



JULY 2012

(For Private Circulation)

MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL



Renewal of Loyalty to St. Ignatius

Dear Brothers

For us Jesuits, July is the month of our dear and revered Founder, St Ignatius. This year, July is all the more important for another reason, namely, the 70th Congregation of Procurators being held in Nairobi from July 9 to 14. It is significant that this meeting is being held in the month of special devotion to St. Ignatius.

Being the privileged sons of St. Ignatius, each one of us is called upon to be faithful to him and to the Society founded by him, in all aspects of our life - our vocation, our vows, the rules and guidelines, the works and ministries of our community, the specific responsibilities assigned to each one and our relationship with one another. As a faithful and loyal son, each one is expected to think with the Society and with the leadership of the Province and individual communities. Every Jesuit has to be loyal to the Society, to the Province and to the Community in order to be able to claim that he is loyal and faithful to Ignatius. Anything opposite of this is destructive of oneself, one's community and the good name of the Society itself.

Our loyalty and faithfulness

is shown in the way we live our life, in the way we carry out our mission and ministries, at the individual level and as a community, and in the way we accept and respond to the decisions and directives of those in authority. Obedience is the well-known hallmark of the Jesuits. Loyalty and faithfulness to the vow of obedience is to be seen at the time of appointments and transfers. When we accept such decisions willingly and whole-heartedly, without any complaint or ill-feeling or hurt-feeling, that is the proud moment of our life as Jesuits. This is all the more important because we are aware that any transfer or any appointment is an appointment for a ministry or a mission. We are also aware that every responsibility assigned to a Jesuit is a ministry, either directly or indirectly. There is no gradation of degree or special status to any of our ministries, as all of them are the same before God - small or big, prestigious or non-prestigious, glamorous ones or behind the scene services, urban or rural, institutional or non-institutional. Further, as faithful and loyal Jesuits, we are expected to be ever available to take up any type of ministry in the Society - anything, anywhere, anytime. This inner disposition is definitely a clear yard stick for each one to check and measure his level of faithfulness and loyalty to our Founder, St. Ignatius.

The transfers and appointments

are over for this year and the members have moved to their respective communities and have taken charge of their new assignments. The new academic year has begun and the community orientation programme is being completed. This is the time for each one to renew his spirit of loyalty to his community, companions, work, province and the Society at large. Wherever we have been missioned and whatever we have been assigned, let us do it faithfully, whole-heartedly and joyfully.

Let us remember that this is the best way and the only way to prove our loyalty and faithfulness to St. Ignatius and ensure the good name and reputation of the Society, the Province and our specific community. Our loyalty also implies that we become more and more positive about our companions, our community and the leadership at different levels. In sum, in this month of St. Ignatius, let us resolve to prove ourselves to be his faithful sons by renewing ourselves spiritually, attitudinally and emotionally and let us also manifest the same disposition in our action, in our conversations among ourselves, in our relationship with outsiders, etc., both individually and collectively.

Fraternally,
Sebastien L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Appointments:

Fr General has appointed:

Fr Susaimanickam Arul, Regional Superior of Kohima Region

Fr. Provincial has appointed:

- Fr. P. Joseph Xavier the Director of Regents
- Fr. Arockia Raj Raphael the Assistant Director of SUPAM. He will work along with the Director, Fr. Jerry Rosario.

Provincial's Programme:

JULY

- 01 GBM: Youth Commission – IDEAS, Madurai
02 Meeting: Managers of Estates and Farms – IDEAS, Madurai
04 Meeting: Hostel Wardens (Colleges) – Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
05 GBM: Formation – Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
07 GBM: Dalit Commission – St. Mary's, Madurai
08-09 Workshop: Sacred Heart Brothers – P'Kottai
10 Meeting: Hostel Wardens (Schools) -- St. Mary's, Madurai
11 TNPCRI- Executive Committee Meeting – Campion School, Trichy
12 Meeting: Campus Treasurers/Treasurers – Beschi Illam
13 GBM: Finance Commission – Beschi Illam
14 Meeting: Principals and Secretaries – St. Joseph's, Trichy
15 Meeting: New Superiors and Team Leaders – Beschi Illam
16 Consult
17 Meeting: Directors of Technical and Vocational Schools – LTI, Madurai
18 TNBC-TNPCRI Joint Meeting, Chennai
19 Informal Visit: Ranipet
20 GBM: Brothers Commission – Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
21-22 GBM: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission and IGFA – DA, Chennai
23 GBM: TVET – Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
28-29 GBM and Visitation: ISI Bangalore
30 Informal Visit: Vallam, Kuppayanallur
31 Feast of St Ignatius – Vadampakkam

AUGUST

- 03 Coordinators Meeting – Beschi Illam
04 Joint Meeting of LS/TL and Coordinators – Beschi Illam
05 LS/TL Meeting – Beschi Illam
08-14 Visit of the Provincial of France
18 Meeting: Campus Ministers (Colleges/Schools/Tech. Institutes) – Beschi Illam
19 Consult
20 Meeting: Admonitors to Local Superiors -- Beschi Illam, Dindigul
21 Visitation: Kadamalaikundu
22-25 Visitation: Kodai Hills
26 Visitation: Fr. George Pulparambil – Shoranur (Kerala)
28-29 Informal Visit: Ooty, Mettupalayam, Makkampalayam
30-31 Informal Visit: Sendrapatti (Salem Diocese)

Announcements:

Visit of the Provincial of France

The Provincial of France, Fr. Jean-Yves Grenet SJ, will be in the Province from 8 Aug eve till 14 eve. He will visit important places where the French Jesuits have worked - Saruganei, Devakottai, Oriyur, Palayamkottai, Madurai, Kodaikanal Hills, Dindigul, Trichy, Tindivanam, Pondicherry and Chennai.

Young Priests Meet

Fr Provincial is organizing a two-day meeting of all the young priests of the Province – those who have not taken their last vows. This will be held at Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, on 1 and 2 September. All the young priests under this category are expected to participate in this meeting. In case of any difficulty, please approach the Provincial for exemption.

Ignatian Eco Retreat

Retreat Guide: Fr Robert Athickal, SJ, Taru Mitra, Patna; Dates: 8 Nov PM to 17 AM, '12; Place: Navsarni, Diocesan Pastoral Centre, Sawantwadi. Register as soon as possible (first come first served!). Contact: Rappai Poothokaren, S.J./ Email: rappaisj@gmail.com Mobile: 09426304943

Please Note

Sch. Alex Yagu: alexyagoozoo@gmail.com/ Fr Arockia Dass J.: jadassj@gmail.com/ Fr. K.A. Augustine: 94887-31473/ Fr. Sebastian Anand: 75976-16365/ Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari's new Tel No.: (04652) 247486/



Congratulations!

- To **Fr Sebastia L. Raj**, the Provincial, who has been elected the President of the Tamil Nadu - Pondicherry unit of CRI.

- **Fr Jebamalai Raja**, for being chosen for 'the Architect of Social Awareness' award by the Catholic Art and Literary Forum.

- **Fr Xavier Vedam**, who has been elected an Executive Committee member of Caritas-India.

Congregation of the Procurators begins in Nairobi

IN KENYA

The 70th Congregation of the Procurators began in Nairobi, Kenya on 28 June. Jesuit delegates from around the world are now making the pre-Congregation retreat which will end on 7 July 2012. The Congregation is supposed to start on 9 July and last for one week, till 14 July 2012.

The retreat is also the time when the delegates will meet Fr. General. At this meeting Fr General will discuss with the delegate the state of his province based on his report and other information that is available to him

HISTORY

St. Ignatius discouraged holding General Congregations at definite intervals, because of the work and distraction they may involve. (Constitution No. 677). But he later clarified that the Superior General maintains communication with the Society through letters and through the persons who should come from the provinces, at least once every three years from each province (and every four years from the Indies) (Constn. No. 679).

These texts of Ignatius, and the wish expressed by the Pope, led the second General Congregation (1565), presided over by St Francis de Borgia, the newly elected General, to propose the establishment of a Congregation of Procurators which will be called every three years. The first Congregation of the Procurators was called in 1568 and until the beginning of the 18th century the General Congregations and Congregation of the Procurators have been held regularly. General Congregation 34 (1995) ruled that the Congregation of the Procurators should be held every four years.

So now the Congregation of the Procurators is called by Fr. General every four years after the General Congregation. Procurators are those who have been elected

by the Provincial Congregations (one from each Province) to represent them at the Congregation of the Procurators. Dependent and Independent Regions are not entitled to send a member, but they send a report to Rome and Fr. General can invite them to be present.



THE PURPOSE

The most important purpose of the Congregation of the Procurators is to decide whether a General Congregation should be called. Another important task is to discuss the overall state of the Society especially in its more universal dimension. The Congregation has no power to legislate, but if the members think it necessary, they can suspend decrees issued by previous General Congregations. The suspension will be valid until the next General Congregation meets.



THE VENUE

Most of the Procurators' Congregations were held in Rome, except those of 1886 and 1889, which took place in Fiesole (Florence) and that of 2003, which took place in Loyola. The present Congregation of

the Procurators is, for the first time, held outside Europe.

THE PARTICIPANTS

There are 84 procurators elected by their provinces and 13 others who are participating as ex officio. The number of procurators from the various Assistancies is: Africa – 7, Asia Pacific – 7, Latin America – 14, South Asia – 18, South, Central, Eastern and Western Europe – 29, United States – 9.

PROCURATORS FROM SOUTH ASIA:

Andhra: Kishore Gujjula; Bombay: Arun De Souza; Calcutta: Charles Pollet; Darjeeling: Joseph Parakad; Delhi: Thomas Kuriacose; Dumka-Raiganj: Stephen Koitharayil; Goa: Agnelo Mascarenhas; Gujarat: Francis Parmar; Hazaribag: Santosh Minz; Jamshedpur: John Mundu; Karnataka: Joseph Lobo; Kerala: Mathew Elanjipuram; Madhya Pradesh: Satyaprakash Tigga; Madurai: Francis Jeyapathy; Patna: Prakash Louis; Pune: Peter 'Cruz; Ranchi: Ranjit Toppo; Sri Lanka: Philips Stanley.

- Prakash Louis, SJ

Commission to study philosophical and theological studies

Fr General has established an international ad hoc Commission to study changes in the philosophical and theological studies of Jesuits "that we will better prepare our men to accomplish the Society's mission in the decades to come." The Coordinator of the Commission will be Fr Ben Nebres, former President of Ateneo de Manila, Philippines. There are five other Jesuits in the Commission, one of whom is from India - Fr George Pattery, former Provincial of Calcutta and now a Professor of Theology at De Nobili, Pune.



Events



FROM THE FRENCH PRESIDENT

Mr. Pierre Fournier, the Consul General of France, met the Provincial, Fr Sebastia L. Raj, on 5 June '12 at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai to hand over in person a letter of condolence from Mr Francois Hollande, the President of France. In the letter addressed to Fr Provincial the President says, "I am pained to learn of the demise of Fr Ceyrac at Chennai, in India on the 30th May. A legendary figure among the French missionaries has left us, leading an eventful and exemplary life, entirely devoted to self sacrifice".

AHAL, KILPENNATHUR:

A successful summer camp for students was conducted on 01-14 May by Sch Lawrence, SJ and Sch Kamilas, SJ. On 10 June, a unique 'double decker' grotto of St. Antony of Padua and Our Lady of Perpetual Help were blessed by Fr A.C.Savarimuthu and inaugurated by Fr Francis Xavier of Thiruvannamalai. The statue of Our Lady of Perpetual Help is exceptional, as it shows her standing, in contrast to the usual sitting position. It is the tireless work of Frs Bellarmine and Santiago that made this grotto possible.

- Rajasekaran

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR:

The college reopened on 18 June when Fr Xavier Vedam, the Principal, introduced the new officials to the staff and students. It is a rare and hearty scene to see our hostels and classrooms overflowing with students. Orientation for the new lecturers was held on 30 June. The community hosted the GBM of Higher Education on 24 June. IAS coaching for the rural students of neighbouring districts began on 10 June with the help of Manitha Neyam Arakkatalai of Saidai Duraisamy. Fr Rufus inaugurated

the show and motivated the 434 young IAS aspirants from various colleges.

- Rufus

ARULANANDAR SHRINE & SCHOOL, ORIYUR

The community, led by the new superior, Fr Francis Sales, welcomed the Tertians and their Instructors from Shembaganur who came on a pilgrimage to the Shrine. Fr Darwin, the parish priest, organized the celebration of 65th anniversary of the canonization of St John de Britto on 21-23, June. Fr R. K. Samy of Amaradakki animated the community orientation. The Holy Spirit Mass on 27 June was followed by the blessing of the newly built Purified Water Center that will serve the students.

- Stephen Robert

ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI:

On 16 June, the day of inauguration, the first year theology students were warmly welcomed. Fr Arul Raj, Vicar General of Madras-Mylapore archdiocese graced the occasion. Frs I. M. Joseph and Leonard from VJ conducted the Pre-Theology Week for the new students. Fr Alangaram is the acting Director of Studies and Fr Baskar Antony, having successfully completed his M Th viva exam, has joined the Arul Kadal staff. After their B.Th comprehensive exams the fourth years have left for SUPAM.

- Antony Markus

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL:

A course on 'Healing the Inner Child' to the first year novices was conducted on 11-15 June '12 by Sr Selva of the Holy Cross Congregation. Fr Dhanaraj directed the retreat of the second year novices. On 15 June, Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 14 pre-novices joined the Novitiate. While 12 of them will stay at Beschi, two have left for Darjeeling. On 21 June 15 Novices made their first profession. In the homily Fr Sebastia L. Raj, the Provincial, exhorted them "to live forever as instruments of

Love". An audio CD with songs composed by the Novices was released by Frs. I. Raj and Britto Peter and was received by Fr Innaci. Three of our young men will do their Juniorate in Belgaum, 3 in Kolkata, 3 in Sitagarha and 10 in Thiruvananthapuram. On 20 June 9 Sisters from 7 Congregations started a six month formators' programme.

- David Francis

DHYANA ASHRAM, CHENNAI:

Community assembly, held on 05 June, decided on 52 events for the year 2012 - 13. The golden jubilees of Frs Raja and Rodrigues were celebrated on 16 June. Fr Thamburaj is in charge of a new series on salient Ignatian features for IGFA. He addressed a prayer rally in Perambur, St. Lourdes Shrine on Pentecost day.

- Xavier Irudayaraj

DE NOBILI, PUNE:

Community orientation was held on 9,10 June. Fr. M. J Victor, who has joined the DNC as a spiritual guide, inspired us by sharing his experiences in Kazakhstan where he served for the last five years.

GOA JUNIORATE:

We are 13 Juniors here, from five provinces - Goa, Bombay, Pune, Gujarat and Kolkatta and Madurai. On 25 June we had the inauguration with the Mass of Holy Spirit concelebrated by the Provincials of Goa, Bombay, Pune and Gujarat. Fr Oscar, SJ is our Dean.

- Anto Arputha Raja

IDEAS, MADURAI:

Fr Michael Jeyaraj guided the 8 first-year Arul Kadal theology students on 07-12 June in their efforts to study important Jesuit social documents that opened their eyes to the history of social action ministry in the province. IDEAS' Women's Desk organized

a training for 55 Dalit women from Devakottai area on 16-17 June and a consultation for 19 Dalit women activists from various organizations on 19 June. JMPSA Coordinator Fr. Michael Raj, organized the annual GBM on 27 June. After three years EUDAC (Empowerment for Untouchability and Discrimination Free Arunthathiyar Community) was inaugurated on 23 June at IDEAS in the presence of Jesuits from social centres, and cadres of people's movements. Fr Joe Antony, Socius, inaugurated the event and addressed the gathering on behalf of Fr Provincial. Others present were Mr Athiyaman, Founder of Aathithamizhar Peravai, Mr. Jakkaiyan, Founder of Arunthamizhar Viduthalai Iyakkam, Mr Kathir, Founder of EVIDENCE and Mr. Premraj Ambrose, Senior Advocate, Madurai. As a collective venture of AMUTHU, IDEAS, KARISAL, LAAS and PEAK in four taluks of Dindigul and Virudhunagar districts, this project is multi-dimensional in its approach (research, increasing awareness, advocacy, campaign and lobbying) and aims at effecting practical and policy changes.

- **Aloysius Irudayam**

JAAT CONVENTION, CHENNAI:

The 2nd State Convention of Jesuit Alumni Associations of Tamilnadu (JAAT) was held at Loyola College, Chennai on 9-10 June 2012. At the inaugural session the Chief Guest, Justice Chelemaswar, the Supreme Court judge, Delhi said that when you strengthen the sphere of education the life of the marginalized will certainly improve. Fr Sebasti L Raj, the Provincial, delivered the keynote address emphasizing the need for a paradigm shift in the field of education. We need to prepare young men for the fast changing world and the alumni could collaborate in the Jesuit mission, he said. Dr. T .S. Sridhar I.A.S, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Higher Education spoke on 'Education for Tomorrow'. He affirmed that there is an urgent need for quality education to keep up with the growth of technology and scientific research.

On the first day heads of our schools and colleges described the achievements, dreams and future plans of our Institutions. All the 16 Alumni Associations of JAAT made their presentations. The cultural programmes presented by the students of LICET and LIBA enthralled the participants. On the second day Mr. V.A George, CEO, Thejo Engineering and President, Knowledge Xchange, and Dr. Irai Anbu I.A.S. spoke on education for tomorrow. The well-known Collector of Madurai and a Jesuit alumnus, Mr. U. Sahayam I.A.S, categorically affirmed that the Government can only transfer him but it can't change his core principles that he learnt from the Jesuits and Jesuit Institutions (He



has since been transferred). Three panelists, Dr. Lakhmandoss, Madras Medical Mission, Mr. Xavier Britto, Chairman, Indev Group of Companies, and Mr. Palanisamy, Founder of SEED, shared how Jesuit education enabled them to be successful in their professions by teaching them to live by moral and human values.

At the valedictory function Fr S. Mariadoss SJ, the Joint coordinator of JAAT, welcomed all. Mr. N. Vittal IAS, an alumnus shared his experiences in the state of Gujarat as Central Vigilance Commissioner. Although he had a very tough time with the local and central Ministers, he said he never sacrificed the moral principles and values he had learnt from Loyola College. Fr V. Augustine S.J, the JAAT Coordinator, thanked all, especially Fr Provincial, the Loyola Community, Loyola Alumni Association and its Director, Fr. Xavier Alphonse SJ.

- **V. Augustine**

JRS-TN:

The annual teachers' training for Thiruvannamalai, Tiruchi and Nellai zones were conducted at

Loyola, Chennai, St. Justin's, Madurai and St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai. 98 teachers benefitted. The Deputy Director of Rehabilitation Department, Mr. V. Jayakumar presided over the valedictory function on 12 May at Loyola B. Ed College. This year, 878 SSLC students appeared for the Board exams and 794 of them passed (90.43%), 90 students scored 400 and above. Nanthini from Arachalur camp of Erode district scored 489, the highest. 552 students appeared for 12th standard exams, 488 students passed (88.41%), and 40 students have scored 1000 and above. One-day orientation for the seven new JRS staff was organized. Fr. Britto Peter SJ, the interim director, spoke to the staff on 27 June. CRS organized an annual evaluation of Pudhu Vazhvu-IV at Chennai on 11-13 June. CRS National and State teams, along with a Consultant from the U.S., helped the evaluation process. - **Raja V**

PRE-NOVIATE, VILANGUDI:

A 10 day intensive refresher course in English was conducted for 23 candidates selected for the novitiate. Community orientation was animated by Fr Sandanam and Sch James Raja. Frs I. Arul, X. Savaraimuthu and Victor Roch celebrated the Holy Spirit Mass. Fr Arockiaraj organized the Thirumanur parish celebrations.

- **Prabu Francis**

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR:

The community said goodbye to Fr Kulandai who is leaving after 17 years of committed service to the marginalized of the Kodai hills. PEAK, on the occasion of its silver jubilee, is building 11 houses for the tribals of Kumbaraiyur village with help from the Province and the Government housing project. This academic year there are 250 inmates in the three PEAK hostels and more than 100 students in other hostels of Kodaikanal supported by PEAK. On 22 June, the community celebrated the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with the Eucharist celebrated by Fr Irudayaraj and

the homily preached by Fr Melwin Lobo, a tertian. On 19 June the community warmly welcomed 21 new Tertiaries and their Instructors, Frs Michael Alosanai and Arul Sivan. - **Arul William**

ST MARY'S, MADURAI:

The last day of May, the Marian month, was celebrated with the crowning of Our Lady after a solemn procession and Mass. Fr. P.S. Arul and the Parish Council organized it. Fr. P. Arockiasamy and Sch. Annaraja organized 'the freshers' day' in the hostel. At the Holy Spirit Mass offered by Fr Loyola, Br Kulandai Raj, the H.M. welcomed all the newcomers. - **Felix Joseph**

TASK FORCE FOR TAMILS IN SRI LANKA:

The Province Task Force for the Humanitarian Aid and Advocacy for the Tamils in Sri Lanka has been trying in the past three years to highlight the issue at the State and National levels with several advocacy programmes. At the initiative of Fr Eddy Jagot, Representative of JRS South Asia in Brussels, a group of 14 European Parliamentarians, led by Sir Graham Watson, met the concerned officials in Delhi, and then came down to Chennai and met the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. As the Convener of the Task Force I was given an appointment to meet them at Taj Coramandel Hotel, Chennai on 4 May. With a power point program, I presented to the team the facts and figures of the post-war situation in Sri Lanka, highlighting the heavy militarization of Tamil areas, forced Sinhala colonization of Tamil lands, planned destruction of places of worship and historical artefacts, imposed Sinhala Buddhization, lack of dignified rehabilitation and resettlement of the war victims, prevalence of fear and insecurity of the Tamils because of the stringent monitoring by the military. I gave them all a copy of my fact-finding published as "Mulivaaykaal: Our Witness", a road map for the reconstruction of the Tamil areas.

They assured me that they would continue to lobby in the European Parliament for the cause of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

Fr John Kumar and I played a key role in the formation of an interreligious group called அனைத்து மதத் தமிழர் கூட்டமைப்பு formed in the wake of the destruction of 2000 Hindu temples and 300 churches in the past decade in Sri Lanka and the recent attack on mosques and the threats posed to the Bishop of Mannar and some of his priests who are the voice of the voiceless. Led by Archbishop A.M. Chinnappa of Madras-Mylapore, an inter-religious group addressed a press conference at the Chennai Press Club on 23 June, which was flashed in many TV channels and newspapers. The organisation has planned for a demonstration on 10 July near Memorial Hall, Chennai.

- **Raj Irudaya**

TERTIANSHIP, SHEMBAGANUR:

We, 21 tertiaries from 11 provinces across the assistancy and overseas, have entered, with joy and fervor, the 'school of the heart' on 1 June. After the Mass presided over by Fr Arul Sivan, the dynamics and expectations were explained by Fr Michael Alosanai. Fr Edward Jeganathan enlightened us about the town of Kodaikanal and its landmarks and gave a brief sketch of the Jesuit missionaries' contribution to the pastoral and spiritual nourishment of people in the hills. The introductory classes on the Autobiography of Ignatius and the sharing of our autobiography have helped us to appreciate the richness of the Jesuit vocation. Accompanied by our two Instructors, Frs Michael and Sivan, we went on a pilgrimage to Vedalai and Oriyur. An 'Intensive Journal' program was guided by Fr Korkonius, and Fr Sivan introduced us to the Indian methods of praying. The gathering of the Jesuits in the area was a joyful occasion. The sharing of Fr Vinny on his Ignatian experiment in Spain was excellent. "Place me with your son" was our whisper, while we went on a pilgrimage to La Salette, praying the rosary and singing hymns. We commend ourselves and our Instructors to your prayers as we

begin on 28 June our month-long spiritual journey. - **Louie Albert**

VIDYA NIKETAN, TRIVANDRUM:

Juniorate programme began on 25 June. Fr Arulanandam, the new Superior, celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit. Community building sessions were conducted by Fr. Dolichan (KER). The 'City Darshan' on 30 June helped us see the important places in the city. - **Arun**

VOCATION CAMP - 2012:

The Summer Vocation Camp of the Jesuit Madurai Province was conducted at St Mary's Hostel, Dindigul on 27 April - 10 May. There were 31 XII Standard and 41 X Standard students from 14 dioceses of Tamil Nadu. The camp was organized by Fr Paulraj, the Vocation Promoter and four Scholastics, Prabu, John Paul K, Parthasarathy and Swaminathan. The boys were introduced to voice culture, basic grammar, spoken English classes and memory lessons. In the afternoons, the boys were trained in writing compositions and singing. Classes were on the life of Jesuit saints, Catechism, the history of the Society of Jesus and personality development. Morning meditations, evening prayers, daily Eucharist and Rosary were regular features. On 6 May the boys visited Beschi Illam. On 10 May men and women who won prizes in various competitions conducted by the Vocation Promotion wing were honoured. Frs Britto Peter, Stany, Singarayar and Stephen Martin presided over the function and distributed the prizes.

- **Swaminathan K.**

XAVERIANA, THOOTHUKUDI:

கலை வார விழா was inaugurated by Fr Jerald Ravi, the director of Pavalam TV. Mr Thangasamy, the director of the new movie, ராட்டினம், was the chief guest at the valedictory function. Mr Pratap of 2006-08 batch, the first one from the school to become a system analyst in California, addressed our students. Fr Xavier Rajan led the Community Orientation on 23 June.

- **Xavier Rajan**

Abide with the Lord



Fr Herbert Alphonso (BOM), 82/62, expired in Rome on 15 June
Fr Rex Ockersz (SRI) 79/57 on 22 June
Fr Anton D'Souza (GUJ) 76/48 on 24 June
Fr James Tirkey (MAP), 77/ 55, expired on 25 June
Fr Barnabas Bara (MAP), 86/ 63), expired on 29 June
Fr Gorosquieta Jose Luis (GUJ) 78/60 on 3 July
Mr Stanislaus (86), uncle of Fr. Francis Jayapathy on 11 June

Fr Mariadas Thomas

10.10.1922 – 15.06.2012



Fr Mariadas Thomas passed away at about 6.30 p.m. on 15 June '12 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul. He was 89. He hailed from a traditional Catholic family in Malaiadipatty of Tiruchi diocese. He joined the Jesuits at the age of 20. After his ordination, he was the assistant pastor at St. Mary's, Madurai. He taught for two years at St. Xavier's High School, Tuticorin and then became the warden of St. Mary's Hostel, Dindigul. From there he went to Carmel High School, Nagercoil as its Superior and Headmaster. For two years he was the Socius to the Novice Master at Beschi Illam, Dindigul. For three years he was the Headmaster at St Mary's, Madurai and later he became the Headmaster at St Mary's School, Dindigul. He was sent to Andhra to serve as the Headmaster in Vinukonda High School. For 11 years he was the Chaplain to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Pondicherry. From there he came to Beschi Illam where he spent his last years.

The funeral was held on the 16 June. Fr. Provincial presided over the Eucharist. The younger sister of Fr. Mariadas, a Sister of the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception, was present. In his funeral homily, Fr. Stephen Gaspar, Vicar Forane and pastor of Kosavapatty, who knew Fr Mariadas well, related how he had taken Fr Mariadas, a few days before his death, to his ancestral home in Malaidipatty which he had not visited ever since his entrance into the Society of Jesus. It was an emotional moment for Fr Mariadas and tears rolled down his cheeks.

After the Eucharist the body was blessed by Fr. Maria Ignaci, Director of Punitha Thoma Pastoral Centre of Dindigul diocese. The final rites at the cemetery were performed by Fr. Stephen Gaspar of Dindigul diocese. May the soul of Fr. Mariadas rest in peace.
- Xavier Mampra, SJ

Fr S. Roche Arockiadoss

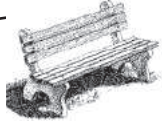
24.05.1929 – 15.06.2012



The Jesuits at St Joseph's, Trichy, who had the privilege of witnessing year after year the majestic march of Fr Roche at the head of the Camboulives College Band, are yet to come to grips with his unexpected death. On 4 June morning we heard that Fr. Roche had gone to Chennai for a minor operation. On 12 June we learnt that one of his kidneys had been removed. On 13 June, he developed some lung problem and was put under the life support system. When Fr S. Mariadoss and I visited him on 14 June morning, he recognized us and was constantly saying something to us which we could not understand. The next day, 15 June, at 9.15 a.m. we heard the shocking news that Fr Roche had passed away. His body was taken to St. Joseph's, Trichy in an ambulance. A regular stream of visitors came to pay homage to his mortal remains.

The funeral Mass held at 4.00 p.m. on 16 June was presided over by Fr Sebasti L. Raj, the Provincial, along with a large number of Jesuits and other priests. At the end of the Mass, I shared with the congregation the inspiring aspects of Fr. Roche's simple and genuine religious life. Fr Roche lived his life fully on his own terms without getting too much affected by what others had to say about him. Never did he speak ill of anyone. He was always available for any work, however small it was. He was always ready to hear confessions. He utilized his sublime musical talent to build a skilled band of musicians who added solemnity to every function in the campus and to get them jobs in the army, navy, air force, public undertakings etc. He was a guide and counsellor to many. He was a great teacher of Catholic doctrine till the end of his life.

The final obsequies were led by Fr. John Britto, the Rector and the mortal remains of our dear Roche were laid to rest in the crypt of St. Joseph's Church. May his soul rest in peace!
- A. Antony Pappuraj, SJ



To ponder

The state of affairs in the country is characterized by rampant corruption at all levels leading to a breakdown in the rule of law and lack of accountability all around. One can say that there is a complete collapse of governance in the country. Something drastic needs to be done soon, else the country will become an ungovernable anarchy.

The police impacts the lives of all of us, particularly the poor, in a big way. The Indian Police is universally regarded as a corrupt, insensitive, immoral and indisciplined organization of oppressors, which led Justice A.N. Mulla to comment even 50 years ago that it is the largest organized gang of armed criminals in the country.

Does the Prime Minister not know that virtually no building plan is sanctioned without payment of bribes, that no electricity connection is given to new houses without payment of bribes, that hardly anything moves in any government department without the greasing of palms? What has this Prime Minister or, for that matter, his BJP predecessor done in the past 14 years to change this?

It is obvious that the common man has ceased to matter for those who govern and what matters to them is the growth of GDP and the massive opportunities for political parties to make money. It is apparent that the country needs a peaceful revolution in the country to change this. The question is, when and how?

- Shanti Bhushan



To laugh

Student : Father, is it true that Jesuits answer a question with a question?

Jesuit : What is wrong with that?

Parishioner : You two Fathers can answer this question
Is it ok for a priest to come in a Mercedes Benz to conduct a novena?

Franciscan : Excuse me, what is a Mercedes Benz?

Jesuit : Hm.. what is a novena?

To remember



"One of the most consoling, though most trying, ministries of a missionary are the sick-calls. Some calls come from near, some from far away and when there are several calls at one time, they usually arrive from opposite directions. Then the missionary has to travel by foot or by bullock cart, or bike, or by bus. If you are biking, it does not pay to be absorbed in deep meditation, specially when you follow a treacherous rut of a road, ploughed by numberless wheels after a recent shower. One on such trip, I kissed the ground three times."

- A.M.

from Caritas, Jan 1952



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Pray for



Frs. Maria Jeyaraj and Joseph Nedungatt, who are convalescing in Dindigul and Madurai respectively.