



MARCH 2011

(For Private Circulation)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

March

01-06	Bangalore: JCSA meeting
12 forenoon	Dindigul: Beschi
12 afternoon	Pondicherry
13-14	Vettavalam & Kilpennathur: Visitation: Loyola & Ahal
14-15	Kuppayanallur: Visitation: Loyola and Ongur, Palliagaram parishes
16	Ranipet: Visitation: Loyola Industrial School
20	Dindigul: Extended Consult
21	Dindigul: Canonical Consult
26	Dindigul: Consult (Budget Approval)
27	Dindigul: Province and Mission Combined Consult

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

▣ Chennai Mission Taskforces

Fr. Provincial has reconstituted the Chennai Mission Taskforces. There will be five Taskforces working in close coordination with the corresponding Province Commissions.

Taskforce for Academic Matters

Convenor: Fr Xavier Alphonse

Members: Frs Christie P. Maria Joseph, Albert William M., Ignacimuthu S., Elias Maria, Samuel Jeyaseelan S., Martin George J., Thomas Alexander and Arockiasamy Xavier

Taskforce for Purchasing of land and Infrastructure

Convenor: Fr Maria Joseph A.

Members: Frs Ignatius Amalraj, Andrew Francis, Yesumarian L., Soosai Raj A. and Marianathan Chinnasamy

Taskforce for Resource Mobilization

Convenor: Fr Francis P. Xavier

Members: Frs Jayapathy F., Casimir Raj N., Joe Arun,

Maria Joseph A. and Selvanayagam D.

Taskforce for Socio-economic Activities at the Grassroots Level

Convenor: Fr Manuel Alphonse

Members: Frs Yesumarian L., Bellarmine J. P., Mark Stephen S. M., Joseph Michael, Michaelraj L. R., and Arockiasamy Antony S.

Taskforce for Personnel and Formation

Convenor: Fr Raj Irudaya

Members: Frs Paulraj P., Joseph Antony Samy, Maria Augustine Sundarraj A., Arul Oli S. and Antony Inigo D.

▣ Fr. Ignacy M. Arockiam: ignacysj@gmail.com

Fr. R. Joseph: cell: 94443 66999

Province Retreat:

May 5 eve — 13 eve 2011,

at SHC, Shembaganur.

Preacher: Fr. Pradeep Sequeira SJ.

Jesuits from other Provinces are welcome to join.

Contact: Fr. Britto Peter, PCF. Cell: 94426 26581;
email: brittopetersj@gmail.com

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

Loyola College of Education takes pride in announcing that all the 99 students who appeared for the University exams in May 2010 passed. Moreover, it has secured the 4th, 5th and 6th ranks at the State level and many at the district level.

The current batch of students has achieved laurels in extra curricular competitions held by Stella Maris and Stella Matutina Colleges.

The month of February was packed with various kinds extra curricular activities at LICET: *enGenia 2011*, the first cultural competition on 8; students' retreat on

12; College Day on 19 and the Sports Day on 19. The Joint Steering Committee Meeting of LICET and ICAM was held from 14 to 20 Feb. The Director-General of ICAM-Groupe (France) was the chief guest. Two students of Computer Science Engineering presented their proposal on 'Portable Cloud Computing' which has been placed 4th at the all India level.

Chrysalis '11, the annual management fest of LIBA, was celebrated on Feb. 26 and 27. The competitors were required to apply not only their acquired knowledge but also business insights and skills. Besides the dance and music competitions that entertained people, the quiz competition *ExQuizite* conducted by Derek O'Brien enlightened and inspired the audience.

Fr. S. Sebastian, served as a member of the NAAC Peer Team to assess and accredit four Colleges of Education in North India.

Fr. Ignacimuthu is featured in "Marquis Who is Who" in the world and "Famous India Who is who". He gave not only the inaugural address at the national symposium on *Intellectual Curiosity* at Stella Matituna College of Education but also the valedictory address on *Biodiversity* organized by Ethiraj Collge, Chennai.

ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI

The annual endowment Lonergan seminar on the theme விழித்தெழு தோழர்! வென்றெடு தோழி! was held in two slots: one at Arul Kadal for the city NGOs and the other at CRDS, Chengalpattu for the youth from the parishes where we go for the weekend ministry. In both the venues there were 250 participants altogether. Applause to the organizing committee headed by **Sch. Lawrence Benedict** and **Therasunathan** under the able guidance of **Fr. Maria Arul Raj**. On 3 February, we attended a conference on *the Government Scams and People's Life* addressed by **Mr. C. Mahendran** at Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee. On 5 Feb the annual *Bala Mela* was held here for the children from our neighborhood; they enjoyed themselves and carried home, gifts and joyful memories. From 6 to 12 Feb the scholastics were at Aanmodaya Ashram, Enathur, studying Indian Spirituality under Swami Samarakone OMI. The Staff and **Sch. Robin**, the student representative, attended the Plenary Academic Council Meeting in Vidyajyoti, Delhi.

Leo Anand

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

We are proud to have won the GOLDEN GOOSE (Championship trophy) in the ELT Mela, held in Devakottai.

The community made a pilgrimage to Bharanagnanam, Mannanam and Rayapuram. As we admired the saintly lives of St. Alphonsa and Bl. Kuriakose, we also drew great strength from Blessed Kunjachan to serve our people because he was a crusader who worked for the upliftment of Dalits in Kerala. We indeed remembered all in the Province and prayed for them in these sacred places.

The community organized a day-long orientation for the teachers in Pathai Centre, Vallam. We thank **Fr. A.**

Victor for his thought-provoking talks and **Fr. Yesumarian** for his hospitality.

Sahayaraj Vijayan

LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RANIPET

We organized a three-day workshop cum training on Solar Energy and Solar Water Heaters from 2 to 4 Feb. Thirty-two students from our school participated and will be employed soon. The programme was funded by TN Energy Development Agency, Chennai.

The PCF was in Ranipet on the 18 Feb for visitation.

Two Jesuits from Jamshedpur Province stayed with us for a month for medical treatment at the CMC Vellore. Their stay with us was cordial and homely.

We are happy to receive once again our German friends **Mr. Turgay** and **Mrs. Mary**. They will spend 2 weeks of holidays with us.

Vedanayagam

LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

On 3 Feb. the Dept of BBA made a visit to Allison Transmission India Pvt. Ltd. organized by **Sch Poondy Rajan**. We also had a one-day workshop for II UG students on interpersonal and interview skills.

The Maths Dept conducted a one-day seminar on Basic Concepts of Probability and their Applications on 11 Feb. The second Sports Day was held on 19 Feb. **Fr. Royce**, the sports convener deserves praise.

On 22 Feb we bade farewell to **Mr. Hew** and **Mr. Leo** from London who had been with us for six months making our students learn the art of conversation in English.

Poondy Rajan

DHYANA ASHRAM CHENNAI

Fr. Thamburaj gave a one-day retreat to the Charismatic youth of Chennai in Perambur. Also, he gave a two-day recollection to the Sisters at Cultural Academy Chennai and a day of recollection to the Sisters at Isabel Hospital. He conducted healing services and adoration in Puzhal Parish. On 4 Feb. Jesuits of Dhyana Ashram started a series of talks on Ignatian Spirituality on Fridays of the month. It was given by Fr. Thamburaj. On 4 and 6 Feb. he gave a seminar on CREDO; it was well attended by priests, religious and laity. Also, he preached a four-day retreat to the priests of Bhagalpur Diocese. He addressed the 13th GBM of the Association of Catholic Enquiry Centres, India. The theme of his talk was *Evangelization Today*.

Fr. S. M. Selvaraj gave a one-month psycho-spiritual retreat to Seminarians at Gandarvakottai.

On the eve of the Provincial's visitation we had a community outing on 18 Jan. **Fr. Sahayaraj** conducted a seminar on *Mary Today* on 12 Feb. As a joint venture with Vaigarai the DA community had DABEX (Dhyana Ashram Book Exhibition on the initiative of **Frs. S. Selvaraj** and **Jerry**) on 20 Feb. More than 1000 books were sold that day. As part of it the mobile van of Vaigarai was taken to Chennai from Dindigul and was taken to other places too for selling books.

S. Selvaraj

AHAL, KILPENNATHUR

A seminar was conducted on Mushroom Culture on 14 Feb for the women groups of Kilpennathur parish. On 16 Feb. Fr. Eugene Rosario taught boys of Arrupe home how to read and understand their lessons easily and effectively.

The *Thurambar Viduthalai Iyakkam* held a meeting on 17th Feb. **Frs. Aloysius Irudayam and Eugene Rosario** presented the data collected by the investigators of the movement and involved the Iyakkam in discussion on major issues from the data collected.

Whish

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

The ICRDCE conducted a two-day workshop on the Quality Management of Community Colleges in which 215 participants from all over India participated on the 26 and 27 Jan in Chennai. The keynote address was given by **Fr. Casimir Raj**, on Total Quality Management. The outcome of the workshop was the evolution of Quality Parameters on Academic, Administration, Financial, and Impact on community in terms of Higher Education and Job Placement and Total Quality Management.

Fr. Xavier Alphonse was a Resource person to present the Community College Movement in India at the Symbiosis International Conference on Distance Education and Open Learning on the 21 Feb.

Xavier Alphonse

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

On 15 February I and II year novices left Beschi for their one-month work in Palamalai and do hospital experiment, respectively.

Fr. Arul Sivan directed a one-month retreat for the CIC Sisters before their final vows. He also organized a two-day meeting on *Growing Old Gracefully* to another group of CIC Sisters. **Fr. Boniface** preached an eight-day retreat to Sisters of St. Anne in Beschi.

Fr. J. S. Jeyapathy has joined the Beschi Community; he is undergoing treatment in St. Joseph Hospital.

M. Maria Valan

JESUIT JUNIORATE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

It was a joy-filled occasion when we met the Jesuits of Loyola community, Sreekariyam for a fellowship meal on 3rd Feb. **Fr. Joye James**, and the Rector, with his inimitable humour presented a vivid picture of their diverse missions. Everyone in the community enjoyed the exuberant cultural performance by the juniors.

Academy Day, with the theme *Youth Hold the Promise*, celebrated on 12 Feb, was indeed notable in the annals of SICJ.

We exulted at the great success of our Academy Day. Carnatic music, orchestra, action songs, a hilarious skit on corruption and folk dances were the highlights of the mega event.

The inspirational presence of **Fr. Britto Peter** from 14 to 16 Feb added lustre to our life and was a source of encouragement. He instilled the spirit of Magis and the sense of oneness in us and wished us every success in our endeavours.

The ecological tour of Kodaikanal from 17 to 20 Feb made us become aware of the environmental problems and to take action for the protection of mother earth. **Frs. Britto Bonaventure** and **L. Arulanandam** were our kind guides.

We visited Meenakshi Amman Temple and saw the sound and light show at Mahal in Madurai. We warmly thank the communities of Sacred Heart College, Shembag, LATI and St. Mary's, Madurai for their hospitality. We deeply experienced the true Jesuit brotherhood and the love of the Society in these communities.

A. John Peter

DNC, PUNE

On 5 Feb, 17 scholastics were ordained deacons. We are very happy to see **Fr. Arul Jeevan** back after his treatment in Chennai. The JDV conducted a skit competition in which DNC received the second prize. The enthusiastic **Schs. Jesu Raja** and **Robinson** took a vigorous part in it. As the second year philosophers will soon plunge into their Province mission, they bade farewell to the rest of the DNC community on 26 Feb.

Y. Baskar

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

Fr. Leo took classes for the students in Varanasi Regional Theologate. From 12 to 13 Feb he took part in the explorative meeting in Goa. He had a discussion about the Indian Jesuit historical Institute and the celebration in 2014 of the 200th anniversary of the restoration of the SJ.

James Suresh

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

Our community along with the students and staff of our HS School went on a pilgrimage to the Lourdes Shrine in Pudur. The Annual Sport Day of St. Mary's Primary School, having a strength of about 1,100 boys, was celebrated with a colourful March Past, a well orchestrated Mass Drill and other acrobatic feats exhibited by the students and well appreciated by one and all.

Later, in view of the ensuing Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Cathedral Parish Council, a day-long Seminar was arranged for the Parish Council Members and other leaders numbering about 100. The Seminar was inaugurated by our Rector, **Fr. Raja** and the Guest Speaker was **Fr. Arul Valan**, the CBCI Secretary for the Commission of the Latin Rite Priests, thanks to the efforts of **Fr. P. S. Arul**. Bala Mela was organised for the children of our study centres. **Fr. Xavier Raj**, **Sch. Vargheesh**, other team members and the youth of the parish made the event a success. The Holy Childhood Day was fittingly celebrated in our parish.

M. S. Bastian

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

St. Joseph's Institute of Management (JIM) organized PRAXIMA 2011, on 4 and 5 February a National Conference on *Mobile Commerce, the Wheel of Economic Growth*. The conference focused on mobile telephony which is poised for growth in the Indian Market, improving the common man's use of mobile technologies. Experts from various cities addressed the gathering. Besides students from all over TN, there were about 40 participants from Karnataka, Kerala and Andhra. The highlight of the two-day event, besides intellectual deliberations, was the mega cultural show staged by the students of JIM. The whole organization of the conference was spearheaded by **Fr. A. Antony Pappuraj** and **Dr J. Felicita**, and all the staff and students of JIM. The National Conference was organized for the first time since the inception of St. Joseph's Institute of Management.

The Centre for Christian Research (CCR) in collaboration with the Department of Tamil jointly organized a National Conference on 10 and 11 Feb. The theme was *Social Issues in Twentieth Century Tamil Christian Literature*. The Most Rev. Chinnappa was the chief guest. The souvenir has 59 research articles on the main theme of the conference. The closing function was presided over by **Fr. S. John Britto**. **Fr. S. Mani Valan** expressed his disappointment that Veeramamunivar's tomb in Kerala has nothing inscribed on it in Tamil. The two-day conference was well attended by professors and students from different colleges. Congratulations to Fr. S. Mani Valan who took pains to organize the conference.

On 11 Feb the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was celebrated with piety and gaiety. The overall impression was that the number of devotees that thronged for the occasion overshot the previous years. The Procession wound through the Main Guard Gate, Clive's Hostel and Chatram Bus stand. **Fr Raymond** from St. Paul's Seminary presided over the Eucharist and preached the homily.

The sixteenth prayer festival of the youth took place from 18 to 20 Feb. It was a gathering of around 1000 youngsters. Their enthusiasm, involvement and ability to organize were praiseworthy. The Bishop of Vellore the **Most Rev. Soundararaju** graced the occasion.

The prestigious Centenary Tournaments of St. Joseph's College were conducted in February. With perks and pelf provided by the new rich Engineering Colleges, traditional Arts and Science Colleges were not able to stay in the fray. SRM University was the Winner in Ball Badminton. It was also a clean sweep for Engineering Colleges in kabaddi, volleyball and basketball.

The New Year brought cheer to the management non-teaching staff in the College because their pay has been increased from 1st Jan.

The visit of **Mr Shiv Nadar**, Founder Chairman of HCL Technologies, an alumnus of St. Joseph's College H. S. School, was a windfall for the school. He announced that HCL will sponsor 350 computers. He acknowledged that his meteoric rise was due to the leadership qualities imparted to him in the School.

On the occasion of their retirement, four teaching and one non-teaching staff of our School were felicitated on 3 February. The Management appreciated their yeoman service to the School.

Sebastian Anand

ST. XAVIER'S INSTITUTIONS, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The month of February is a time of hectic activities to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of SXCE. From 1 to 9 Feb, there were lectures on different themes such as Tamil literature, health, information technology and role of teachers in the 21st century.

From 10 to 13 Feb the B.Ed students had a four-day community service camp at Kondavalavu. On 18 and 19 Feb SXCE organized a National level Seminar on Soft Skills on Teachers Education. The B.Ed students also had intra-mural cultural competitions on 17 Feb.

On 26 Feb we brought together at SXCE all talented student teachers for cultural competitions titled XATEC from 30 colleges. Kalimamani Mr. Velavan Sangeetha, Folk artiste of Tirunelveli gave away the prizes after his valedictory address. Earlier **Fr. Britto Vincent**, Rector inaugurated the competitions.

One of the school staff **Mr. Ignatius Navis** died of heart attack at Patna when he was attending the National Alumni Conference. **Frs. Joseph Kennedy, Y. S. Yagoo** and most of our community members took a lot of pains in organizing the transportation of his body and giving a very fitting funeral.

SDAT (Sports Development Authority of TN) has nominated Mr. Xavier Roche for the CM's Best Physical Education Teacher award for 2008-09. Congrats.

In the month of February SXC organized National and International seminars and conferences. On 4 and 5 the Dept. of Folklore conducted a seminar on *Popular religiosity and Sacred healing sites*; on 8 and 9 the Computer Science Dept conducted a seminar on *Matlab*; on 10 and 11 Feb the Dept. of English conducted a seminar on *Crossing Borders: Paradigm shift in Postcolonial theory and Literature*, from 23 to 25 the Entomology research unit of Zoology Dept. organized a three-day international symposium on *Insect Pest Management*; on 24 and 25 Feb the Dept. of Mathematics had a seminar on *Recent trends in Graph theory and its Application*.

On 11 the Consumers' Forum organized a consumers' festival when an inter-school and inter-collegiate exhibition was held on consumers' rights in order to make the public be aware of the malpractices in the sale of consumers' products.

On 26 Feb Xavier Hostel Day was grandly celebrated. On 25 Feb **Fr. Alphonse Manickam** was the Chief Guest for the College Day at Rani Anna Govt. College for Women in Tirunelveli. He was also the Chief Guest for the three-day seminar organized by the Indian Institute of Geo-magnetism in Tirunelveli.

On 8 Feb **Fr. Anbarasan** preached the monthly recollection to the priests of Tuticorin Diocese.

Francis Xavier

IDEAS, MADURAI

At the State level consultation of the Malai Kuravars in Tamil Nadu organized by EVIDENCE NGO in Madurai **Fr. Aloysius** spoke on "The Land Rights of Malai Kuravars: Future Tasks". The consultation had around 60 leaders of movements and associations, civil servants and professionals belonging to this community, NGOs working with Malai Kuravars as well as CPM party leaders. From 25 to 31 Jan., Aloy was away in Bangalore to edit the new Human Rights Education text books in English for VI and VII std. students. On 9 and 10 Feb he participated in the Participatory Strategic Planning of ISI Bangalore. Much to the satisfaction and joy of the members of the Thurambar (Puthirai Vannar) Liberation Movement, **Frs. Eugene** and **Aloy** had a one-day session with them on 17 Feb. at Kilpennathur to present the family-based survey results on the livelihood situation of their community in Villupuram dist. A copy of the survey has been given to the Puthirai Vannar Welfare Board. The second stage of collecting data in Thiruvannamalai dist. is almost over and will be cross-checked and processed.

Besides the three training programmes for 30 Arunthathiyar Iyakkam members 18 Dalit movement cadres and NGO staff members two Province level meetings took place in the campus: 8 members of the Temporal Administration Review Team's (TART) Sub-Committee met to discuss the sustainability system for our apostolic ventures and 9 members of the Social Action Commission met to deliberate on certain aspects of their new strategic planning. The month ended with 40 religious women and men in Madurai participating in the 23 *Thedal Arangam* held in the campus on 30 Jan.

February was no less crowded than January. PEAK gave to 23 Arunthathiyar youths training in Leadership Skills from 23 to 27. The TN Assembly Elections being round the corner, SAPI organized two one-day sessions one for 66 Dalit movement leaders and cadres on 20 Feb, and the other for 6 People's Manifesto Committee members on 23 Feb to bring out a suitable document.

Aloysius Irudayam

LATI, MADURAI

LTI organized CNC job oriented programme along with the High Tech factory of Madurai. It also conducted a free 'eye camp' for all the staff and students of the LATI campus with the collaboration of the Vasan Eye Care Centre Madurai. Thanks to **Br. Ignacy** and all the staff, Day of Campus Maintenance was observed by the staff and students of LTI to invoke the blessings of the Lord.

Fr. Basil presented research papers titled "Epistemology of Folk Worship" and "Popular Consciousness in Worship" in Madurai Kamaraj University. He reviewed a book titled Brahmanism Down the Ages in Senthamizh College, Madurai. Fr. Basil presented research papers in national seminars organised by Dept. of Social Exclusion, Gandhigram on 10 and 11 Feb and by Dept. of Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and New Delhi on 21 and 22 Feb.

Frs. Freddie and **Antony Arockiam** inspired the campus Jesuits to serve the Lord effectively. **Sch. K. Berkman** bagged a gold medal in IT and **Sch. George** received it on his behalf. **Fr. Wilfred** gave an input to the LATI hostellers on how to face challenges of life.

Wilfred

LAAS ILLAM, MADURAI

Fr. Philomin Raj helped 60 Tarbes Sisters to reflect on *Rights-based approach in our ministries and the relevancy of our education ministry today* during sessions lasting for 3 days. As part of the youth ministry he gave 5 days' of input on *Unorganized youth – Reality and Challenges* to the Tertians of the Sacred Heart Brothers at Mount St. Thomas and invited some of them to concentrate on the unorganized youth ministry. He gave an orientation to the MSW students of Bishop Appasamy College, Coimbatore, to analyze and to get to know more about the structures of the society with its crude reality during their 10 days' exposure in a village.

A.Santhanam

KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

As part of the campaign against the violence perpetrated against widows, a team from Kalangarai conducted a Course on 14 February to 30 professors in the U.G.C. Academic Staff college of Bharathiyar University. Students of the department of Women's Studies of the same University also took part in the sessions. The response of the participants was that it was an inspiring revelation.

Again, on 24 Feb. a delegation from Kalangarai took a day-long session to the staff of Thanjavur Multipurpose Social Service Society on the significance of the *Movement for the Livelihood Rights of Widows and Deserted Women*.

Thirty-five leaders of Widows' Movement took part in a three-day workshop organized at IDEAS, Madurai, on leadership and Communication skills. Towards the end of the workshop, it was heartening to witness the simple and illiterate participants articulating clearly and boldly their inner agonies and aspirations for their due rights.

St. Joseph's Community College organized an annual Parents-Teachers meet. **Sch. Sarathi** organised a one-day exam preparatory camp for X std. students in Poombuhar.

Fr. Irudayaraj presented a paper on *Popular Worship* in a seminar jointly organised by FRRC and folklore dept of SXC, Palayamkottai. He also conducted a one-day retreat for the students of other faiths of JIM, Tiruchi.

A.Irudayaraj

ARIYAMANGALAM

The Middle School students took part in Grace 2011 at St. Joseph's College. They prayed with the college students.

The Maths Day was celebrated during which the students described the impact of Maths in their lives.

They displayed various articles that are in daily use. The Holy Childhood Day was celebrated with a grand candlelight procession.

Felix Joseph

JRS NEWS

On 5 Feb the 21st batch for Grihini Training at Mullaikudi commenced with 22 refugee girl students.

On 9 Feb, **Fr. Louis Prakash, Fr. Prem Kumar** and two of our programme officers discussed various issues during the NGO coordination meeting held at Govt Rehabilitation Centre, Chennai. Meetings with Government officials and other NGO Directors gave a boost to our service and deepened our rapport with them.

From 6 to 12 February, a six-day Media Education training was organized by **Fr. Britto Peter** for CIS and JRS teams. **Fr. Stephen Martin** helped us to understand the power of Media and have a critical outlook.

GBV training as well as an exhibition were arranged under the aegis of JRS Staff and counsellors in 10 districts for our students at various refugee camps. This kind of training would help in handling their emotions and feelings in an appropriate way.

JRS team had its usual monthly meeting from 22 to 24 Feb. The salient features of the meeting were a half-day training on Orientation conducted by **Sch. John Mike** and **Mr. Mariadoss** and planning session on summer camps 2011 at 15 places.

John Mike

THE JAAI NATIONAL CONGRESS

The VI National Congress of Jesuit Alumni Associations of India (JAAI) was held at St. Xavier's School, Patna, from 4-6 Feb. At the inaugural ceremony the chief guest the **Most Rev. William D'Souza** Archbishop of Patna expressed the hope that the deliberations would result in positive solutions. The HRD minister of Bihar **Mr. P. K. Sahi** sought collaborative partnership with Corporate and Private Entrepreneurs to support the government's efforts to meet the huge deficit in money allotted to education.

There were 400 delegates and 40 Jesuits from India. The President of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni Associations (WUJA) Dr. Thomas Bausch from USA and eight WUJA delegates from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, France and Columbia participated in the Congress. Fr. William Currie from Sophia University, Japan participated as the delegate of the Jesuit General. The focus of the seminar was *Public Private- Partnership for better Education*. The Madurai Province had the distinction of sending 60 delegates, the largest contingent that participated in the 6th National Congress.

On the 2nd day at the plenary session **Mr. N. K. Singh**, well known bureaucrat and Rajya Sabha member enumerated the various challenges and worries that the education sector faces today as we switch from a static socialist economy to one that offers wider global choices stimulating competition and economic growth. The challenge of Private Public Partnership was to

reconcile the irreconcilable. There is a need to address the dichotomy between quality and quantity as also regional imbalances, enhance academic freedom and reduce the disparities between Central and State Universities.

The cultural programme presented by the school children and teachers of St. Xavier's School, Patna, brilliantly showcased the cultural pluralism of India. The audience was completely mesmerized by the quality of the performance, the content and theme.

On the concluding day the accredited delegates and the Governing Council members elected unanimously **Mr. Naresh Gupta**, from Calcutta, Secretary as the new President of JAAI, **Mr. Shapath Shah** as Secretary, and other office bearers. **Mr. Senthil Kumar** of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi Alumni Association, presently South Zone secretary was elected as one of the Vice-presidents of JAAI. Congratulations to the new office bearers.

It was also decided that the next National Congress of JAAI will be held at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in 2014. The outgoing members of the Governing Council were felicitated with mementos by **Fr William Currie**. The concluding address was given by Fr George Nedumattam, Principal, St. Xavier's, Patna, and Province Coordinator of Alumni of Patna Province.

V. Augustine

TONY FROM THE HOLY LAND

It is five months since I have been in the Holy Land. These five months have been very important and meaningful for me. I attended my first Midnight Mass in Bethlehem, and I visited Egypt without any problem.

During these five months I have been happy and learned many things such as the Quicken accounting programme, features and wonders of computers, owning an international driver's license and thus being of use to many, and also to visit many holy places in and around Jerusalem.

Oftentimes I feel Jesus and Mary are very close to me as I am walking along the road almost everyday around 5.30 in the morning. Thanks for your every support and prayers.

VINCENT SEKHAR FROM NEW YORK

In Fordham, there is a good practice of evaluating every course and its professor; this student evaluation is extended to the functioning of the department as well during every semester. This seems vital to the individual professors and the department as such for the subsequent image about them in public, based on which students choose their majors and/or electives. My class has 'more than' the usual strength! And I was happy with the evaluation made of me. I am happy to say that I am chosen as a member of the Editorial Board of "Dilatato Corde", an on-line, international and multi-lingual Journal rooted in the Christian monastic experience of Interreligious Dialogue.

Fr. Gerard Reedy facilitated the Jesuit community at Spellman Hall to reflect on the three missionary qualities, which Fr. General had referred to in his letter on the occasion of Fr. Pedro Arrupe's 20th death

anniversary. The funeral of Fr. George Hunt, community member, was a moving experience, one of silent suffering and great reconciliation.

Vincent Sekhar

The price of a Jesuit

Three hundred years ago, with Penal Laws at their stiffest in Ireland, the bishop of Kerry recorded the scale of rewards for priest-hunters. It was: £ 30 for a simple priest; £ 40 for a Vicar-General; £ 50 for a bishop; and £ 50 for a Jesuit. This inflated price reflected the Protestant ascendancy's exaggerated fear of Jesuits, because of the Society's international network. An Irish Jesuit superior acting through his General could even nudge the English into moderating the treatment of Catholics in Ireland, and that was seen as a threat by the minority government in Dublin.

IVORY COAST : News from the Theologate

The socio-political crisis that erupted after the second round of the presidential elections took a turn for the worse in February 2011. The two presidents, Gbagbo and Ouattara, recently radicalized their positions. Clashes between armed groups are more frequent and growing in intensity, particularly in the densely populated neighbourhood of Abobo. One counts several dead every day. Given the situation the community of the Theological Institute of the Society of Jesus in Abidjan, met on the 25 February, in order to assess the impact this has on its life. Acknowledging that security was becoming precarious, particularly for its foreign students, decision was taken to suspend the classes for a month. The academic programme of the year had to be readjusted in order to organize this period. The language course and pastoral stage usually held in July and August are therefore anticipated to this month of March. The Jesuit students of the 1st and 2nd year have been sent to neighbouring Ghana for those courses. Jesuit students of the 3rd year remain in the Theologate of Abidjan to complete their end-of-studies written assignment, under the guidance of their formateurs and permanent professors of the ITCJ.

Earth Care Status Report (ECSR)

A proposed framework and format for Self Appraisal by Communities about Environmental commitment and performance

There is now no gainsaying the fact that there is massive, and in many cases irreversible, environmental damage and degradation (pollution of air, water and land, deforestation and desertification) and wild and unpredictable Climate Change. This phenomenon is threatening not only flora and fauna but also humans, their environment and the Planet herself. Not surprisingly the Issue is on the priority agenda of nations. The Church is seized of the matter and has spoken about the urgent need to protect God's creation and dwelling house ('oikos') and has articulated sins against the environment. Companies, although held chiefly responsible for the havoc, proclaim their achievements in their CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) reports. A recent news item in the Economic Times said that

the Ministry of Corporate Affairs will soon make it mandatory for Companies to report their environmental performance to regulatory agencies.

The Company of Jesus has been expectedly proactive. 'Environment and Ecology' has been one of the core concerns of the Society of Jesus for over a decade and it has now rightly acquired a sense of urgency. The recent South Asian Consultation in Jamshedpur and the Province Days of the Bombay Province has chosen this subject as one of their top priorities for action. The reason why insertion into this work is directly an 'option for the poor' is because it is irrefutable that environmental degradation, including wide fluctuations in climate, affects the marginalized more severely, even lethally. And, while the rich and powerful can either adapt or ward off the deleterious effects, the poor often have to suffer or succumb. Diseases, displacement, agrarian distress and migration are triggered by environmental degradation and climate change.

This is indeed a challenge to the post-GC 35 Communities ('Community is Mission') and to their Ministries and Methods, both in urban and rural locales. The link, between and among, the three major themes -Migration, Ecology and Community (MEC) is striking. A bigger challenge therefore is to see how these are integrated in our major thrust areas of primary and secondary education, mass literacy to the marginalized, higher education, parish work and so on mindful of the need to collaborate and network with all women and men of goodwill (a secular approach) in order to benefit from synergies of solidarities and economies of scale.

One of the Action-Plans the Social Action Commission (SAC) proposes is to start off, without much ado or delay, is environmental accounting, auditing and reporting at various levels (individual, corporate-communitarian, institutional-apostolic). Details of how to go about these tasks needs to be worked out in greater detail. What we have proposed is a tentative Framework and a Format for reporting the Communities' Environmental Commitment and Performance:

- This would ideally be part of the *Province Newsletters* where the green initiatives of each community can be described.
- While it provides positive publicity and encouragement to the respective communities, it also helps inspire others to follow.
- It will also contain news items that help communities live their commitment to the environment in a meaningful way.
- There is plenty available but sifting and summarizing needs to be done. This demands time and energy.
- Communities would find the material here helpful in fulfilling their environmental responsibility and in reporting.
- Hopefully there will be volunteers to take this up.

PROPOSED FORMAT FOR REPORTING

1. Is the issue of environmental protection and preservation taken seriously by the community? Yes, No, Can't say.
2. If Yes, how has that been demonstrated? (Select options)
 - a. Community members take up this theme for prayers, retreats, homilies etc;
 - b. Jesuits take these concerns to their classrooms, institutions, friends, public platforms, other ministries, and so on;
 - c. Jesuits have taken the trouble to update themselves (on spiritual, scientific, social science etc aspects of the environment);
 - d. Tree planting, water-harvesting, lighting and 'greening' in general has taken place (give details, wherever possible);
 - e. Waste management is done (reduction, control, disposal etc in eco-friendly ways) (segregating different kinds of wastes (degradable, non-degradable, plastic etc);
 - f. There are genuine and substantial efforts at conservation of energy and efforts towards alternative energy: pl explain (solar, CFL, etc);
 - g. Courses on ecology and environment are introduced and participants submit projects and assignments on the subject; field trips are organized;
 - h. Communities have supported and/or invested in the efforts of others (NGOs, civil society, local area, church etc);
 - i. Any other (please add)
3. Have you engaged outside professionals to help out or is it self help?
4. What sacrifices have been made for the sake of the Greater Good ('Universal' good)?
5. If your answer to Qn. 1) above is No, what hurdles has the community been facing? How can these be removed?
 - a) Is the community satisfied with the present efforts?
 - b) What more needs to be done in the sense of the *Magis*? What are the Possibilities?
 - c) Would it need professional help to take this forward? Specify.
 - d) Does it have something to offer to other Communities/Province?

Courtesy: Fr. Anthony Dias SJ (JESA Coordinator, Bombay Province)

NEW RELEASES

இருதயம் இஞ்சாசியார், சே.ச., தனராசு, பக். 132, ரூ.40

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Curiyicad Cherian (KER) 92/72 on 11 Feb in Calicut.

Br. Nakshatram Mariasusai (KAR) 82/55 on 21 Feb in Bengaluru.

Fr. George Thottungal, S.J.

07.02.1919 – 01.03.2011

Fr. George Thottungal was brought from St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai to St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul for treatment. He was suffering from a number of ailments including amnesia and lung infection. When he became a little better he was brought to Beschi Illam for rest and recuperation. His meals were served in his room. But he fell down from bed and hurt his forehead and later developed vomiting. He was again admitted to the hospital on March 1, the last day of his stay there he took some solid food but again vomited and later at 8.30 p.m. passed away peacefully in the Lord. His body was brought back to Beschi Illam.



On the following day the obsequies started at 4.00 p.m. Many of Fr. Thottungal's relations had already come from Kerala. Many Jesuits had arrived from our houses especially from St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai. **Fr. A. Arulanandam**, Socius to the Provincial presided over the concelebrated Eucharist. He was flanked by **Fr. Arul Sivan**, Superior of Beschi Illam and **Fr. Britto Vincent**, Rector of St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai. In his introduction Fr. A. Arulanandam mentioned the various services Fr. Thottungal had rendered as professor of English in Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada, as Principal of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi, as Principal of St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai and later as Vice Provincial of Madurai Province. Moreover he had rendered yeoman service for twenty-five years in Nairobi, Bungoma and Tanzania in East Africa.

In his funeral homily **Fr. Godwin Rufus** paid glorious tribute in polished English to the nonagenarian. Fr. Thottungal, he said, was a gentleman to his fingertips, a community man who was ever faithful to the community exercises and above all, a man of God. He concluded quoting from Hamlet;

His life was gentle and the elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world 'This was a man!'

Towards the end of the Mass **Mr. P.V. Francis** a retired navy officer, an alumnus of Loyola College, Chennai and a relation of Fr. Thottungal thanked the Jesuits for giving a fitting farewell to his grand uncle. Fr. Arul Sivan, Superior of Beschi Illam thanked all those who took good care of the Fr. Thottungal in his last days especially the I.C.M. Sisters and the nurses of the hospital. At the cemetery the final rites were administered by Fr. Britto Vincent, Rector of Palayamkottai. R.I.P.

Xavier Mampira