



**NOVEMBER 2011**

*(For Private Circulation)*

**PROVINCE CONGREGATION 2011**

The Coetus Praevius had its second meeting on November 3, 2011 to scrutinize the ballots and announce the results of the elected members. Out of 420 persons to whom the ballots were sent, the Coetus Praevius received the responses from 374. Out of these, 18 were found to be invalid, for different reasons, as per the norms of the Society. The remaining 356 ballot sheets were tabulated and 40 members were selected on the basis of the points they have scored. While doing this, the guidelines for giving due representation to the approved members and brothers, were taken into account and the required representation has been given.

In addition to the 40 elected members, the Provincial is entitled to nominate up to 5 members, with the approval of the Coetus Praevius, to represent certain sections of the Province and its ministries. Accordingly the Provincial has nominated five members:

**COMPLETE LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE CONGREGATION 2011**

**Ex-Officio Members**

- Fr. Sebastia L. Raj
- Fr. Amal Kulandaisamy
- Fr. Arulanandam Arockiam
- Fr. Britto Vincent
- Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj L
- Fr. John Britto Bonaventure
- Fr. Thomas Amirtham

**Elected Members**

- Fr. Albert Muthumalai A.
- Fr. Aloysius Irudayam A.
- Fr. Amaladoss Michael
- Fr. Arockiam Savarimuthu
- Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier
- Fr. Arul Sivan M.
- Fr. Britto Peter A.
- Fr. Casimir Raj Nicholas
- Fr. Christie P. Maria Joseph
- Fr. Danis Ponniah
- Fr. Devadoss Mudiappasamy
- Fr. Dunstan Vinny Joseph
- Fr. Eugene Sebastine Rosario
- Fr. Godwin Rufus U.
- Fr. Francis Xavier Perianayagam
- Fr. Henry Jerome V.
- Fr. Ignacimuthu Savarimuthu
- Fr. Ilanko Xavier M.

- Fr. Jayapathy Francis A.M.
- Fr. Jerry Rosario
- Fr. Jeyaraj Donatus
- Fr. Jeyaraj Michael
- Fr. Joe Antony M.A.
- Fr. Joe Arun C.
- Fr. Joseph Antony Samy G.
- Fr. Joseph Xavier A
- Fr. Lazar Savarimuthu
- Br. Kulandairaj Savarimuthu
- Fr. Michael Alosanai
- Fr. Marianathan Swamikannu
- Fr. Pai Rex A.
- Fr. Raj Irudaya
- Fr. Samuel Jeyaseelan S.
- Fr. Sekhar B. Vincent
- Fr. Tagore Leo Antony
- Fr. Victor Arulappan
- Sch. Viji Bose V.
- Fr. Xavier Alphonse S.
- Fr. Xavier Vedam
- Fr. Yesumarian Lourdunathan

**Members Nominated by the Provincial**

- Fr. Darwin S. Michael
- Fr. Louie Albert A.
- Sch. Sahayaraj Vijayan
- Fr. Santhanam Arockiasamy
- Br. Thomas Arulappan

## Provincial's Programme

### November

05	Zonal Meeting — Palayamkottai
06	Zonal Meeting — Madurai
07-11	Visitation: Vadampakkam, Vallam, Kuppayanallur
12	Zonal Meeting — Chennai
13	Zonal Meeting — Tiruchi
14-15	Visitation: Poondy, Vilangudi, Kumbakonam
16-17	Visitation: Nagapattinam
19-20	GBM: Higher Education — Tiruchi
22	Consult
24	Carmel School — JMAADD Function
25-26	Trivandrum, Southern Prov. Meet SICJ
27-30	Visitation: Bangalore – ISI, St. Joseph's

### December

01-02	GBM: Finance Commission — Dindigul
05-08	Visitation: St Mary's, Dindigul
10-11	GBM: Formation Commission — Dindigul
12-14	Visitation: Arul Kadal
15-16	Visitation: Dhyana Ashram
17	GBM: Brothers Commission — Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
19-20	Visitation: Berchmans Illam
20-21	Visitation: Ranipet
23	Consult
27-30	Province Congregation, Dindigul

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

☒ **The Provincial has appointed two committees:**

**1. Province Archives Development Committee (PADC)** - to study the various needs of the archives - its location, development and maintenance. The Committee consists of **Frs. Arockiasamy Xavier** (Convener), **Francis Jayapathy** and **Br. E.S. Mariadoss**. The report is expected by March 2012.

**2. Province Healthcare Committee (PHC)** - to study the various aspects related to the care of the elderly and sick members of the Province. The Committee consists of **Frs. Paul C. Jesuraja** (convener), **S. Lazar**, **A. Alangaram** and **Br S. John Britto**. The report of the committee is expected by February 2012.

☒ **Fr. Arul Jeevan** is transferred from Pune to St. Mary's, Madurai. Cell: 98402-68229

☒ **Br A. Kulandairaj** Email: kldrjsj@gmail.com and Cell: 9943481893

**Br Stephen Raj's** email: stephenadj@gmail.com

## NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

### PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

All the twenty pre-novices are back to VMI after their quarterly holidays. Their family members were doubly joyful when we visited their homes. They were indeed amazed at the growth of their sons. A course on *Media Education* by **Fr Stephen Martin**, opened their minds and hearts to look critically at the media.

**Fr. Innaci John** conducted a five-day workshop on *Education and Prophetic Leadership: an Agent for Social Transformation* for the CIC Sisters at Krishnagiri. A group of twenty candidates and Sisters of the Sacred Heart Congregation, Tuticorin benefited from a five-day course on English conducted by **Fr Inigo**. The pre-novices and the staff went on a pilgrimage to Poondi on the day of Diwali.

*Prabu Francis*

### VIDYANIKETAN JUNIORATE, TRIVANDRUM

After the first term examinations, juniors in Vidyaniketan were enriched with the beauty and tradition of Kerala by a three-day cultural tour to central Kerala from 29 Oct. to 1 Sep. After that, they began their second term with new vigour and zeal. **Fr. Francis Xavier** (MDU) gave a four days' course on time management. The first term community evaluation was held under **Fr. Scotus**, the Superior and significant steps were taken to make the stay in Vidyaniketan more fruitful. We also had an opportunity to have a *dharshan* of St. Don Bosco's relics.

**Fr. Gratian Carlo**, the ADF paid a visit to Vidyaniketan and enjoyed the programme put up by the juniors. **Fr. Claudio Barriga**, Fr. General's delegate from Rome for Apostleship of Prayer and Eucharistic Youth Movement, came along with **Fr. Marivalan**, the National Director of Apostleship Prayer, to encourage the juniors in the apostleship ministry. The first term examination results show that juniors are making progress in studies and marching towards greater efficiency in learning language skills. We are also in need of your fervent prayers for **Schs. Jose** and **Jeyaraj** who are convalescing after minor surgery and sprain in the knee respectively.

*J. Amal Bosco*

### JUNIORATE, ST.STANISLAUS COLLEGE, SITAGARHA

On 1 October we had a cycle picnic to the institute, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) near Cannary Hills. We had a birthday celebration with the birthday babies of the previous month, including that of, **Br. Nelsonraj** and we enjoyed ourselves there by self-cooking. On 4 Oct. **Fr. Britto Peter** our PCF visited us. He celebrated Mass for us and enlightened us with the importance of religious vows through Our Lord's Prayer – the universal prayer. On 22 Oct., a display of our talents took place that is, the staging of two Hindi one-act plays. Our performance kept the

audience spellbound. We, the three Juniors of Madurai Province for the first time in our lives acted in Hindi Plays, which added great interest to the staging of the plays. We learnt the art of drama, which helped us act confidently on the stage without any fear. On 23 Oct., the Shahid Diwas of late **Fr. A.T. Thomas**, we visited the place of his martyrdom and paid homage to him.

*S. Joe Livingston*

## DNC, PUNE

During the semester holidays, we had a fruitful eight-day annual retreat preached by **Fr. Vincent Saldanha** of Gujarat Province. It was a wonderful time to rejuvenate the deeper dimensions of our life as Jesuits.

The month of October brought showers of blessings upon us as we received some of our fathers from the Province for various meetings. Their interaction with us was a source of encouragement. The highlight of all was the visitation of Fr. Provincial on 22 and 23 Oct. With his inimitable style, he inculcated a deep sense of responsibility in us to genuinely respond to the need of the Province individually and collectively.

Congrats to **Sch. Thayriam** who had an enriching experience as he acted in a two-hour play 'Two by Two' directed by **Fr. Cyril Desbruissais**, our Superior.

*Sathyabalan*

## ARUL KADAL

One of the fruitful projects of Arul Kadal in empowering the laity is the year-long programme, "Hundred Hours Laity Theology", had its take off on 23 Oct. in an inspiring inaugural function, when **Prof. Victor Louis** delivered an effective lecture on 'Globalization and the Response of the Church'.

The scholastics instilled into the lives of the students of Loyola College, Vettavalam, vigour, zeal, faith and a daring spirit through their two-day retreat.

The visit of **Fr. Gratian Carlo**, the ADF, was a blessing to our community. He appreciated the steady and solid growth of Arul Kadal as a stable RTC and its ways of contextual theologizing. He reminded us of the universality of the Society and called us to be available for its universal mission.

Arul Kadal vibrated with good-hearted people of Chennai protesting against capital punishment imposed on three innocent Tamils; also the staff and some students were on indefinite fast at Koyambedu and addressed a public meeting. Arul Kadal community celebrated the Golden Jubilee of **Fr. I. M. Joseph**. At his request only Dhyana Ashram community was invited.

**Fr. Raj Irudaya** conducted in Dindigul a theological seminar for the whole of the Congregation of ICM in the country on "Encountering Jesus in John and ICM Identity". He was also interviewed by the

Global Tamil Forum in London on the present situation of Sri Lankan Tamils.

*Viji Bose*

## ST. JOHN DE BRITTO SHRINE ORIYUR

On 2 Oct. our campus was thronged with pilgrims of Sivagangai and Madurai Dioceses during their annual pilgrimages. The renovation of the Martyrdom and the Beatification churches is in progress. A retreat was conducted for all the Catholic students of our H.S.S. on 15 Oct. **Fr. Jerome**, the campus minister arranged a team of three Priests, two Sisters, two Deacons and three of our Scholastics John Paul, Jeya Prakash and Amirtharaj for preaching. On 16 Oct. National Secretaries of Apostleship of Prayer from South and East Asia led by **Fr. Marivalan** visited the Shrine and said Mass in the big church. **Fr. Moolel** underwent a successful operation for umbilical hernia in Devakottai and took rest for a week at De Britto.

*Amirtharaj*

## ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

It was a very grand celebration when 13 Jesuit Deacons of different Provinces (Madurai, Andhra, Calcutta, Hazaribag and Delhi) were ordained as Priests by the Bishop of Ooty. The whole of St. Mary's Community rose to the occasion in making the solemn occasion a successful event in all respects.

Earlier, the youth of the parish conducted a Blood Donation Camp.

The Britto Hostel Day was celebrated with the usual fanfare with the release of a magazine *Vithaikullum Vizhuthugal* (விதைக்குள்ளும் விழுதுகள்) and a picture album, *Velichethin Vergal* (வெளிச்சத்தின் வேர்கள்) all written and drawn by the inmates. The presence of the parents added lustre to the occasion. Earlier, on the Independence Day, the inmates released their first magazine *Vetriyin Ragasiyam* (வெற்றியின் இரகசியம்). A debate also was held both in the hostel and in the Church campus: Is a cell phone a bane or a boon? Thanks to the efforts of **Fr. Arockiasamy**, **Br. Stephen Raj** and **Fr. Felix Joseph** for their involvement. The 103th Annual School Day was celebrated with the colourful cultural programme.

**Fr. Vincent Amalraj**, the Secretary of the local CRI, conducts regularly the monthly CRI meetings on various topics of relevance and importance. The regular attendance is a little over a hundred. **Fr. P. S. Arul** was one of the members who attended the JEPASA meeting held at Pune.

**Fr. Masillamani**, of Rayapuram parish, has returned from his pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Fr. Felix Joseph preached two retreats, one a five-day retreat and another a three-day retreat. The daily 'God's Loving Message' an e-mail evangelization project which has completed 100 days, is being sent to more than a thousand people, in collaboration with lay couple.



**Br. Joseph**, our Campus Treasurer, who was operated for the removal of stones in his gall bladder and also **Fr. Fernandez** of Manalur who was operated for prostrate are recovering well.

*M. S. Bastian*

### LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

During the quarterly holidays, our students and the trainees toured Ooty, Kodaikanal and Kanyakumari in three different groups for three days. We gratefully acknowledge the support of all the local communities during their journey.

In the district level football tournament, our juniors were the winners. In the cycle race the first two places were captured by our senior girls. In zonal level athletic meet, all the individual championships for girls, junior, senior and supersenior were won by our students. Hats off to all the winners!

The one-day follow up programme organized for 25 new recovering alcoholics has made them discover the damage done by the first drink. The third Al Ateen group has blossomed with 15 co-dependent kids of alcoholics from Mettucheri and Kuppayanallur.

*Joseph Arockiasamy*

### LOYOLA ACADEMY VADAMELPAKKAM

We organized cultural competitions for our students for three days from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

**Fr. Kennedy** and some lay staff organized and conducted a training programme on CCE (Comprehensive Continuous Evaluation) for our teachers on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. We have started implementing CCE in our school.

We had standardwise parents' meetings this month. Parents participated enthusiastically. Besides other things, we had an evaluation with the parents on the functioning of the school. Many parents appreciated the quality of teaching and learning, efficient administration, constant communication with the parents, much importance given to the development of the talents of the students, competent and qualified teachers, effective teaching methodology, latest technology being incorporated in the classroom teaching etc. They acknowledged that students happily go to the school because of the friendly atmosphere prevailing in the school. Parents' meetings were an occasion for us to get assured of the various attempts we have been making in the formation of our students.

We closed our school for Deepavali for four days from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. We organized an intensive Communicative English coaching camp for the weak students during these holidays. We made use of the materials of Future Perfect Project, being implemented in our Tamil Medium schools, for this camp.

As CCE needs a lot of planning, we had two days intensive planning with our teachers on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>

of this month. We have planned all the activities in minute detail till March 2012.

*S.M. John Kennedy*

### ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, OOTY

The Bishop of Ootacamund has appointed **Fr. Amalraj** as one of the Senate members of the Diocese.

On 20 Oct we had concelebrated Mass and a felicitation function for the newly ordained priest, **Fr. Babu Vincent** who was a regent here from 2003 to 2006.

While **Sch. Peter** was walking along the road around 6.30 pm on 24 Oct an auto filled with fishery hooks pulled Peter and dragged him along the road. He was taken to the GH, Ooty and was immediately shifted to Ramakrishna Hospital in Coimbatore. As per the doctor's report, he had extensive injuries in the brain. He underwent an operation on 25 Oct to remove the blood clots in the brain. Since the bleeding continued, again a second operation was done on 29. He is recuperating. The Doctor says that the fast improvement the patient shows is nothing but God's grace. We gratefully remember and thank all of you for your support and prayers at this time of pain. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

*Vasanth*

### LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, RANIPET

On 18 Oct. **Fr. Arul Ravi** of Vettavalam conducted a day-long orientation session for the students. On 21 Oct. **Frs. Henry Jerome** and **Wenish** conducted a motivation session. Fr. Henry also gave a recollection talk to the Jesuit Community.

The talents-week was recently organized in the School. The best performances were staged during Deepavali celebration held on 24 Oct. **Fr. K. Amal** and others graced the occasion. We had a short cultural programme.

*Vedanayagam*

### ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The 23<sup>rd</sup> of October was a red-letter day in the annals of St. Xavier's Community as it hosted the *Eucharistic Crusaders' Convention* for more than 1500 students, hailing from different parishes and institutions of the Diocese of Palayamkottai. **Fr. Claudio Barriga**, was the Chief Guest. That was a day, so to say, when the seeds for religious vocation were sown among the children.

Nineteen tertians from Shembag, along with their Tertian Instructors paid a short visit to our community, CBB and FRRC on 27 and 29, Oct as part of their pilgrimage to Manapad, Uvari, etc.

Our volleyball team won the championship of 'Redeemers's Cup - 2011', a State level volleyball tournament for schools. Also, two of our School students, **B. Venkateswaran** and **G. Vignesh**

represented Tamil Nadu in the recently held 20<sup>th</sup> Mini National Volleyball Championships at Chattisgarh and emerged as winners with gold medals.

In the Arts and Science College, the Principal has appointed a core committee to initiate the process of redesigning the curriculum which will come into effect from the next academic year. The committee met the Chairpersons of various boards of studies and had a brain-storming session on 14 Oct.

On 8 Oct, our B.Ed. students had a special talk on "Fifty goals for Prospective Teachers".

The B.Ed. students had a four-day 'Model Teaching Practice' at St. Xavier's Hr. Sec. School in October. We are thankful to the HMs, the staff and the students of SXHSS for their support and cooperation.

JCERT, in collaboration with **Fr. Bonhoure** Centre for Research in B.Ed. College, conducted a one-day workshop on 'Action Research' on 22 Oct. There were 220 participants from different schools, colleges and B.Ed. colleges. The participants applauded our efforts for organizing such a relevant workshop.

**Fr. Claudio**, from Rome addressed our Catholic students on the role of youths in today's society at St. Ignatius College of Education, Palayamkottai on 22 Oct.

**Fr. Alphonse Manickam** delivered the inaugural address at the Statutory three-day Conference of the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisations in Kanyakumari.

*Sahayaraj Vijayan*

## ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

In the 125<sup>th</sup> year celebration of Tiruchi Diocese on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, rich encomiums were paid to the Jesuits who had laboured in the vineyard of the Lord. Recalling the yeomen services rendered by the first four prelates, **Fr John Britto**, the Rector, was honoured on the stage.

To mark the 250 years of raising of the Indian Army, an army gliding and landing took place in the College grounds on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

The School observed an Environmental Week from 10<sup>th</sup> October. The students were given inputs on environmental awareness. The week-long awareness was concluded by Fr. John Britto, exhorting the students to protect the earth as the God-given gift.

A similar programme was also arranged for the college students. Students were given inputs on eco-restoration and human solidarity through the public address system. The campus was filled with placards and paper boards with captions in eco-restoration and human solidarity. Competitions in drawing, painting, elocution and quiz were conducted. A day of 'vehicle-free campus' was also observed.

St Joseph's is going in for the third cycle of accreditation. The self-study report has been completed and submitted to NAAC.

All the administrators of Jesuit Colleges in Tamil Nadu numbering around thirty gathered here on 13<sup>th</sup> October for a one-day seminar on the theme "Leading to Excellence".

**Fr. M Arulanandam** attended the JEPASA meeting held at Pune from 17 – 20 October.

**Fr. Albert Muthumalai** went to Field Marshal K.M.Cariappa College for NAAC reaccreditation.

**Br. S Kulandairaj** underwent an operation for cataract and is back to normal attending to his office work.

*Sebastian Anand*

## DACA, MADURAI

We the DACA members were very much delighted to have Fr. Provincial on October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. The visitations of Fr. Provincial were the days of blessing and encouragement of the works at DACA and the works to be done in future still more effectively and fruitfully.

On 15 October 235 children from 18 slums of Madurai city gathered at DACA for a sports competition. The sports event was inaugurated by **Mr. Rajendren** CDO of Madurai Corporation in the presence of **Miss Maya** from Serbia. She extolled the event as a memorable one and encouraged the children with her presence. Mr. Rajendran in his address assured that Madurai Corporation would extend all possible help in the education of children of conservancy workers. **Fr. Rajarathinam** gave away the prizes to all winners.

The school children at DACA decided not to use crackers on Diwali day knowing the negative impacts of the crackers on the environment.

*Rajarathinam*

## LAAS ILLAM, MADURAI

A two-day seminar was organized for the religious of Tamil Nadu on 'Understanding Minority Rights in the Context of RTE and RTI'. There were 42 participants from all over Tamil Nadu. They left with clarity of the problem and conviction for action.

**Fr. Philominraj** led a team of youths on behalf of our Province and attended the MAGIS 2011 programme and the world youth convention in Spain. As a part of the MAGIS 2011, he visited Loyola, Montserrat and Manresa. For him the triduum at Manresa was an enriching experience of reliving with St. Ignatius.

After attending a week-long Silver Jubilee Conference of the Canon Law Society of India at St. Pius Seminary, Mumbai, **Fr. Jeyaseelan** has returned refreshed. There were 144 participants from all over

India and 21 scholarly papers were presented in the conference.

When a communal clash broke out at Mudalipatty village in R.R.Nagar parish near Virudunagar, **Fr. Santhanam** and a team of advocates provided legal assistance to the Christians of Mudalipatty and mobilized along with **Fr. Martin**, the parish priest, the intervention of human rights organizations.

A. Santhanam

## IDEAS, MADURAI

October started with 35 Sisters getting conscientised for three days on *Minority Rights and Legislations*. After JRS-Grihini's 30 students underwent training on *Integrated Personality Development* from 10-15 Oct., Kalangarai brought in 20 of its staff for *Review, Reflection and Team Building* on 20 and 21 Oct. Around 50 of the Community College staff members in and around Madurai district found the campus conducive for their *Review Workshop on Community Colleges* on 22 Oct. Nilam NGO had its planning meeting on 05 and 06 Oct. The special guests to Ideas campus this month on 24 and 25 were 70 students from Jharkand. They were on their sightseeing tour in Tamil Nadu.

After the course on *Social Analysis* from 1-14 Oct. for the St Anne's tertian Sisters and novices at Madavaram, Chennai, **Fr. Aloysius Irudayam** was in Delhi from 15 to 19 to work on some documents for and participate in NCDHR events: *NCDHR National Council Elections*, national level meeting on *Decade of Dalit Rights: Past & Future*, and Consultation on the UN Human Rights Council related subject *Universal Periodic Review-II*. From 13-15 Oct. **Fr. Michaelraj** assisted the outgoing JESA Secretary, **Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj**, to successfully conduct the 18th JESA Convention in Dhyana Ashram, Chennai attended by 95 delegates (16 from our Province) from the Indian provinces, Sri Lanka, and Nepal.

**Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** facilitated the Interim Assembly of the Medical Mission Secular Institute Sisters from 27-31 Oct. in Bangalore.

Aloysius

## AHAL KILPENNATHUR

On 18<sup>th</sup> September, **Mr. Jakkaiyan**, the leader of Arunthamizhar Viduthalrai Iyakkam along with a team visited AHAL and the people of Kilpennathur parish and received a warm welcome. He canvassed for the rally and conference held on 20<sup>th</sup> September at Chennai, condemning the brutal attack and violence unleashed against **Mrs. Krishnaveni**, the Arunthathiya Panchayat President of Thalayathur, Nellai District a few months earlier. He pressed to safeguard the inner reservation given to Arunthathiyars in 2009 by the T.N Government. Forty-four people participated actively in the rally and the Conference. People were highly motivated and conscientized by the speakers in the meeting. It was

well organized by the Adhithamizhar Peravai and Arunthathiyar Viduthalrai Iyakkam.

Four young girls of our parish attended a seminar on the 'Human Rights and Women' held at T.V Malai by the Diocesan Youth Commission on 25<sup>th</sup> Sep.

In the month of September, **Fr. Santiago** and his team launched a movement to help unorganized and construction workers of this area. People were enthused to enrol themselves in the movement. It paved the way to think independently and design their future.

A series of meetings on PRI (Panchayat Raj Institution) was held in different villages. People were overwhelmingly coming forward to contest in the Local Body Election as ward members, Panchayat presidents, and councillors. Thanks to the Social Action coordinator and the SAPI co-coordinator who initiated this movement.

**Fr. Bellarmine** along with the AHAL Kalaikuzhu attended the Arunthathiyar Kalai Iravu in Thiruvannamalai near Srivilliputhur on 8 Oct.

Eight Novices of our Province are having their month-long pastoral experience from 12 Oct. onwards in and around Kilpennathur. Let us pray for their fruitful experience.

Fr. Bellarmine was busy attending various meetings: Pastoral GBM (Oct, 10), JESA Meet in Chennai (Oct, 11 to 15) and JEPASA Meet in Pune, (Oct, 17-20)

Wenish

## KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

A two-day motivational training for the children of widows and deserted women was organized at Poombuhar. Sixty children took part in it. It instilled into them the awareness on the discrimination faced by their mothers in society and their struggles in day-to-day life, especially to nurture them. This awareness, positively deepened the children's respectful love for their mothers. Filled with love, they realized their responsibility to shoulder the burden of their mothers in future. They were also enlightened on the caste system, globalization, media, etc

A. Irudayaraj

## PAATHAI CENTRE, VALLAM

We conducted an intensive coaching camp for the 10<sup>th</sup> std students on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct at Paathai Centre in Kanchipuram district. **Mr. Suresh, Sr. Maria** and **Fr. Arockia Dass** were the resource persons. A seminar was organized on leadership for the animators of five northern districts. **Fr. Arockia Dass** and **Sch. Robinson** animated them.

Motivation and orientation sessions were conducted for the newly elected panchayat members and also leadership sessions were conducted for the Dalit Christian Leaders by Fr. Yesumarian on 27 and



28 Oct respectively. Totally around 50 persons benefited from such sessions. During the exposure programme, organized by LIBA **Fr. Joe Mike** and **Fr. Yesumarian** enlightened the students on rural and Dalit realities.

*Robinson*

### **THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI**

A series of five, eight and thirty days' retreat kept us all busy at the Centre. **Fr. Sivan** was in Secunderabad for a retreat to SVD Fathers. At present a thirty-day retreat is on for the SHJ Tertian Brothers. It will be over by the middle of November.

A new water tank is ready for harvesting rain water.

*Josephraj*

### **MULLAIKUDI- ARIYAMANGALAM PARISH**

Mullaikudi witnessed a festive mood on the 9<sup>th</sup> October, the day of the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The whole congregation of Mullaikudi parish from Gandhipuram, Ottakudi, Sircarpalayam, Kuvallakudi, Mullaikudi (Buddha Nagar and Valan Nagar) and Ariyamangalam assembled at the entrance of the farm gate and warmly welcomed the Bishop of Tiruchirappalli. The children and the adults numbering 184 who were to receive Confirmation lined up in two rows followed by the parishioners. A welcome dance was performed by the Children of our R.C.Middle school before the celebration of the Mass.

The homily of the Bishop was so simple that even the children were able to follow it and answer his questions on the Triune God and the Holy Spirit. He reminded not only the receivers of Confirmation but also the congregation of the importance of the fruits and the gifts of the Holy spirit and asked them to pray to the Holy Spirit every day.

At the end, a short felicitation was arranged wherein Sri Lankan girls from Mullaikudi Vazhlviyal Centre danced to a meaningful song which made the Bishop all the more happy. The Bishop appreciated the good gesture of offering given by the receivers of Confirmation which will be helpful towards building up the seminarian's fund.

Thanks to the Seva Missionary Sisters from Mullaikudi and the Cluny Sisters from Ariyamangalam for preparing the children through catechism classes and making the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation meaningful. Kudos to Fr. Rector of Amalashramam, for his spiritual guidance and hearing of confessions. With the shamiana, a good mike system and a beautiful choir, the celebration went on well.

A special thanks to our **Br. Victor**, the farm manager for his continuous support.

*K. Arockiam*

### **PREMKUMAR WRITES FROM AFGHANISTAN**

Madurai province must hold its head high that it has sent two of its men to Afghanistan, a country which

suffers from more than 30 years of brutal war. **Sch. Alex Yagu** is doing his second year regency in Bamiyan, a mountainous terrain of Afghanistan where mostly the underprivileged Hazara (Mongoloid looking) Muslims live.

I arrived at Herat city on 5 Sept. But I left Beschi Illam, Dindigul on 26 July. I had to spend three weeks in Delhi to get visa for Afghanistan and another three weeks in Kabul to obtain my work permit.

Though in the beginning, there was a fear of bomb blasts and abductions, now I have learned to live with that. We are asked not to walk freely along the streets of Herat city. But I have a great opportunity to walk in the early mornings along the streets of Sohadat village, where JRS runs a middle school and a dispensary for the returnees from Iran. Every day a van leaves from our office at 6.30 am taking our staff from Herat city and reaches Sohadat at 7.30 am. This village is 30 km away from Herat city. I join them twice a week. One can experience a chill weather, strong wind, barren mountains and desert land on the way to Sohadat.

People who are the security threat to the world have become security providers for the JRS staff in Herat!!! Our staff coach around 100 high school girls in Guzare district which is known for frequent bomb blasts and the dominance of Taliban. I go there twice a week to coach the students in English.

There is a sheer contrast between the women you see on the roads and the women inside the class rooms. On the roads they walk with fully covered burkas and inside the class room, I am amazed of their freedom with which they interact and communicate. Strict dress code is practiced both men and women in this country. I am expected to wear full sleeve shirts and mostly I do whenever I go out for my mission related activities.

Rebuilding the nation through education is also the purpose of our existence here. 3 scholastics and two local staff work in the education faculty of the Herat University, technical institute of Herat and teacher training institute. Once a week, I go with them to the teacher training institute where I give motivation classes. We have also started to build an administrative block in the technical institute. This is going to be the second building of JRS to this institute.

Though empowerment of women also one of the objectives of JRS here, we do it with the help of a local NGO since we face hurdles to do it on our own. I have visited two such programmes where women self help groups are given training in income generative activities such as basket making, tailoring, beautician, food processing and bakery making.

Every day at 7 pm we, four Jesuits of Herat Mission, come together before the Holy Altar for thanksgiving Holy Eucharist followed by meal and recreation. In the absence of less entertainment in this country, such spiritual nourishment, fellowship meal and recreation help us a lot.

I wish you all the best for the forth coming zonal meetings and the province congregation. Kindly keep me and Afghan mission in your ardent prayers.

### **JAAT COORDINATOR ON JAAI SOUTH ZONE CONGRESS IN BANGALORE**

The 13th South Zone Congress of Jesuit Alumni Associations of India (JAAI) was held at St. Joseph's Boys High School in Bangalore from October 8th to 9th. The Congress focused on the theme "Education Gen-Next."

There were 300 delegates, (including about 130 delegates from Tamil Nadu) from the four States of South India. The Congress started at 10.30 a.m on the 8th Oct. with lighting of the lamp by the zonal representatives. **Fr. Oswald Mascarenhas S.J.** gave the keynote address on the Education Gen-Next. He spoke on the Challenges of Education facing the next generation. Professors **Rajeev Gowda, Rakesh Godhwani, Vasanthi Sreenivasan** from IIM Bangalore enlightened the participants on the theme.

There is a general feeling that the JAAI is getting well organized at the zonal and the national levels and well attended by participants from almost all our Institutions. One could see much warmth, brotherhood in relations and professionalism at the organizational level. It was decided that the next South Zone Congress will be held in Kerala in 2014.

V. Augustine

### **JRS-TAMIL NADU**

CIS organized a course on "Media Awareness" at Beschi Illam from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Oct facilitated by **Fr. Stephen Raj**. Along with four JRS staff, some college students participated and realized the adverse impact as well as the positive influence of the media. The trained persons, in turn will handle such a course in their respective camps.

**Fr. Jivan**, the administrator of South Asia regional office, New Delhi paid a visit to Dharmapuri, Dindigul and Mullaikudi and examined the present situation of refugees. **Fr. Louie** visited the camps in Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts monitoring our activities and encouraging students and field staff. To overcome the stress and strain experienced by Grihini students, a course on *Personality Development and Leadership Skills* was organized for them at IDEAS, Madurai. The inputs of **Frs. Sahayaraj** and **Santhanam** were much lauded.

The State representative, the programme officer and the MNE officer of CRS visited Nellai zone and had a discussion with the JRS counsellors regarding their service. The team also held a meeting in JRS office on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Oct. An orientation programme for the newly appointed counsellors of Kovai and Thiruvannamalai districts was held at OFERR office, Tiruchi.

Raja

## **NEW RELEASES**

***Dalit Women Speak Out: Caste, Class and Gender Violence in India***, by Aloysius Irudayam S.J. *et al*, Zubaan Publications, New Delhi, 2011, pp. xx + 445, Price: Rs. 695/-.

Arul Kadal has brought out a community prayer book with socio-pastoral perspectives, entitled "வழிபட... வாழ்வாகிட". It has 50 relevant and contextual prayer themes. The Rectors, Superiors & Team Leaders of our communities are requested to order their number of copies from Vaigarai Publication, Dindigul.

### **Fr. Albert Diedrich**

First November 2011 was truly a sad day for Loyola Academy, the newly started CBSE School at Vadampakkam, since its Founder and Patron, Fr. Albert Diedrich passed away in Frasdorf, Germany on that day. He had been suffering from multiple cancers for one year.

After reading an article on the Chennai Mission in the Jesuit Missions' Magazine in Germany, through **Fr. Alan** who was in contact with him Fr. Albert Diedrich requested in 2009 the Chennai Mission Superior to start an English Medium School for the sake of providing quality education to the rural poor and Dalit children in Chennai Mission Area. The children whom he was educating already were failing in their final exams since they were studying in the schools run by the government and Fr. Albert felt sad about it. He was educating about 650 poor children with the help of Anbaham Centres in three places.

Fr. Albert Diedrich donated 10 acres of land to Loyola College Society for building the new school, since the new project was entrusted to the care of Loyola College Community, Chennai. He has contributed about Rs. 5 Crore so far for the construction of Loyola Academy's Primary and High School buildings. The new buildings were opened by him on 5th April. He was very glad that we started the school in July 2011 with 240 children. After studying our commitment in the newly started school, Fr. Albert was getting ready to extend more support and responsibilities to the Jesuits at Vadampakkam. But unfortunately, now he is no more.

A new Board took charge in Germany after Fr. Albert's health condition deteriorated. The Board members plan to visit us in January 2012 to continue their collaboration and support to Loyola Academy.

Maria Joe

Chennai Mission Office

### **ABIDE WITH THE LORD**

**Br. Penikalapati Balaswamy** (AND) 86/62, on 23 Oct. at Secunderabad