme Officer in the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights. One of the programmes he personally anchored in New Delhi. was the South Asian Regional Seminar on: *Minority Issues and Social Exclusion in South Asia: Challenges and Responses by State and Civil Society, Positive Practices, Learnings and Future Tasks*. Attended by about 50 participants from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh, the seminar came up with concrete recommendations related to right to education, political participation and economic life of minority communities in South Asia. Fr. Aloysius also helped in the organizing of interaction sessions in Jaipur on 22 Dec. for the two UN personnel with groups of Dalit women, community leaders and NGOs from Rajasthan.

*Aloysius Irudayam*

## THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

**Fr. Ignatius Puthiadam** returned from Germany, gave the final and finishing touches to the new building before moving to Thiruvananthapuram. **Fr. G. Packiaraj** preached a retreat to the administrative team

leaders of the Gonzaga Congregation and two more retreats to the SMMI Sisters. **Fr. Lawrence Gabriel** gave the spiritual exercises to the Gonzaga novices for a month. **Fr. Jeyabalan** is very much in demand for retreats and has given many retreats through the length and breadth of India. **Fr. Maria Jeyaraj** had his usual monthly gatherings of people from various religious traditions in Nagercoil and the inter-religious monthly programme has started discussing the topic of the *Earth Charter*.

*G. Packiaraj*

## KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

Delegations from two different women's congregations i.e. St. Anne's of Madavaram and S.M.M.I. met the *Kalangarai* team separately to know about its empowerment programme for widows and deserted women. Appreciating the efforts, they assured the team of their whole-hearted support and initiation of the model in their work areas.

Around twenty-four widows from the Movement went to Virapandianpattinam to take part in a daylong convention on the livelihood rights of the fisherfolk. The experience has helped the participants to deepen their organizational and leadership qualities.

The staff and students of St. Joseph's Community College celebrated Christmas in a simple manner with meaningful and creative cultural programmes. **Fr. Paul Mike** gave an inspiring message to the students.

**Fr. A. Irudayaraj** preached a homily on the life of St. Francis Xavier to a large gathering at the annual feast day at Punalvasal Parish of Thanjavur diocese. He also took a half-a-day session on "Power of Women" for the State level AICUF students at Tiruchi.

*A. Irudayaraj*

## ARIYAMANGALAM PARISH

Our Students had a rally focusing on Human Rights, on 10 Dec. A pious association in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated Christmas by feeding the poor and the widows.

The children along with Cluny and Seva Sisters visited the families and then prayed, sang and danced with Santa Claus and made the arrival of Infant Jesus a memorable and meaningful event.

*A. Felix Joseph*

## MUSINGS FROM TAIWAN

It really hit me hard when I heard of the demise of **Fr. Susai Pitchai**, more so because he was Socius to the Novice Master when I was a novice. Our community prayed for the repose of his soul. Otherwise, I am advancing in my Chinese studies, though not by leaps and bounds. I made my first trip alone from Dan Shui to Yingge which involves some two hours' travel and transits between buses and trains. I was able to speak in Chinese and the people also understood me. I practise my Chinese with a Catholic youth group in Fu Jen University and am also involved in Fu Jen Language Centre youth group activities. My Chinese is not yet good enough to get into full-fledged ministries with the people. Nevertheless I manage to chip in here and there.

I was able to conduct a few games for the High School boys in Chinese and I felt elated.

I heard a lot of encouraging words from our Province men this Christmas season. Thanks!

*Benedict Santhosh*

## **ELECTRONIC NEWS FROM ROME**

**An interview with Father General on Europe** has aroused considerable interest both within and outside the Society of Jesus, but has also raised some doubts. We therefore turned again to Father Nicolás for some clarification.

Q. Your comments on Europe after some visits to your men in the Continent have elicited interest and wonder; they also came immediately after your visits to Belgium and Switzerland, are they the fruit of these two visits to European Jesuits?

A. Not in the least. As a matter of fact I sent the answers “before” those visits. They do not even refer to what I have seen in my encounter with Jesuits. They are more of a general character and express how I am affected by the European way of speaking about problems, issues and people after having lived 48 years in East Asia, which certainly has a different tradition in this regard.

Q. Are you concerned that some Europeans would consider your words too blunt and even unfair to many Europeans, who are certainly not proud or arrogant, but simply make use of direct and assertive language?

A. I guess that this is the risk of every statement that affects groups of people. I would certainly be concerned if my words are taken as a negative judgment on European peoples, which certainly they are not. I insist on saying that this is the way I am impressed, affected by a way of speaking that used to be mine. Maybe it is still mine. I am also aware that the languages are built and structured differently. European languages are basically centered on the topic under consideration. They assert or deny, explain or dismiss, clarify or develop an idea, an opinion, a conviction. East Asian languages leave much more space for attention to the persons in dialogue. You do not answer primarily to the topic in question, but to the person asking, and there are plenty of additions at the end of a statement that make this statement softer, fallible or a matter open to discussion and to other opinions. The fact is that the subject matter is usually not defined or denied at every step, but remains open to contrary opinion, further search for nuance, or simple error. This evidently helps to keep everybody on board without feeling ignored, denied or dismissed from the conversation.

Q. Is there anything that can be said about these impressions?

A. It is always very difficult to tell others what to do, when one is not sure (as I am not) that one has made the needed changes. I can only speak from my experience and how I had to learn a new way of speaking, that is prior to and goes beyond learning another language. In other words, I had to learn to speak always with great respect for the ‘other’ person, persons or groups, with whom I am speaking. This is not something I could learn overnight; it takes years to change habits that we have developed from our early

childhood. I have to say that, more often than not, it is not a matter of personal effort or acquiring some diplomatic skills; it is best learned by becoming aware of how comfortable and pleasant it is when people address each other in this respectful manner, when the person is more important than whatever ideas we might have about things.

The second thing I had to learn through the years in Asia was to be more honest with my own doubts and insecurities. It is more real, and, consequently, more helpful in human interaction to let our ignorance and uncertainty show. There are very few things about which we know something. Speaking with such awareness opens up possibilities for others to help us, to instruct us, to contribute with their experience and knowledge where ours fall short. This simple fact does marvels for personal communication and smooth interaction. If you call this “humility” then I have to say that humility is very good for inter-cultural communication.

Q. You make it sound like human communication can be helped by a certain amount of spirituality.

A. Thank you for understanding my words like that. This is exactly what I think can help us most in our complex and difficult world. There was a time when I thought that knowing languages was enough. Then I learned that being clear and even accurate about what we are talking about was even more important. Later I learned that knowing the cultural background of the persons we meet was paramount for real communication. It is in Asia where it dawned on me that communication begins and deepens when we become able to welcome the other person from the heart and, as they are, strong or weak, settled or vulnerable; and that if there is no love, it is hardly possible to communicate. In other words, the skills of communication can be acquired and trained; but the event itself is much more an art into which one grows in humility and love, than a technique that one can master and be proud of. The similarities with spiritual growth are many and very deep. I am extremely grateful to Asia for introducing me to such a discovery.

## **AUSTRALIA: Environment on the agenda**

The Australian Jesuit Province has released the findings of its survey on environmental activities begun as a response to the call from the Jesuit Conference of Asia Pacific to explore how the Society is responding to environmental challenges facing our world. The survey provides the basis for the sharing of resources and skills throughout the Province, and is aimed at making ecological sustainability and education part of the Province’s mission. As part of the survey, each ministry was invited to identify key environmental initiatives being undertaken, to consider what would help their ministry take further steps in environmental awareness, and suggest ways to those that in their ministry may be able to help others in this area. Most of the works in the Province are undertaking ‘green audits’ and reviewing operational procedures through an environmental lens. The efforts to educate young people around the Province are particularly encouraging. Students can become agents of change in their families and communities and educate older generations. There is also a desire to integrate the environment activities and advocacy efforts

with strong theological underpinnings. Another future area of focus is on the use of natural resources, both in Australia and overseas.

**CROATIA:** The Year of Boškovic sponsored by the Parliament

Honouring the 300th anniversary of the birth of the great Croatian scholar and Jesuit Rudjer Boškovic, the Croatian Parliament is proclaiming the year 2011 as the Year of Rudjer Boškovic at the national level. He was born in Dubrovnik in 1711 and died in Milan in 1787 (see Yearbook 2011, pp. 13-16); apart from being an astronomer and physicist (he is famous for his atomic theory), he was also a philosopher, theologian, mathematician, diplomat and poet. This Parliament-sponsored project will be an excellent occasion for the promotion of the Jesuit mission and new vocations in different educational and academic institutions. Among the events planned for 2011 is an international congress organized by our Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb to be held in November 2011.

**HONG KONG:** Jesuit Seminar on Father Mateo Ricci

“Looking for God in Culture” was the theme of the Seminar organized by the Jesuits in Hong Kong, from 2 to 5 December 2010, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of their brother missionary Father Mateo Ricci. Bishop John Tong of the Diocese of Hong Kong took part in the Seminar, also presiding over the opening Holy Eucharist. According to the Bishop, “the evangelization of Father Ricci was supported by a deep contemplative life, that is, a complementary harmony between the contemplative life and action. It must be concentrated and accompanied by an intense spiritual life of contemplation, because reflection and contemplation provide the strength to serve. In this way we authentically experience the Riccian spirit,” Bishop Tong emphasized. According to reports from the Kong Ko Bao (the Chinese version of the diocesan bulletin), over 300 participants from places as diverse as Hong Kong, Taiwan, England, Australia, India and Vietnam participated in the Seminar. Among them were Father Gendron, Provincial of the Jesuit Province of China, many superiors from Asian Jesuit communities, together with Jesuits, spirituality experts and lay faithful close to the Ignatian spirituality.

**NEPAL:** Jesuit schools expand

Sixty years after establishing their first school in Nepal, the nation's Jesuit community is expanding its educational programme across the country. On December 3rd Bishop Anthony Sharma, the Jesuit Apostolic Vicar of Nepal, blessed the new four-floor wing of St. Xavier's School in central Kathmandu. “The red colour of my stole signifies the sacrifices of many well-wishers, parents, teachers, students and Jesuits that have made it possible to see this day so that more will carry on this school's motto *Live for God, Lead for Nepal*,” Bishop Sharma said during the ceremony. The building is one of the largest in the nation. Previously a boys-only school, St Xavier's started accepting girl students ten years ago. The Jesuit community opened in 1999 two new schools targeting poorer students in Nepal's East, located on the Nepal-India border. The Nepal Jesuits have also acquired several acres of land on the outskirts of Pokhara town, 210 kilometers West

of Kathmandu, where they also plan to open new programmes.

**PAKISTAN:** Help after Floods

The Jesuits in Pakistan are helping to construct new homes for people who lost theirs in the recent, catastrophic floods in Pakistan, thanks also to the funds received from Australian Jesuits. The problem is shortage of bricks due to unplanned rises that changed the economic situation. The Jesuits are involved in the Southern Punjab district of Musafghar and in the Sindh Province. In addition, the Jesuits are providing support for displaced tribals from around Sukkur in buying land for their community.

**PERU:** The fourth centenary of Brother Bernardo Bitti's death

This year we celebrate the fourth centenary of the death of Brother Bernardo Bitti, a Jesuit born in Camerino (Marche) in 1548. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1568 as a Brother and in 1575 he left Europe for Peru, where he remained until his death devoting his life to painting, with a special predilection for the Holy Mother. The influence of Michelangelo, Raphael and Vasari is clear in his paintings Brother Bitti devoted his art also to carving and many of his works are kept today in the museums of Lima, Cuzco and Altiplano. There are over a hundred paintings and now they decorate many houses and churches of the Society all over Peru. He died in Lima in 1610.

**SYRIA:** To build moments of joy

The courses (languages, computer science, preparation to exams of secondary school) offered by JRS at San Vartan, Alep are more and more popular. But people come also for other reasons. “The JRS centre has become a meeting place where people can overcome their worries and anxieties,” says Sister Hala Daoud, and this in part thanks to a programme of psychological support that she manages. At San Vartan cooking, embroidery, drawing, making puppets and sport have become therapeutical resources to help refugees to face their past, take advantage of the present and prepare for the future. “We never forget our main aim, that is to listen and share with refugees the consequences of war,” says Paul Diab, director of JRS-Syria. The moments of feast are as important as the healing process. “We spent time even to say goodbye to those who leave - says Sister Hala - and the positive atmosphere of San Vartan has created warm relationships between the JRS team and the families who share their lives with us and never miss the opportunity to thank us.”

**SUDAN:** Jesuit Helps Build University

With adult literacy below 30 percent, the opening of a Catholic University in Sudan was a critical component in moving the country forward after almost 25 years of civil war. The idea for opening a University in Sudan goes back to 1956, soon after Sudan's independence from Britain. It was discussed again in 1983, when the Sudanese president met Pope John Paul II, but soon after a civil war broke out in the country and dashed the university project. The Catholic Bishops' Conference established the Catholic University of Sudan as a centrepiece of their national programme to help the country recover from decades of violence,

famine and mass displacement of people. With the help of two American missionaries, one of them Jesuit Father Mike Schultheis (with over four decades devoted to providing Catholic higher education across Africa), in recent months the Catholic University of Sudan has opened two faculties: the faculty of arts and social sciences and a second faculty of agricultural and environmental sciences. A third faculty of engineering sciences is planned for the next year.

### News in SJWEB

A pod cast with **Fr. Frantisek Hylmar**. The “last underground Jesuit”, entered the Society of Jesus in former Czechoslovakia some months before the collapse of the Communist regime in 1989. Due to the fact that his successor as Provincial of Bohemia was not able to start his ministry for health reasons, Fr General asked him to continue as Provincial. Fr. Hylmar tells about his work as geodesist and cartographer before entering the Society, about being Provincial of a small Province - that used to have more than 1000 members 250 years ago - and about his joy seeing God at work in today’s Church and society. Click on “Jesuit Voices”.

### NEW RELEASES

“விலிய வாக்குறுதிகள் 1000” Fr. Xavier Irudayaraj Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp. 108, Rs. 30/-

“உனையே நினைந்து” CD By Fr. K. A. Augustine; Rs. 75/-

### ABIDE WITH THE LORD

**Fr. Joe Braganza** (GUJ) 91/72 on 11 Dec. in Baroda.

**Fr. Edwin Sequeira** (PUN) 82/62 on 24 Dec. in Shrirampur

**Fr. Suresh Shelke** (PUN) 37/16 on 29 Dec. in Coonoor

**Br Thomas Thayil** (KER) 80/56 31 Dec. in Calicut

**Mr. Dominic Emmanuel Xavier**, 59, brother of Fr. M. Devadoss on 24 Dec.

**Mr. Gnanapragasam**, 78), father of Fr. Joseph Antony Samy (Anto) on 26 Dec.

**Mr. Sebastian**, 72, father of Fr. Wenisch on 30 Dec.

### FR. SUSAI PITCHAI, SJ

**12.08.1956 - 18.12.2010**

December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 was a sad day in the annals of St. Joseph’s College. Around 10:30 am Br. Minister was fidgety and was trying to open the room of **Fr. P. Susai**, Rector. The room was bolted from within. Anxiety was writ large on his face. With the help of some scholastics and **Fr. Mariadoss**, the mosquito mesh on the window of Fr. Rector’s room was removed and to our horror and dismay, we found Fr. Susai lying on his bed crosswise and legs dangling with slippers on. We could surmise that he was dead. Fr. Provincial after his brief stopover here in the morning went to Vilangudi. He was informed and he was immediately on his way back. With **Fr. Lazar**, the former Rector around, we acted with caution



and restraint. Though our immediate impulse was to break open the door, better counsel prevailed and the police were informed. We managed to break open the door with the police who took charge of the room and of the dead body of Fr. Susai. The body was sent to the Government Hospital for post-mortem. Informally, we are told that he died of a massive heart attack. We have yet to receive the official medical report. We learn that Fr. Susai was seen last around 10:30 pm on 17<sup>th</sup> December. He did not sign the staff attendance register on 18<sup>th</sup> Dec. So he must have died in the night of 17<sup>th</sup> Dec. The Sisters of Child Jesus Hospital helped us in dressing the body of Fr. Susai and it was laid in state in the Jesuit parlour at 5:00 pm on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec.

The funeral was scheduled for 10:00 am on 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. About 200 Priests including Jesuits, around 300 Sisters, a large number of staff and students attended the funeral. The **Most Rev. Antony Devotta**, the Bishop of Tiruchi presided over the Eucharist. **Fr. A. Joseph**, the Superior of AAC preached the homily. He presented Fr. Susai as a simple soul, a man of integrity, spiritual to the core, a man of prayer and very human and affectionate to all.

**Fr. Sebastian Anand** thanked all those who were helpful in all the events of 19 and 20. On behalf of Fr. Susai’s family, **Fr. Sahaya Selvaraj** of Cuddalore-Pondicherry Archdiocese thanked one and all. The VGs of Tiruchi and Kumbakonam dioceses attended the funeral. Fr. Provincial said the last prayers in the church. Fr. Mariadurai from the diocese of Thoothukudi said the prayers before the body was interned into the crypt below the sacristy of the church. May his soul rest in peace!

*Sebastian Anand*

### FR. AMBROSE GNANASIGAMONY, S.J.

**27.05.1944 - 04.01.2011**

Fr. G. Ambrose has gone to his eternal reward! Though he had a number of ailments, his demise was unexpected. Periodically, he had been taking treatment in Madras Medical Mission (MMM) till February 2010. Later, he continued with regular health checkups at Sahaya Annai Hospital locally in Madurai for Diabetes Mellitus, Ischaemic Heart Disease (IHD), Hyper Tension, Hyper Cholestraemia (HC) and Chronic peptic disease.



On 4th January he took breakfast as usual along with **Fr. Maria Louis** and **Fr. Antony Arockiam**. He told them that he would go that day to the Sahaya Annai Hospital for checkup. Later our Parish Priest who came to LATI for a friendly visit happened to meet Fr. Ambrose along with **Fr. Stephen J. Muthu**. After a few minutes of conversation with the Parish Priest and Stephen, he informed the parish priest that he is going to the hospital for check up. Later he got into the house car and reached the hospital. After getting down from the car he walked to the hospital. As he approached the corridor of the hospital, the staff who

are known to him, noticed him gasping for breath and they helped him to sit on a chair which was at the very entrance of the hospital. Within a minute, the doctor sister arrived on the spot and noticed him sweating. As she took him to the emergency room in a wheel chair, Fr. Ambrose collapsed and died at 9.27 am. During his travel from the house to the hospital, he had not complained at all of anything to the driver. His diabetic condition was perhaps the reason for the heart attack being painless and going unnoticed by him.

We had planned to have a seminar and a rally on 23rd January to promote the concept of organ donation. Fr. Ambrose was enthusiastic about the project and suggested that all members of our community should donate our organs according to one's choice and it should be done without further delay. Fr. Stephen cautioned him that just now there was no need for hurry as most of our community members had very few of their organs intact due to the wear and tear of age and illness. But Fr. Ambrose persistently stated that he would donate his eyes, as there was no formality for such a donation and at call could be done on the spot. It is so happened that he died before the seminar and rally could be held. To grant him his wish, Rajaji hospital was informed and they came and took the donated eyes. The certificate for this donation will be presented at the seminar and rally on 23rd January at LATI in the presence of Fr. Ambrose's relatives and LATI Jesuit community.

When the body was brought to LATI, **Fr. V.S.Manickam** blessed the body and at St.Mary's, before the procession to the church, **Fr. Vincent Britto**, Rector of St.Xavier's Palayamkottai where Fr.Ambrose had his longest stint of service, gave his blessings. At Mass in the St.Mary's cathedral, Fr.Provincial, his novitiate companion, gave a brief introduction. **Fr.P.S.Arul** the Parish Priest of St.Mary's who knew Fr. Ambrose's family very well gave a touching homily.

After communion, **Fr. Michael Thanaraj**, Fr. Ambrose's younger cousin and the Provincial of Jamshedpur Province, offered a condolence message followed by **Mr. V.A.Peter**, a close family friend and **Dr. John de Britto**, Professor of Botany, St. Xavier's College, Palaymkottai. Fr. Stephen J. Muthu, Superior, LATI, thanked Fr. Provincial, the Rector and the community of St. Mary's, Fr. P. S. Arul and his parish team, Ellis Nagar choir, the large gathering of fellow Jesuits, priests, religious sisters and brothers who had come from far and near. He specially thanked the sisters and staff of Sahaya Annai hospital who took care of Fr. Ambrose all through his period of illness with love beyond telling.

Fr. Michael Thanaraj then gave the final blessing in the Church. The Loyola ITI students stood guard of honour to the funeral cortege till it reached the cemetery, where **Fr. R. Joseph** blessed the body of Fr. Ambrose and laid him to rest.

*Frs.Leo Correya and Stephen J. Muthu*

## Folks in Heaven

I was shocked, confused, bewildered  
As I entered Heaven's door,  
Not by the beauty of it all,  
Nor the lights or its décor.

But it was the folks in Heaven  
Who made me sputter and gasp,  
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,  
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade  
Who swiped my lunch money twice.  
Next to him was my old neighbor  
Who never said anything nice.

George, who I always thought  
Was rotting away in hell,  
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,  
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal?"  
"I would love to hear your take.  
How'd all these sinners get up here?  
God must've made a mistake.

"And why is everyone so quiet,  
So somber-give me a clue"  
"Hush, child," he said, "They're all in shock.  
No one thought they'd be seeing you.

"For the Son of Man came to seek  
And to save what was lost."