



JULY 2011

(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial:

Hope and Optimism – the Need of the Day

Dear Brothers,

Success always belongs to the optimist and not to the pessimist. Strength, either one's own or that of others, is the basis of all success and never the weaknesses and shortcomings. Efforts and determination are more valuable than endless complaints, gossips and excuses. The root cause or the foundation for success and achievement in one's life is not merely what we do externally but the attitude and mindset with which we launch into action. Hence, the need for the right inner disposition — attitude, approach, perception — for success at any level — spiritual, intellectual or material.

Patriarch Abraham was an optimist who trusted God even when He asked him to sacrifice his only son. Our Blessed Mother was an optimist who trusted God so unconditionally, that she made herself His handmaid and sacrificed totally her personal desires and ambitions. She knew God would not abandon her, but would stand by her and with her. Our Founder and Father, Ignatius of Loyola, was a great optimist and a man of limitless hope, because he was certain that the Lord was always guiding him, and he also had a strong faith in the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother. Our beloved Fr Pedro Arrupe was an eternal optimist, who could see something hopeful and positive in all events and developments. Mother Theresa was an optimist, who could find joy and love even in the slums, in the pavements, in the suffering humanity and in the hearts of the rejected ones.

It is obvious that for a believer, there is no situation which is so hopeless that nothing can be done. It is also obvious that those who waste their time 'weeping' over difficulties and problems, without looking for the opportunities and sources of strength and support, are nowhere near the great personalities like Abraham, Blessed Mother Mary, Ignatius of Loyola, Pedro Arrupe or Mother Theresa. We, who believe in the God of History and are walking with Him in our daily life, should have the hope, faith and optimism of these great saints and personalities.

We want to move ahead, we want to carry our ministries forward, we want to build the Church, we want to take the nation forward and help others in building the nation. We can do all these effectively, only when we are persons of hope and optimism. It is necessary for each one of us to develop a deep sense of hope and a strong attitude of optimism. We need to learn the art of discovering our own personal strengths and the strengths of our companions, our co-workers, our Institutions and also the situations and opportunities around us. We should be alert enough to identify the hopeful opportunities from different corners that present themselves and learn the art of drawing the maximum possible benefits out of these for the greater glory of God.

Fraternally,

Sebastia L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

*The Provincial and the Curia
wish you all
a very Happy Feast of St. Ignatius.*

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

July

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 01 | Sacred Heart Feast Day Mass, Beschi |
| 02 | Immaculate Heart of Mary Feast Day Mass, St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul |
| 03-05 | Contact Visit – St. Mary's, Madurai |
| 06 | Contact Visit: IDEAS, Meeting with Revisors and TART Team |
| 07-08 | Contact Visit – LTI |
| 09 | Contact Visit – LAAS |
| 10 | Contact Visit – DACA, Secondary Education Commission Meeting, Madurai |

11	Contact Visit – Arul Anandar College, Karumathur
12-13	Contact Visit — Beschi
14-17	Guntur (AP), Chapter Guidance, JMJ Sisters
18-20	Contact Visit – De Britto, Devakottai
20-21	Contact Visit – Oriyur
22	Consult
23-24	GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue, Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
25-27	Contact Visit – St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai
26-27	Contact Visit – Xavieriana, Tuticorin
28-29	Contact Visit – Carmel School, Kottar and Thozhamai Illam, Nagercoil
29	Contact Visit – Karisal

August

02	Satya Nilayam Research Institute Seminar
02-05	Contact Visit – Loyola College, Chennai
06-07	Contact Visit – Berchmans Illam
07-08	Contact Visit – Arul Kadal
09-10	Contact Visit – Dhyana Ashram
11	Contact Visit – Satya Nilayam
12-13	Contact Visit – Chengleput Area Communities
18-19	Contact Visit – Vilangudi, Poondi, Nagapattinam, Kumbakonam
20-21	GBM: Secondary Education, Tiruchi
21-23	Contact Visit – Vettavalam, Kilpennathur, Kuppayanallur, Ranipet
25-26	Contact Visit – St. Mary's, Dindigul
27	Consult
29-30	Contact Visit — Udthagamandalam, Mettupalayam

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Fr. General** has appointed:
Fr. John Lee Hua, Provincial of China
Fr. Adelson Araújo dos Santos, Regional Superior of Amazonia (Brasil)
Fr. Paul Martin, Regional Superior of Guyana
Fr. Michael Garanzini (MIS) is Secretary for Higher Education from 1 Sept 2011
- **JEPASA CONVENTION: 17 - 20 OCTOBER 2011**; in the PG Block, JDV, Pune; Arrival by 17 Oct 12 noon; departure 20 Oct 4 pm. Contact Province Jepasa coordinator for details and book your tickets early.
- During the upcoming **World Youth Day** in Madrid (Spain), the Eucharistic Youth Movement will have a privileged moment during what is called the "Youth Festival". On Wednesday August 17th they will share with all those interested the richness and joy of their Eucharistic-grounded and Ignatian inspired formation program for children and young

people. The Movement is today very much alive in nearly 50 countries in the world

- **Fr. Louie Albert** has cleared the National Eligibility Test (NET) in Sociology.
- **Br. Arokiaraj's** email: arajsj@gmail.com
- Left the Society: **Novice Maria Jothi Raj J.** on 24 June

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

DHYANA ASHRAM CHENNAI

Frs. Xavier Irudayaraj and **S. M. Selvaraj** guided a one-month retreat to 28 Sisters of Cluny. **Fr. A. J. Thamburaj** preached a long retreat for six IMS seminarians. Also he preached an 8-day Ignatian retreat to Sisters from different Congregations. He gave two parish missions in Perumal and Thirumullaivayil focusing on the spirituality of the Eucharist in the lives of Bl. Mother Teresa and Bl. Pope John Paul II. Also he addressed a Pentecost Rally in the Parish of Ayanavaram. The people from different parishes in and around Chennai took active part in this rally and it was concluded with a healing service.

Our Dhyana Ashram Jesuits had a mini assembly on 13 June; we meticulously planned our future programmes. The community has released a brochure for 2011-2012 and 40 small and big programmes are listed for the clergy and the laity. We have introduced IGFA series on First Fridays in our Chapel and in June **Mr. Prabhu** gave some beautiful thoughts on discernment.

Fr. Jerry addressed Youth Animators and Leaders on 8 June at Bangalore on Social Analysis and Youth ministry. Around forty actively and enthusiastically participated in it and it was well appreciated. Also he gave an orientation to 85 junior lecturers of Loyola Colleges of Chennai and Vettavalam in the first week of June on the theme: Current Challenges of Jesuit Educational Ministry.

Again Fr. Jerry gave motivation talks to the new university lecturers of Physics from all over Tamil Nadu, at the Madras University. The participants appreciated Fr. Jerry for his wonderful talks.

S. Selvaraj

ARUL KADAL

Arul Kadal conducted the Second Convocation for the Certificate Programme of 100- hours Theology for the Laity. The students among the Laity actively participated in the lively debate on Direct Political Participation as a Way of Building up the Reign of God. **Dr. G. M. James**, as the moderator of the debate, encouraged the Laity to make an effective intervention in civil life. **Dr. Cinthia Alexander** distributed the certificates for the successful candidates. The next batch of Laity Theology will begin in September.

The de-addiction camp at Kuppayanallur was a blessing for many to renew their lives thanks to our scholastics who identified the patients. The academic year began with orientation. Eight first years were warmly welcomed to the Arul Kadal Community. **Fr.**

Sebastian, Rector, St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchi, in his inaugural address spoke on Theological leadership in conflict situations. On the same occasion **Fr. Alangaram's** book "மாதந்தோறும் திருவிழாக்கள்" and **Fr. Raj Irudaya's** book (ed.) "Indian Secularism: A Theological Response" were released. **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** presented a research paper on Subaltern Exploration into Encountering Violence during the Annual Session of the Indian Theological Association in NBCLC, Bangalore. At the close of the Year of the Youth, he conducted a series of sessions on the Leadership Qualities of Jesus in no less than 7 parishes.

Arul Kadal gets a facelift after the completion of the once-in-five-years building maintenance work. Having completed their comprehensive exam the fourth years have left for their SUPAM.

Leo Anand

KUPPAYANALLUR

The Jesuit Community was happy and grateful to **Fr. Jayapathy** who conducted the de-addiction programme for alcoholics. There were thirty-three persons from in and around our area. After twenty-one days of treatment, they went home happy.

Fr. Alphonse William arranged special summer classes for the 10th and 12th standard students in May. We appreciate the tireless services of Fr. Alphonse William and the staff members and the cooperation of all the students in doing well in the public examinations.

On 14 June, **Fr. Maria Augustine** steered the community with an insightful orientation on the Ignatian Spirit and Magis.

Fr. Paul Benedict said the Mass of the Holy Spirit on 16th. On the following day the Superior blessed a newly built annex. Applications for admissions in our school are mounting. The first set of LTTI students went home after completing its final exams. We wish them a joyous teaching ministry in the near future.

Joseph Arockiasamy

LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

The Community extends its gratitude to **Fr. Devasagayam** just retired for his service rendered in the past academic years and welcomes **Fr. Arul Ravi** who is joining us this year.

Fr. Michael Doss organized special prayer services at the beginning of the academic year and for welcoming the first year students.

To meet the current challenging job scenario with required and expected skills, our students are exposed to a well-equipped Digital Library with high-end configure computers. **Fr. Joe Lourdusamy**, VG of Vellore Diocese inaugurated the full-fledged Digital Library on 24 June. **Fr. Ignatius Amalraj** gets the credit of designing the digital library.

Poondy Rajan

PAATHAI HOUSE, VALLAM

All the 10th std. students of Paathai centre have passed the public examinations. The quality of results

is also remarkable. We began the academic year by celebrating the Mass of the Holy Spirit on 15 June.

Robinson

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, UDHAGAMANDALAM

We have got young and vibrant new Community members: **Fr. Joseph Ignaci** and **Sch. John Peter**. Our boys in the carpentry and cabinet making (CCM) sections have completed their exams successfully. Now they are here for one more month to get free driving license. Boys in the fitter and welder sections are preparing for their final exams on 22 July. The admission is going on for the next academic year. We request all of you to send poor and deserving candidates to get equipped with the skills provided in our Institute. Pass in the 8th std is enough to study carpentry cabinet making (CCM) and welding courses.

Vasanth Kumar

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

The arrival of nineteen candidates on 15 June has created a joyful atmosphere in VMI. The candidates and the community were oriented by **Fr. Sahaya Philomin Raj** and **Sch. James Raja** for a fruitful year of mission. **Fr. Paulraj's** inspirational talk and the Eucharistic celebration set the tone for the coming year. The Mass of the Holy Spirit was celebrated by **Fr. X. Savarimuthu**.

Thirumanur parish was very busy with celebrating feasts at different subs-stations. **Fr. Arockiaraj** made the feasts meaningful and helped the faithful experience closeness to God.

Prabu Francis

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

On 24 May, we had the final vows of **Fr. Ilanko Xavier**, the novice master. Also the ministries of acolyte and lector were conferred on the II year novices. On 10 June nine young buds: **Augustian Daniel A., David Francis A., Ebenezer Amalraj B., Jackson Joseph, Lazar John, Michael Sudharson M., Naveen Kumar A., Theophaine Michael Raj P., Vigash Lawrence** joined the Society and received a warm welcome from the community. On 12 June, II year novices started their 8- day retreat guided by **Fr. Dhanaraj** before their vows. On 21 June, 17 novices under the title "Living Flames of Love" made their first profession. In the homily **Fr. Sabasti L. Raj**, the Provincial enlightened us "To learn to give". Many priests and religious prayed for and with us.

The juniors are assigned to three places: 3 to Kolkata, 11 to Thiruvananthapuram and 3 to Sitagarha. Freshers and I year novices started their triduum on 23 evening guided by **Fr. Ambrose**. On 27 and 28 June, we had orientation for both I & II year novices guided by **Sch. Richard Hiruthayaraj**.

Fr. P.T. Chelladurai who was hospitalized for his swollen legs at St. Thomas hospital in Chennai returned to Beschi on 29 May. Please remember him in your prayers.

P. Anto Arputha Raja

JESUIT NOVITIATE – SHILLONG

We went to Maweit, one of the toughest mission centres in Kohima Region, for our work experiment from 19 May to 10 June. So rich were our experiences that we learnt to integrate work and prayer and understood the dignity of labour.

On the feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga eleven of the Kohimites pronounced their first vows and offered themselves totally to the service of the Lord. We were very fortunate to have **Fr. Charles** (Regional Superior), **Fr. Gratian Carlo** (Former Novice Master) and other Jesuits from various mission stations on that day. The new juniors expressed their words of gratitude to all; especially they thanked **Fr. Richard**, the Novice Master. We bade farewell to the new juniors with a heavy heart.

Nine of our new buddies arrived on 21 June some after their one-month language learning in Meghalaya and some after the mission experience in Arunachal Pradesh. Now they are in the first probation.

Our campus looks green and beautiful after the long hours and days of hard work in planting new varieties of trees. Recently we planted 850 saplings and we have got 2000 more from the forest department.

A. T. Vijin

VIDYANIKETAN, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

After a touching farewell in Beschi, eleven of us, Madurai Juniors arrived here on 24th morning. Altogether we are 28 juniors in VN, 10 from Karnataka, 4 from Andhra, 2 from Kerala and one from Gujarat. On 25th **Fr. Scotus**, the superior celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit and prayed for God's blessings. St. Xavier's College Rector, **Fr. E. J. Thomas**, was the chief guest at the inaugural function and quoting from General Congregations he enlightened the gathering about what a Jesuit Juniorate is.

In the afternoon we began the orientation and community building under the sterling guidance of **Fr. Thachil. Sch. Doni Raja** has been appointed beadle and others have volunteered for other works. The city *darshan* on Sunday evening was helpful to get to know the important places in the city. After the diagnostic test on Tuesday regular classes began.

M. Valan

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

Our School has set a new record: getting the State Rank consecutively for three years and this year securing the 2nd rank. Kudos to **Fr. Vincent Amalraj** and his team. The community went out for the annual community orientation programme.

Fr. Felix Joseph, a new member to our community, has been given the title *Achiever* by an organization in Tiruchi, for his contributions in various fields. He has begun his work in converting our campus into a garden!

Almost the entire community joined the Golden Jubilee celebrations of **Br. Irudayasamy** at Sattur.

Bastian

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

On Friday, 24th June, our campus minister, **Fr. M. Devadhas** arranged to put our students through a 'Meditation for Peace' through yoga. This is an effort to help students to concentrate on whatever they are expected to do. On Sunday, 26th June, JMADD along with the Diocesan Centre towards Reforming Addicts organized a one-day programme to celebrate *World Day against Drug Abuse*. There were talks and a panel discussion that covered most of the day; in the evening there was a public meeting during which our Headmaster, **Fr. Francis Xavier**, gave a thought-provoking keynote address in chaste and mellifluous Tamil.

Paul C Jesuraja

XAVERIANA, THOOTHUKUDI

For the new community members, **Frs. L.V. Kumar** and **Yagoo**, the transition from a larger to a smaller community has been quite smooth and they seem to enjoy the new atmosphere. The construction of the school hall cum library and classrooms has been delayed because of the non-availability of sand. We do hope that before the feast of St Ignatius it will be ready. All of us are fervently praying for rain. We held our community orientation at Keezha Eeral and enjoyed the Salesian Hospitality. The inauguration of the Veeramamunivar Literary Association was coupled with the inauguration of Cultural Week. Three of our students have brought laurels to the school securing gold medals in Taekwondo International Competition.

The assistant headmaster, **Fr. P. Joseph Xavier**, is initiating the new headmaster, Fr Yahoo, into the nitty gritty of the running of the school, before he takes off for tertianship. Fr Kumar makes himself available for ministry as does **Fr Sales**. Not to be outdone is the Superior, **Fr Albert Joseph**, who even in the midst of the demanding admission-work has found time to preach recollections, hear confessions etc. Br Arockiasamy is searching for good house-helps. The unpredictable timings of the Corporation Water Supply add to his worries. Besides his usual work in Pavalam TV, **Fr Rajan** has helped the St Thomas Matriculation School to identify teachers who need special coaching to speak English better and to evaluate teacher-performance.

Xavier Rajan

LTI

An apt farewell was given to **Frs. Basil Xavier, Sahaya Wilfred** and **Sch. George Raja** on 2 June, for their service to the community. Veterans **Frs. Joseph Pragasam and Gabriel Lawrence** joined the community.

Fr. Michael Jeyaraj conducted the Community Orientation programme on 9 and 10 June with *appreciative inquiry* as the crowning theme. It was decided to have the follow up of the orientation within 3 months.

J. Boniface

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

The Jesuit Community had the annual orientation on 8 and 9 June. The personal sharing by the members was very much appreciated.

Fr Basil, Fr Xavier Vedam and **Fr A. Joseph** addressed all the teaching and the non-teaching staff members. Besides insisting on the need to continue their teaching mission with commitment, the members were specially requested to pay attention to the use of cell-phone. Practically, the same message was passed on to the senior students and the newcomers on June 15th and 22nd respectively.

All the Jesuits celebrated Holy Mass at the premises of the Girls' Hostel on June 19 now looking very bright.

Fr K.C. George blessed a new car of the Community on 15 June. **Fr A. Kingsley** is blessed with some special skills in making our journeys a pleasure.

Fr Y. Raju is poring over all the relevant materials thus getting ready to impart new methods in the Spoken English Course to be given to the newcomers to AAC.

Fr Arockiasamy Xavier has just completed a project and has embarked on his teaching assignment. Besides the already established cattlefarm specially nurtured by **Fr A. Joseph**, poultry, fisheries and piggery will soon number among the income-generating sources at AAC according to the curator and campus treasurer **Fr Roosevelt Fernando. Br Aaron** vies with these two, maintaining his ducks and doves.

Fr A.G. Leonard as Chairman of the Association of Economists of Tamil Nadu was at PSG College of Arts and Science, Coimbatore on May 28, to give a special address to the participants of the three-day Workshop on *Thesis Writing*.

A G Leonard

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

Fr. Charles, the Capuchin Provincial, guided the community in the Orientation Programme on 11 and 12 June. He was able to inspire us to live holistic lives. After his insightful inputs, the members are invigorated to focus themselves for the year ahead.

Both the School and College reopened after summer vacation on 15th June. The Campus Minister **Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan** organized a prayer service on the opening day and again when the I UG students joined the College on 22nd June.

The junior staff had a two-day seminar on 13 and 14 June on Jesuit Mission and Vision.

The College is due for the third cycle of Accreditation. The preparations are in full swing. The staff had a seminar on 27 June in view of preparing a self-study report.

Fr. Sebastia L. Raj, the Provincial, spent three days with us from 22nd and exhorted us to dream dreams.

A batch of 30 school students from Singapore visited our SHEPHERD activities and spent three days in our herbal garden. These students are socially conscientized and involve themselves in raising funds for the upliftment of the needy. They contributed to put up a Herbal Pharmacy Centre at Nagamangalam in the herbal garden.

On behalf of the parish the new assistant PP of our parish **Fr. Thomas Visuvasam** arranged a function on 26 June to honour three Jubilarians: **Frs. M. Arulanandam, X. Savarimuthu** and **Joe Srinivasan**. The children from the Catholic schools in the Parish displayed their histrionic talents. The Sisters, teachers and the parishioners made the day memorable. **Fr John Britto**, the Rector, presided over the Eucharist and the cultural function.

Congrats to **Fr. Sebastian Anand** who has been nominated to the Executive Body of NAAC by UGC for a period of three years.

Fr. Francis Thamburaj is bound for the USA for presenting papers.

Sebastian Anand

S.H. COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

On 1 June **Frs. Michael Alosanai** and **Donatus Jayaraj**, the Tertian Instructors warmly welcomed the 19 Tertians. **Fr. Kulandaisamy** spoke to them about the history of Kodaikanal and on the following day they had a Kodai darshan. **Fr. Arockiam**, the former superior of SHC extended to them a warm welcome with a grand dinner.

During the concelebrated Community mass on June 10, **Fr. Vinny Joseph** accepted the responsibility of the Superior of SHC. The presence of the Jesuits of Kodai hills and former provincial **Fr. M.Devadoss** added solemnity to the occasion.

The new PEAK team members, religious and lay, had a two day orientation programme. Fr. Kulandaisamy, the PEAK director highlighted the important structure and works of PEAK ministry.

On June 17 the Tertians along with their Instructors went on a pilgrimage to Oriyur and visited a few historical places in the neighborhood of Oriyur. They enjoyed the warmth of Jesuit hospitality in different Jesuit houses.

The community orientation was led by the Superior in *Bodhi Zendo* on 21 June. We began with evaluating the past year of our life and ministry in order to have a clear vision of our identity, mission and community.

The provincial's initial input during the contact visit on 26th helped the community to have a clear perspective of the future of the Province. On 28 June the Tertians began their long Retreat. So, let us keep them in our valuable prayers.

P. Manickam and Arul Oli

THOZHAMAI ILLAM

Fr. Arul Sivan gave a one-day session on 'Consecrated Life, a Life of Service' to the Holy Cross Sisters of Madurai Province at Nagercoil. He animated

the Sisters of St. Mary's College, Tuticorin, for a day at Thozhamai Illam. Also, he guided a retreat of the Junior Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation. Many other individuals from different places come over here and seek his guidance to make their retreats. **Fr. Francis Vazhapilly** is proverbially known as one who takes endless pains to spruce up the campus he is attached to. No wonder, then, that within a short period after his arrival here he has transformed our place in such a way that everyone who enters our campus feels its welcoming atmosphere. **Fr. Joseph Raj** is at Tiruchi journeying with the 2nd year novices of St Anne's on a 30-day retreat.

Arul Sivan

IDEAS

The new academic year began with the gathering of the Jesuits of IDEAS, KARISAL, and LAAS (IKL) at LAAS on the first of June. During the Eucharistic Celebration, **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** took over as Superior of IDEAS. On 4 June **Fr. Eugene** was given a grand send-off to Bangalore. The Community Orientation was held on 14 June in which we reviewed last year's activities and redistributed the portfolios according to each one's competence and capability. **Fr. T. Sahayaraj** gladly accepted to be the Assistant Director, Administrator and Programme Coordinator.

Fr. Stephen refreshed and renewed himself to plunge into the media activities of the new academic year after an eight-day retreat at Shembaganur.

The 25th show of Thedal Arangam, a forum for socially oriented films, was organized on 26 June. Three selected short films, scripted by popular Tamil novelists and directed by **Balu Mahendra**, were screened and discussed. Fifty-five Madurai Catholics took part in the show coordinated by Fr. Stephen Martin.

As a writer, Fr. Stephen has entered the world of website. His articles related to the Media occasionally appear in keetru.com. Of course, he writes in his pen-name, *Maulian*.

Fr. Aloysius Irudayam participated in the Dalit Conference in Geneva 20-29 June that NCDHR is anchoring. He has been helping NCDHR to prepare the material for the conference, the Concept Paper and the Schedule of the conference. He served also as a facilitator for the Conference.

A 13-day workshop on "Short video film making for social change" was conducted at Loyola College, Vettavalam from 30 May to 11 June by **Fr. Michaelraj** for 21 graduate and postgraduate students belonging to 5 colleges from Tamil Nadu and one from Bangalore. Four teams of students were asked to work in 4 villages around Vettavalam – Thadagam, Olaippadi, Mathurampattu and Vayalur – in the evenings and look for stories of the people as they were undergoing tough exercises on taking correct video pictures and constructing effective screen plays during the daytime at the College media lab. At the end they came out with 4 short video movies titled *Muttruppulli*, *Adaiyaalam Thedi*, *Thadaaham=Thanneer*, and *Pothaatha Pokkuvarathu*. The hospitality of the Jesuit community was appreciated

and the computer lab facility was excellent.

Fr. Michaelraj was involved in audio recording and editing of 8 awareness songs for AHRF (Arunthathiyar Human Rights Federation) based in Sathyamangalam. The songs sung by local singers were recorded and edited at KARISAL media centre in the month of June.

Jesuit Madurai Province Social Action (JMPSA) held an action plan meeting on 22 June with AMUTU, KARISAL and PEAK as part of its common programmes in 4 taluks – Oddanchatram, Kodaikanal, Sattur and Sivakasi. Guided by the Social Action coordinator, the directors and the taluk field animators of the three centres charted their action plans in preparation for the local body elections.

Michael Jeyaraj

JRS

While remembering gratefully the services rendered by **Fr. Prem Kumar**, **Sch. John Michael** and some other religious and lay volunteers of JRS, we heartily welcome **Fr. Louie Albert**, **Sch. V.M. Raja** and other volunteers. The presence of **Fr. Louis Prakash**, the JRS director of SA, increased our enthusiasm to serve the cause of JRS.

The annual JRS teachers' Training Programmes for Thiruvannamalai and Tirunelveli zones were conducted from 5 - 12 June at LCE, Chennai and SXCE, Palayamkottai respectively. **Schs. James Raja** and **John Magesh** handled spoken English classes. We are grateful to all the Jesuits and the volunteers of the JRS who helped us.

V. M. Raja

CYRIL SURESH FROM BRAZIL

Brazil consists of 27 civil states of which the Amazonia region has seven. People speak Portuguese here. Jesuits have three Provinces and one Region.

The Amazonia is the new region where 43 Jesuits (priests and scholastics together) from different countries are working. I am happy to be part of this region. **Fr. Roberto** the outgoing Regional Superior, along with **Sch. Enrique** was glad to receive me at the airport when I landed here on 13 June at 12.30 pm. The flight was pleasant with the panoramic view of the Arabian Gulf and the Atlantic Ocean. Amazon forests are the lungs of the world. The flora and fauna of Amazonia are one of the most precious things to be preserved in the world. There are many rivers and beautiful waterfalls. Negro and Solimoes are the most famous. The common mode of transport is by boat (Barco) or by flight. We don't see any mountains here. While the beauty of Amazon enthalls the film industries, the rich minerals found in this part have not failed to attract the MNCs. I am in Manaus which is an industrial city and the State capital. It accommodates roughly two million people with cultural diversity. The Catholic Church here has a main apostolic thrust in pastoral and social action ministries. However, the need is far greater than the resources. It is almost impossible to reach out to all the people. Now prior to my theology studies, I am learning Portuguese along with exposure to the Jesuit ministry. Brazil is open to all missionaries who dare to dream

creatively. As I count on your prayers, be assured of my prayers that bind together our companionship in the Lord.

VIGIL FOR SRI LANKAN TAMILS

I am happy to share with you the news about the Marina Vigil conducted on the Marina Beach behind Kannagi statue from 5 pm to 7 pm on Sunday 26 June for the cause of our Sri Lankan Tamils on this UN International Day of Tortured People. The crowd that attended the vigil was very impressive. More than 30,000 people attended it.

It was mainly organized by *May 17 Movement*, the leader of which is **Mr. Thirumurugan**. Arul Kadal worked in close collaboration with them by mobilizing the nearby parishes, institutions and NGOs. The Vigil cautiously avoided political, religious and caste affiliations. Though prominent persons like Pazha Nedumaran, Seemaan and some persons from political parties like MDMK, PMK attended it, the common thrust and spirit of the Vigil held sway.

People started pouring in from 4.30 pm onwards. Slogans were loudly raised throughout the Vigil. No speeches; only a few words from Nedumaran. There was a signature campaign from the participants, to be sent to UNO along with a video presentation of this Vigil. The beach was brightly lit with candlelight. After the main vigil, people in their respective groups continued shouting out slogans for some time. On the whole it was a moving experience.

The Vigil gave the impression that the Tamils in Tamil Nadu have not totally lost their love for and solidarity with the Tamils in Sri Lanka, for their freedom and dignified living. Let this advocacy work go on.

Raj Irudaya

NEWS

What is GIAN?

GIAN has been around for some time. For those who are wondering what GIAN is all about, it is an Advocacy network that would utilize the vast human and material resources of the Society of Jesus, to address the specific challenges across the world, particularly of the poor and with the poor. The network builds on the Jesuit traditions of *Magis*, reading the signs of the times and the call of the GC35 to undertake ministries that take us to the 'frontiers'.

GIAN works through five networks: Ecology, Education, Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources (GNMR), Migration and Peace and Human Rights. Each network has a leader and a core group to plan programmes and evolve an effective advocacy network. Ultimately, GIAN through its advocacy efforts hopes *'to transform policies, laws, practices, power relations that generate injustice and exclusion and strengthen the capacity of people to participate and decide: empowerment –Citizenship. It is a part of the broader process of promotion of Justice. And for us Jesuits it will be a tool for the mission of Faith-Justice'* says Lucia Rodrigues, the leader of the Right to Education network.

The General workshop at Loyola, between 18 and 23 June, 2011 brought together all the 5 leaders, 20 core group members, 8 observers from the organizing team Alboan, a development agency along with 2 members of Social Justice and Ecology Secretariat (SJES), Rome. The Secretary and team members of ALBOAN facilitated the workshop with the threefold objective a) to provide training on International Ignatian Advocacy and Networking; b) to help the core groups become effective working groups and c) to establish a plan of action (for the next 1, 5 years) in each one of the networks with clear calendar and responsibilities.

The Methodology followed was focussed on evolving a concrete plan of action. Hence out of the 22 sessions we had, ten were core group meetings, evolving specific plans for the future of the networks. It is to the credit of the workshop that every core group came out with time bound action programmes.

The workshop was also an occasion for all of us, to some for the first time, to be at the holy precincts of the Founder's conversion, the Eucharist celebrated at the Conversion chapel being a high point of the workshop. We also had a guided pilgrimage of the House of St. Ignatius and a concluding Eucharistic celebration at the residence of Blessed Garate, the house adjacent to the spirituality centre at Loyola.

We were five from South Asian Assistency: Xavier Jeyaraj (Secretary, JESA and core group member - Migration Network), D M Solomon, (Leader - GNMR Network), Walter Fernandes (Core group member - GNMR network), Trevor Miranda (Core group member - Education network) and M.K. George (Core group member - Peace and Human Rights network).

All the networks have deadlines for the preparation of position papers, an internal mapping which would gather information on key institutions and persons involved or interested in advocacy (potential members of the network), the perspectives, interests, concerns of grass root people, diagnosis about the strengths of the social sector and the different Jesuit institutions, and conclusions about the interests, capacities and wills of the institutions in the Society of Jesus on the issue of advocacy. This would be followed by an External Mapping exercise to identify key allies, both from the church-related and civil society institutions and networks who are active on advocacy on the respective issues of GIAN. It will also look for the most relevant international institutions and other target institutions identifying main topics of the international political agenda on the issue of the network. By June-July 2012, the core group will meet again to take stock of the progress.

Do join the networks and move one step ahead to the Frontiers that the GC and the Society is calling us to.

(M.K. George S J)

GENERAL CURIA, ROME

Letter on FACSI

On June 12, Pentecost Sunday, Father General wrote a letter on solidarity inside the Society through FACSI (the "Charitable and Apostolic Fund")

established by Father Pedro Arrupe in 1976). After recalling the meaning of Pentecost, Fr. Nicolás wrote: "Over the past thirty-five years one great sign of our shared mission has been our Charitable and Apostolic Fund whereby the whole Society contributes of what it has for the sake of the works in need of our financial support. On this great feast of Pentecost I want to take the opportunity to remind us of this dimension of our life and how we have chosen to do it: in solidarity with one another on mission.

After a reference to that "generosity of the Society inspired by Ignatius that always surprises us by its magnanimity", Father General ends the letter with these words: "It is that generosity that I ask be the real motivation for all of us to support our brothers reaching out in their need for our help... Let me encourage each of you to give new life and consistency to this solidarity fund, cooperating with the Spirit that inflames us still to this day".

EAST TIMOR: Three Jesuits Declared *National Heroes*

During the celebrations of the National Day, the 20th of May, José Ramos Horta, President of the Republic of East Timor, declared "national heroes" three Portuguese Jesuit missionaries. They are Fathers João Felgueiras and José Martins, and Brother (now no more) Daniel de Ornelas, who arrived in East Timor in 1974 and remained there for more than 24 years during the Indonesian invasion of the island. Thanking for the recognition received and speaking for all of them, Fr. João Felgueiras underlined the need for "other religious men and women to be encouraged to leave for Timor to evangelize a growing number of children so that they can assume the role of leaders in the faith in this extreme corner of the world." As for the President, he invited the Church to assume the high responsibility of education in the schools of Timor". Timor, an island of the Malay Archipelago, is politically divided into East and West Timor.

LATIN AMERICA: Co-Responsible in the Mission

From May 17-21 a total of 18 Provincials and Regional Superiors of Latin America and Caribbean met in Puerto Rico for the XXII Meeting of the Conference of Latin American Provincials (CPAL). In the final communiqué among other things we read: "Most of the time was devoted to finalize the drafting of the 2011-2020 *Common Apostolic Project* (PAC). After a process of discernment which was attended by Jesuits and collaborators of the various Provinces, the Project was finally approved. With this Common Apostolic Project, titled *Co-responsible in the mission*, we hope to give life to synergies that, in addition to increase the impact of our action, will lead us to grow as a single apostolic body. Once approved by Father General, the project will be published, emanated and put into practice, and it will be an instrument of first order for the mission of the Society of Jesus in Latin America and the Caribbean for the next years...

INDIA: Campaign for Traditional Names

Fr. Joseph Dias in Mumbai is campaigning for children to be baptized with traditional Christian names to maintain their identity. The campaign has

received support from Pope Benedict XVI. Father Dias, who is the assistant director of REAP (*Reach Education Action Programme*, which aims to empower slum children and women through education), a Jesuit initiative in Mumbai, quoted the Pope about the importance of the name for a child. "The name is an indelible seal that sets children off on a lifelong journey of religious faith." "Children are not merchandise," says Father Dias who was surprised to come across children named Aspirin, John Kennedy, Prince Albert, Ben-Hur, Brooklyn, and decided to begin counseling parents to give meaningful Christian names instead of naming their children with no Christian significance.

NEAR EAST: Bearers of Hope

On June 6th Fr. Victor Assouad, S.J., Provincial of the Province of Near East, wrote: "After the Egyptian revolution, it is now the turn of Syria to be in the storm. Really, it is the whole Arab world which is shaken by a real wave of unrest. With the Jesuits of Syria we felt the urgent need to meet (24th and 25th of May) to reflect on the situation of the country and to the events that it is going through. I think of the words we have heard repeatedly during our communitarian discernment and that I want to emphasize again: *The changes underway in the Arab world and the current unrest in the Syrian society are bearers of a new hope that we must take into account. Can we be unfailing bearers of this hope?*"

NEPAL: New Jesuit Mission

Two young Jesuit priests and one Jesuit scholastic are the initial team of a new Jesuit Mission in Tipling, a remote village development area in Dhading district, Northern Nepal, in the foothills of the Ganesh Himalaya Mountains that border China. Tipling consists of five villages where the majority of the population is mainly Protestant with about 100 Catholic families, who were assisted by lay catechists. For several years the Jesuit priests have been helping educate the children of Tamang migrant families in north Kathmandu along with the Sisters of Charity. After a long journey in an old truck ahead of a two-day trek the Jesuits reached Tipling and got an accommodation in Thulo Gaon, the central village, and plans are afoot for them to start helping out in the local government-run school, which lacks proper teachers.

SPAIN: Court for the Massacre in El Salvador

After two years of investigation, the Spanish bench reopened one of the blackest pages in the recent history of El Salvador by ordering the arrest and imprisonment of 20 soldiers and former soldiers for their alleged involvement in the murder of six Jesuits, their collaborator and her teenage daughter in 1989 during the civil war (1980-1992). The judge of the *Audiencia Nacional* in Madrid, the Spanish High Criminal Court, Eloy Velasco, ordered that the persons affected by the measure be presented in front of the court within 10 days. Among the accused there are former Salvadoran minister of defense Humberto Larios and René Emilio Ponce (this latter died on May

2), and former army colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides. The Spanish Jesuit Ignacio Ellacuría, Rector of *Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón Cañas* (UCA), was killed in the campus, along with his brethren and collaborators, on 15th November 1989 during a raid of the soldiers of the anti-guerrilla battalion Atlacatl. According to Spanish investigators, the Jesuits, and particularly Fr. Ellacuría, were working to promote the opening of peace negotiation between the executive, presided over at that time by Alfredo Cristiani with the support of the Casa Blanca, and the guerrilla of *Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional* (FMLN), now in power. According to Judge Velasco this was the main reason for the murder.

SRI LANKA: Jesuit not Guilty of Tamil Tiger Ties

Fr. Paul Satkunanayagam, who was accused of having links with Tamil Tiger rebels, has been acquitted after a court hearing in late May. The Jesuit, together with other five people, all ethnic Tamils, was arrested in Dambulla on February 9. He was freed two days later but the government investigated through his life history and his whereabouts. At the end of May the Jesuit priest and others appeared in court but he was acquitted from charges of being affiliated to “violent groups.” Father Satkunanayagam, who is in his 70s and is in poor health, works at an NGO center in Batticaloa where he offers counseling. He studied in the United States where he obtained a doctorate in psychology.

SUDAN: New JRS School Opens

The children of Tipere, Southern Sudan, can now study in better conditions after the JRS handed the keys to a new classroom block over to the education director of Kajo Keji County. While most neighbouring communities have benefited from internationally-funded school construction projects, Tipere’s school system has, until now, been operating out of dilapidated, mud-and-stick walled buildings that look as though they would collapse if struck by an errant football. The new building, on the other hand, is one of the snazziest in the county. Designed by JRS engineers Veronica Sanchez and Alejandro del Castillo, the building sits atop a gently sloping hill, and has thirteen white concrete pillars guarding its veranda. In addition, the engineers added ten concrete benches to the veranda, so that children have somewhere to sit while waiting for classes to begin. The rocky hills which separate Tipere from the Nile River form a striking backdrop for the new building. “We have done our part. ... Now it is time for you to do yours. You must show your appreciation by keeping your school clean and well-maintained, and by improving your academic performance”, JRS Primary Education Coordinator, Londo Eliason, told the students, teachers and parents lined up in front of the new building.

NEW RELEASES

வருக Fr. Jerry, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul; pp. 72, Rs. 30

தேவதையைக் கண்டேன் Fr. Thamburaj, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul; pp. 72, Rs. 10

ஆன்மிக விடியல் Fr. Xavier Irudayaraj, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul; pp. 104, Rs. 40

சித்திரச் சிந்தனைகள் Fr. Xavier Antony, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp144, Rs. 60

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Dominic Lakra (HAZ) 64/39, on 5 June, at Sitagarha

Fr. Daniel Ferrando (BOM) 92/76 on 15 June

Fr. Thomas Athazhapadam (PAT) 87/68, on 30 June, at Patna

Fr. Augustine Arulsamy, S.J.,

(1948 - 2011)

Fr. Augustine passed away on 30.06.2011 at 11.15 a.m. in the ICU of St. Isabella Hospital, Chennai.

Fr. Augustine was admitted to the hospital on the 24th of June for high sugar and for the treatment of the kidney. In spite of all the medical help given, he suffered a multi organ failure on the 30th of June which caused his death.

His mortal remains were brought to Loyola College, Chennai on the 1st of July at 7:30 a.m. It was kept in the parlour for public homage. People from Malligapuram and Palliagaram parishes also came to pay their respects to their beloved Pastor whom they loved and venerated.

The final journey began at 11.15 a.m. to the Loyola College Church. The concelebrated Mass was presided over by **Rt. Rev. Neethinathan**, the Bishop of Chingleput. **Fr. Peter Xavier** gave a short sketch of the life and ministry of Fr. Augustine and also highlighted his great qualities as a Jesuit Pastor.

In his touching homily, **Fr. Xavier Alphonse**, narrated the great qualities of Fr. Augustine.

Bishop Neethinathan spoke of his involvement with the people of the parishes wherever he served and commended him as a true Shepherd.

After communion a host of people paid glowing tributes to Fr. Augustine. **Fr. A. Victor** on behalf of the Province and Chennai Mission, **Fr. Jeyaraj** – the Parish Priest of Malligapuram, **Fr. Anandanathan** – from Palliagram Parish, and one of the Parishioners of Palliagram Parish, one of the sisters of St. Joseph’s of Lyons from Fatima College, Madurai where Fr. Augustine was brought up and nourished as their own child with his devoted father **Mr. Arulsamy** and the cousin sister of Fr. Augustine.



The Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore did the final blessing in the church expressing the wish of the Holy father that the Bishops must respect and love the religious because of their great sacrifice and dedication in different ministries. He bestowed his encomium on Fr. Augustine and all the Jesuits for their great involvement and service to the poor and marginalized.

The body of Fr. Augustine was laid to rest in the Loyola College Cemetery with the final blessing given by Fr. Victor.

Thanks to **Fr. K. Amal** and **Br. Thomas** and **Fr. M. S. Jacob**, the MC, Fr. Augustine was given a grand farewell.

Fr. Augustine will remain in hearts of the people of Malligapuram, Mandabam camp and Palliagaram for his affection and Pastoral touch in everything he did.

Xavier Alphonse

“An Athlete’s Pride”

“I’m a high school player. I’m a team player. I play with my friends and with some of my enemies, but I respect everyone when it comes to my sport. I know I’m not going to get a multi-million dollar contract to play professionally. I know I may not even get my name in the paper. I play for love of the game. For the pride and honor, for the blood, sweat and tears it takes to make the team, to earn the spot, to win the game.

I play because I can, I play because I know that my life would be empty without the sport I play. I would have a lack of everything my sport gives me... integrity, courage, talent, fearlessness, pride, strength, stamina, will, and the heart of a champion. If I didn’t play, I would lose a part of me.

I’m an athlete. I’m a girl. I’m a champion, not because my team always wins, but because when we don’t, we learn from our mistakes. We try to fix them, and most of all because we have fun.

I have built lifelong friendships and memories because of my being an athlete. I leave everything on the field or court and continue to push myself. I am never happy with second place, but I have learned to accept it. I have learned to get over and through my anger and be the athlete and player I have always dreamed of being.

I don’t play for my parents, for my family, for my friends; I don’t play for my coach or my teachers or my school. I play for myself but when I’m playing I represent them. It isn’t about winning or losing, but I hate to lose. I won’t settle for a tie, and I am not satisfied with 100%.

To play, you have to sacrifice everything, your body, your time, your sweat, blood, and tears, everything... for your team.

I am a player, and athlete and a champion, not because I know what it is like to win, but because I know what it is like to lose. I know what it is like to feel the anger and pain that comes along with “second best.”

I have been that girl with tears in her eyes, walking out to receive the second place trophy and clapping as the other team, my opponents, receive the first place one.

I know what it is like to lose, to win, to want to quit, to want to cry, to not want to get up. I know what it is like to hear the cheers and yells for you. I know what it is like to feel the pressure of everyone on your shoulders, and I know what it is like to choke under that pressure. I know what it means to be an athlete, a true player, and that is why I play.

I AM AN ATHLETE, A CHAMPION, A TRUE PLAYER.”

(Contributed by Fr. Michael Jeyaraj)

