

MNL - SEPTEMBER 2005

Dear Fathers and Brothers,

Greetings. I sincerely thank you for your friendship in the Lord and for your journeying with me during my mission of leadership in the Province for the past six years. I am grateful to each one of you for your prayers, your guidance, and your companionship. The Curia, the College of local Superiors, the Coordinators and other officials have been very helpful in sharing the responsibility in the administration - I am very much thankful to them all. You have touched me and I have grown.

Let us thank the Lord for all the good He has showered on us and let us ask for His grace, in the spirit of St. Ignatius, to do ever better in all our ministries and to foster the binding force of union of hearts and minds.

Fr. Joseph Michael (Socius) is the Acting Provincial when I am away from the Province to prepare myself for my future ministry. Kindly keep me and my mission in your prayers.

With kind regards,

Yours in Christ,

Francis P. Xavier, SJ

Provincial

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Sept 05 Chennai: Loyola College - Inauguration of IDCR/DRC

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ **Fr. General** has appointed:

Fr. Frank Case (ORE) the Secretary of the Society in the place of **Fr. Gabriel Codina**. Fr. Case assumes office on Nov 15, 2005.

Fr. James Grummer (WIS) the Regional Assistant for the USA

Fr.S. Joseph Sebastian, Provincial of Andhra and **Fr. Leonard N. Fernando** Principal of Vidyajyothi, Consultors to the POSA.

Fr. Tony da Silva Provincial of Goa

Fr. George Pattery Provincial of Calcutta

“ **Fr. Provincial** has appointed:

Fr. Joseph Michael the Acting Provincial

Fr. Joe Arun the Director of Culture and Communication.

◆ **The National CRI** is bringing out a bimonthly **magazine called RELIGIOUS INDIA**. The annual subscription is Rs. 150/-. The DD can be drawn in the name of 'Conference of Religious India - Media Fund'. All our communities are strongly recommended to subscribe to this magazine. When you subscribe kindly quote this number: P.044. The address: "Religious India" - Magazine, CRI House, Masihgarh, Jamia Nagar PO, Oklia, New Delhi - 110 025.

◆ De Nobili College, on the occasion of the Triple 5th Centenary of Sts. Ignatius, Xavier and Bl. Faber, is organising an Essay Competition on "**Creativity and Conformity in the Society of Jesus: A Creative Tension or a Constant Dilemma**", open to all Scholastics from I year Philosophy till III year Theology inclusive. The length of the essay is 5000 words in the form of a serious article. The electronic as well as the printed copy should reach **Fr. Rector**, De Nobili College, P.B. 3007, Pune - 411 014, on or before January 28th, 2006.

e-mail:ralphdoostasj@yahoo.com(or) denobili@pn2.vsnl.net.in

ORDINATION INVITATION

We, **Deacons Amalraj Santhanam, Arul Ravi, Paul Prakash** and **Sebasthi John Baskar**, are happy to invite you to our priestly ordination on **October 1st, 2005** at 5:30 pm in **St. Mary's Cathedral, Madurai**, by the **Most Rev. Antony Pappusamy**, Bishop of Dindigul.

We also welcome you for our **First Eucharistic Celebration**.

Amalraj Santhanam	St. Germanes Church	on 02.10.2005	Rayapuram	at 05:30 pm.
Arul Ravi	St. James Church	on 02.10.2005	Suranam	at 05:30 pm.
Paul Prakash	Sacred Heart Church	on 02.10.2005	Sindalacherry	at 10:00 am.
Sebasthi John Baskar	Aiyanarkulam	on 03.10.2005	Aiyanarkulam	at 09:30 am.

.. **OUR HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Fr. Raj Irudaya who has successfully defended his thesis "The Samaritan Mission of Jesus - An Exergetico - Theological Study of John 4:1-42. Towards a paradigm of Mission for Indian Context". Fr. Raj has been awarded distinction in his doctorate.

Fr. Masillamani D. Antonymuthu who has defended his doctoral thesis on Folklore. His viva voce was conducted by **Dr.A. Ramanathan**, of Tamil University, Thanjavur in the presence of his guide **Dr.S.D. Lourdu**.

- .. **Indian Contemplative Retreats** guided by **Fr. Sebastian Painadath**: (1) Based on Upanishads Oct 21 evening to 27 noon at Sameeksha Spirituality Centre, Kalady 683 574, Kerala and (2) Based on the Bhagavad Gita and the Gospel according to St. John: November 20 morning to 25 evening at NBCLC, P.B. 8426, Bangalore - 560 084. Those interested, kindly apply to the Directors of the centres.
- .. **Fr. Muthupackiam Xavier** has a new cell no: 9935754915

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

We celebrated the Feast of our Founder, St. Ignatius in a grand manner on 31 July. We had a Concelebrated Holy Mass at 7:30 am. A good number of Priests from our Vicariate and Sisters from different Congregations were the guests for our cultural rendezvous at 6:30 pm. on the theme, **“VAULTING TOWARDS MAGIS”**. The play, **A Lawyer or A Liar-A Unique Trial**, amused the audience. The thematic mime and the declamation, **“Where there is a will, there is a way”** by Doni Raja were very much fitting for the occasion.

Fr. Francis Vazhapilly, hoisted the national flag on 15th August. We had a patriotic declamation by Leo and Pradeep and mass drill after the flag hoisting ceremony. All the pre-novices went for a picnic cum pilgrimage to Poondi Matha Shrine on bicycles. We were rejuvenated by the grace of Poondi Puthumai Matha.

VMI Community heartily expresses its thanks to **Fr. Fernandes Jesuadimai** who was sometime Parish Priest of Thirumanur. We wish him all the best in his new mission and pray for his continued good health.

S. Manuel

VIDYANIKETAN (JESUIT JUNIORATE), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On 28 July we had the privilege of participating in the Fellowship of the Seminarians of Trivandrum (FOST) which was held at Rosminian Ashram, Vettuthura. We presented a short lucid cultural programme which stole the hearts of the audience. **Fr. Rufus** was the main speaker and his chiselled keynote address energized the youngsters to live a meaningful religious life. St. Xavier's college community and we together celebrated the Feast of our Founder in a grand manner. **Fr.K.P. Mathew**, the Rector of the college community was the main celebrant of the Solemn High Mass and gave a fine homily on Jesuit identity and the pioneering spirit of the Jesuits to take up any mission in any part of the world. We had a friendly football match with our neighbouring- community, the Rosminian Brothers. We enjoyed not only the match but also their generous hospitality. On 1st August, in honour of our Founder's Feast the juniors performed a cultural programme. On 15th of August the whole campus celebrated the Independence Day. Mr. Lawrence, one of the co- workers of our college, hoisted the national flag. **Sch. Yesu** (KAR) delivered a thought-provoking Independence Day message.

Arockia James Raja

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

Frs Leonard and **S. Arokiasamy** presented papers on De Nobili in the seminar conducted by De Nobili Research Centre, Chennai.

The month of August has been very special because it provided us with two great opportunities. Ms Daya Bhai, a radical social activist working among the tribes in Bihar, was kind enough to share with us on "People's initiative for their empowerment". The talk opened the path to us to become subaltern-conscious theologians. We were also privileged to interact with a group of "Minjung" theologians and pastors from Korea. They shared with the academic community on "Minjung" theology. Thanks to Fr Leo who helped us to quench our intellectual thirst with this 'common people's theology.

Gerlin

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

An insightful and interesting course on Philosophy of Science was conducted by **Fr. Francis P. Xavier**, the Provincial of Madurai from 5th to 11th of August. We thank him for offering us a scientific approach to philosophy. A three-day youth convention was ably organised by **Fr. V. Ignatius** at Ascension Church campus from 13th to 15th of August. More than 500 youngsters, both boys and girls, from Chennai and Chengalpattur benefitted from it. The Archbishop the **Most. Rev. Chinnappa** presided over the second day function. In his homily, he appreciated the work of Fr. Ignatius and the Jesuits at large for creating social awareness along with faith formation.

Paul

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

Sincere thanks to **Fr. Korkoniyas Moses** of Calcutta Province for his deep sharing on "Jesus Prayer in Indian Tradition" and his guided meditations. **Fr. Arul Sivan** gave a course on renewal of religious life and it was followed by an eight-day retreat, preached by **Fr. Susai**, in preparation for the Golden and Silver Jubilee celebrations of six Brothers of SHJ. On 15th August, we had a concelebrated Mass at 6:15 am for the Feast of the Assumption of BVM. On this 58th Anniversary of our Independence, **Fr. Rex Pai** hoisted the flag. II year novice **Bertram** inspired us by his Independence Day message, which was listened to with rapt attention. On 27th, six Sisters from CIS preached a one-day retreat to 10th and 12th standard students of St. Xavier's Hr. Sec. School, Muthalagupatti.

On 30th August, the I year novices began a pilgrimage to Vailankanni along with parishioners of Anandarayankottai. The II year novices were busy with 'House Experiment' in the kitchen and in house maintenance.

II year novice **Antony Anand** had a fracture in his left arm and is now recovering. Kindly keep him in your prayers.

Gladwin

CHENNAI MISSION: PATHAI CENTRE, VALLAM

With the help of 14 French students under the leadership of **Fr. Xavier Jagan** of the French Province, a permanent housing project for ten tsunami victims in Pudupatinakuppam was carried out successfully. Thanks to **Fr. Maria Joe** who made this housing project possible. Their one-month stay in the area, their labouring under the scorching sun, entertaining the children and listening to the agonies of the victims were much appreciated. As the culmination of their stay we organized a cultural programme in the area.

A one-day seminar was organized for the tsunami victims of Rajanagar in Pathai Centre. **Frs. Yesumarian, Louis** and other resource persons stressed the need for self-dignity and unity even in this tragic situation. A meeting with the tsunami relief committee of Singarathope village in Cuddalore district paved the way for starting a permanent housing work in the next month.

Due to the tireless efforts of **Sch. Arockiadass**, the evening study centres have revived functioning with renewed vigour. His regular visits to the area enthused the field animators and motivated the children. The field animators' meeting held early this month helped us to plan for the whole year with regard to the coaching camps and study centres. Dass is now convalescing after his fall from a bike.

On August 30, the newly-built houses in Pudupatinakuppam were inaugurated by the Provincial **Fr. Francis Xavier**, during a simple function organized by the Dalit Human Rights Centre (DHRC). His encouragement instilled enthusiasm into our cadres.

Arockiadass

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

On 31st July, we celebrated the Feast of St. Ignatius in the school. The **Most Rev. Soosaimanikam**, the Coadjutor Bishop of Sivagangai, graced the occasion. All the religious and parish priests shared our joy. The headmaster, **Br. Kulandairaj Antony** and the staff organized a series of meetings with parents of the 7th, 8th and 9th std. students. Sivagangai Family Commission gave a one-day Life Educational programme for the 12th std. students. As usual, on August 15th, on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of Independence the national flag was hoisted by **Fr. Xavier**, the Director of Valan Illam, Ramnagar. In his speech he stressed the importance of selfless service for the development of the country. We had a one-day community picnic to Vaigai Dam. Our visit to "Athisayam" in Madurai made the day memorable. Our school won all the Senior, Junior and Super-Senior championships in the zonal Sports and Games competition.

John Lourdu

ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL

The H.S. School celebrated its 95th Sports Day. Dr.R. Krishnakumar, our alumnus was the chief guest of the day. It was a great feast to our eyes to see our boys in elegant uniforms display spectacular

achievements. While Mr. Jeyaprakash declared the meet open Mr. V.R.N. Chellappa, the District Sports Officer lit the Olympic torch.

The School Annual Day immediately followed the Sports Day. We were blessed to have our Bishop **the Most Rev Antony Pappusamy** as the President on that day. Mr. Pandurengan, the C.E.O., graced the function. After the usual reports and speeches, a variety of dances, enthralling music and a meaningful skit kept the audience spellbound.

When the zonal and district sports and games were over recently, our H.S. School became the envy of almost all the schools of our district because most of the trophies were won by us. Congrats to the achievers, our students and the stalwards, our P.E.Ts.

If anyone is interested in catching young scientists, please come over here. We have many of them. The two days' exhibition in the school campus brought out many new scientists. Mrs. Shunmugavadivu the D.E.O wondered at our students' innovative experiments and crystal clear explanations.

Aruldoss

ST MARY'S, MADURAI

The Feast of our Holy Founder was an occasion for all of us - Jesuits, Staff, Pastors and Religious to come together as one body and share with one another the joy of the day. **Fr. Wilson** prepared us by a prayer service and **Deacon Amalraj** made the liturgy meaningful and appealing. **Fr.V.S. Raju** and **Br.U. Selvaraj** saw to it that every guest was fed well. We appreciated the presence of the Archbishop of Madurai. It was encouraging to hear from **Fr. Vedamanickam** and **Sr. Ranjeeth**, CIC, who shared during the get-together that Jesuits have a significant role to play in serving the people.

This year being the year of the Eucharist the parish organized a triduum to inculcate in the people a deeper devotion to the Eucharistic Lord. **Fr. Dhanaraj** was the resource person. The liturgy was made participative and instructive so that people were able to take part in it meaningfully. Thanks to Deacon. Amalraj, who was in charge of the Liturgy. The parish also organized Corpus Christi Procession. After the Holy Mass presided over by the Archbishop, **Fr. Rector** carried the monstrance and people went in procession along the usual route. At the end, **Fr. Xavier** of Christ Hall delivered a sermon and **Fr. Gualbert** gave the benediction. The community went to Damien centre, Nilakottai for a monthly recollection. Sr. Agnes Xavier led the community in prayer.

Mr.A.M. Mannan Mohamed RIPE presided over the School Annual Sports Meet which was very much appreciated for its order, discipline and sportsman spirit.

Felix Joseph

MCRDCE, CHENNAI

MCRDCE conducted a one-day Consultation in Collaboration with Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University at Nashik on 12th of August in which 66 participants took part from Maharashtra,

Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Goa. The Vice Chancellor **Dr. Rajan M. Welukar** wanted by all means the Community College System to be recognised by the Open University.

MCRDCE also conducted the Eighth Consultation of Community Colleges in Tamil Nadu in collaboration with Nano Nagle Community College, Chennai on 20th August to discuss the various aspects of integration with the Tamil Nadu Open University Diploma Courses. We had 91 participants from 53 colleges.

In the last three months MCRDCE has been instrumental in inaugurating 21 new community colleges in different states of India, the latest additions being KGF Community College for men, Bharath Community College (Chennai) and Veda Mari Community College (Villupuram).

Xavier Alphonse

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

School Sports were held on 6th August. The chief guest was **Mrs.Meena Dev**, the Municipal Commissioner; **Mr.Easwaran**, DSP, NGL was the president. The event was grand and impressive. Carmel stood first in many events at the District level tournaments. After a gap of a few years basketball is rejuvenated by the initiative of the headmaster, **Fr.K.A. Augustine**.

Kg;ngUk; tpoh marked the opening of the Tamil literary Association, Kalaivanar Vizha and Independence Day celebration. Mr. Arangasamy and Mr. Po.Ma. Rajamony spoke with unction and humour and urged the students to give a boost to Tamil literature.

The batch which joined the novitiate in 1971 had a get-together on 27th and 28th. The Carmel community hosted the gathering.

Carmel Alumni Association conducted District level, poetry, drawing and quiz competitions for the H. and H.S. school students. The prizes were distributed at the General Body Meeting held on August 28, 2005.

A literary meet of creative writers from the east and west coast of southern districts was held on 6th August. The poet Mr.Thomas (Chozha kattel!), the novelist Mr. Joe D'Cruz (Aazhi sool ulagam), and the essayist Dr. Wareedhaya were the persons whose writings were commented upon. Sixty-eight scholars and interested persons interacted with them for about four hours. It was an effort to bring to the public the creative genius inherent in the coastal communities.

The Madurai Legal Services team, headed by Fr. Santhanam, has been inundated with applications for legal aid from more than 12000 persons who received less than half of what the Government Orders provide and those who are entitled to relief but have not been recognised. We had to engage 16 extra hands to meet the influx of the applicants.

In our effort to equip people for alternative employment, 23 young men have been enabled to get their driving licences. This group was provided advanced training by LTI, Madurai to hone their skills.

Francis Jayapathy

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

The tertians came out of their 30-day retreat on 30th July. Holiness was visible on their faces. The Feast of our Holy Father was celebrated with great rejoicing in the company of the tertians, the local clergy and a galaxy of Sisters. **Fr. Stanislaus** presided over the liturgy. **Fr. Maria Joseph Mahalingam** preached a soul-stirring homily. The hymns by the tertians were mellifluous and captivating.

On 6 August an inter-religious monthly recollection was held. **Fr. M.J. Victor** guided a five-day retreat to a secular Sister from Jawadhi hills. The Feast of Our Lady of La Salette on 15 August was a great event in Kodai. Several thousands of people from different parts of Tamil Nadu and of different religions devotionally paying their tribute to our Mother was spectacular. The Jesuits were well represented by the tertians and S.H.C. community members in the celebration of the Feast, graced by the Archbishop, the **Most Rev Peter Fernando. Fr. Jerome** our tertian took several tertians to Veilankanni and Poondi on a pilgrimage on 20 and 21 August.

The PEAK team sent 10 persons to be trained in law at IDEAS from 8 to 12 July. On 28 July youth sports day was organized at Poondi, Kodai for the Youth of Poondi, Polur, Kilavarai and Kavunji. About 40 persons actively participated in it. Fr. Xavier the director with three persons attended a Dalit Conference at Bangalore. **Fr. Xavier** and **Fr. Kulandai** went with 51 women from upper hill villages on a tour to Bangalore and Mysore. ISI Bangalore played the host.

R. Stanislaus

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

On 2 August we had the Mass of the Holy Spirit to invoke his blessings and the **Most Rev Yvon Ambroise** was chief celebrant. The Mass of the Holy Spirit for the self-financed students was celebrated by **Fr. Alex CMF** on the 8th.

On August 3 the commanding officer, Mr. Suresh inaugurated the NCC Obstacles and the NCC students demonstrated the use of obstacles and their importance for job opportunity in the army.

On 10 August **Dr. Maruthamuthu**, the Vice Chancellor of Madurai Kamarajar University, inaugurated the six UGC - sponsored Career-Oriented Courses along with two other university approved courses. He congratulated the coordinators, the management and teachers of these courses, which add credit for job placement.

On 15 August Mr. Sivamani, the Block Development Officer, hoisted the national flag and appreciated the service of the college to the people of this area and encouraged the youth to utilize the facilities and their stay in the college to the full extent.

From 23rd a three-day refresher course on mathematics was conducted for High and Hr Sec. School mathematics teachers in and around Usilampatti. There were 77 participants from about 50 schools. They thanked the management for offering such service to them. The programme was sponsored by the Tamil Nadu State Council for Science and Technology (TNSCST), Chennai and the National Council for Science and Technology (NCSTC), New Delhi.

Sch. Pavalan Justin a 1st year theologian was here at Sathyanathapuram, for his month-long Immersion Experience.

Francis Xavier

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

Loyola was in a festive mood on the Feast day of our Founder St. Ignatius of Loyola. The day started with Holy Eucharist presided over by the **Most Rev A.M. Chinnappa**, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore. The staff and students took part in the Eucharist and the breakfast that followed.

The community had a day of recollection under the guidance of **Fr. Lawrence**. A two-day retreat was arranged for the Catholic girls of our college and **Fr. Thamburaj** was the retreat preacher.

Fr. Henry gave a talk on “Indian response to the presence of the Church in the universities through Liturgia, Diakonia and Martyria - Reality and Vision” at the World Chaplains’ Meet at Cologne, as part of the World Youth Day.

Fr. Joe Arun conducted a training programme on “Conflict Management and Communal Harmony” for IPS officers in five batches at the Police Training College, Chennai.

The community congratulates **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** who has been nominated by the Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Open University as a member of its Academic Council. He has been awarded the “Rajiv Gandhi Shiromani” award by an organization in Delhi, for his services to the community college movement.

Fr. Innacimuthu returned to the community after his short visit to Kaiserslautern University, Germany for a research purpose. He has been appointed a member of the selection committee for the award of major projects by the ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.

De Nobili Research Centre (DCR) organized a national conference on “Religion and Culture” that brought together scholars on de Nobili. This event helped to revive the pioneering work of **Fr. Rajamanickam**. Loyola College, IDCR and the Province have joined together to contribute to the corpus fund of DCR to facilitate regular research programmes at DCR. LIBA has been recognized as a research institute by the Madras University.

On 29th Aug. the community celebrated the jubilee of **Fr. Devasia**: his 50th year in priesthood. It started with a concelebrated Eucharist followed by a festive agape.

Berchmans

ST XAVIER’S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

After a daylong picnic on the beach of Tuticorin where the community regaled and relaxed on 3rd August the community went on a pilgrimage to the Church of Our Lady of Assumption, Kamana-yakkanpatty where stalwarts like John De Britto were parish priests. Though customary, the visit to this shrine on 15th August made a spiritual impact on us all.

The 125th year celebration came to its final phase, on 29th and 30th July. The concluding celebration started with a spiritual note - with a Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Francis Xavier, the Provincial. The programme included a debate chaired by **Dr. Solomon Pappiah**, a team discussion on the aim of education today, chaired by **Dr. Periar Dasan** and speeches by outstanding persons and a well acted play. The two days' programme was marked for its quality. The organizers saw to it that the items were of high standard, were executed punctually and the dignity and good name of the institution was upheld. Congrats to everyone - Jesuits, teaching and non-teaching staff and students.

The school also deserves felicitations for having won the State level volleyball tournaments. The SH hostel for high school boys now has a spacious dormitory.

The admissions for B.Ed., and M.Ed., are over and the classes are in full swing. On 27th August the SXCE had Mass of the Holy Spirit and the blessings of God were invoked, Fr. Rector was the chief celebrant.

There was a condolence meeting at SXC in honour of **Fr. Michael Berchmans**. All the students paid their last respects to him at the residence on 9th of August. The Autonomy Review Committee visited SXC on 31st August; the committee visited all the Departments, Laboratories, Library, Research Centres and other units of the college. They also had a meeting with the staff and the students. The committee has given an encouraging note and an appreciating gesture, which have not only encouraged the management and the staff but also have rejuvenated their spirit.

Fr.D.A. Masillamani (Karisal) successfully defended his doctoral thesis in folklore on August 8th. Dr.A. Ramanathan of Tamil University, Thanjavur was his examiner, FRRRC has added one more feather in its cap by producing the latest folklore scholar.

Clement

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The extension department of the college (SHEPHERD) successfully conducted a science exhibition for rural schools at Ramji Nagar on 27th and 28th July. July 31 the Feast day of St. Ignatius was a memorable day in the annals of our college, since the foundation stone for the proposed library building, a megaproject, was laid at 4:30 pm that day by **Rev Fr. Francis P. Xavier**, our Provincial.

As part of the admission process, HELP DESK was introduced this year. This new venture is to give parents and students all the needed information about the hostels, banks, SFS office, etc. The admissions to the U.G and P.G courses are over and they were made smoothly and efficiently.

On 7th August, we had a meeting of more than 130 of our former sportsmen. They have come forward to donate generously towards setting up a corpus fund for the education of sportsmen in the college and for the construction of an indoor stadium. The annual Corpus Christi procession was held in the evening of the same day and it was marked by great religious fervour.

The centenary tournaments were conducted from 2nd August to 10th August. Loyola, Chennai turned out to be the winners in basketball, volleyball and badminton. St. Joseph's were the champions

in kabaddi. The college sports meet was held on 12th August and the school sports meet the following day. On 13th August, 12 of our community members went on a picnic to Courtalam.

Br. John Bosco died on 21 August after a prolonged illness. The funeral was held the following day.

Louis Xavier

THOZHAMA ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

Fr. Joseph Nedungatt who got unwell and was admitted to Dr. Bose Clinic in Madurai is back home and is getting ready for his next round of retreats in Bangalore and Hyderabad. **Fr. Louis Adaikalaraj** preached an 8-day retreat to the M.C. Sisters at Chabua in U.P.

Our inter-religious dialogue group, Kanyakumari Palsamaya Sangamam, had its 74th meeting in Thozhamai Illam on the topic "Islam in the World Today". The speaker, Mr.B.F.H.R. Bijli, Chartered Engineer/Environmental Consultant, from Trivandrum said that Islam means submission to Truth, to God, to Allah. On the question of forgiveness a Hindu friend, Mr. Chellappan who was presiding over the function, quoting from Iratchaniya Yatrikam by H.Krishnapillai said that the words of Jesus while dying on the cross, praying for his executioners: "Father forgive them", is a sure proof that He is the Redeemer of the world.

As Secretary to the Dialogue Commission, Kottar Diocese, **Fr. Maria Jeyaraj** spoke on Nandanar to a group of 35 persons belonging to different religious traditions.

Christanand C. Valiaveetil

AICUF

The 17th National Council was held at AICUF House Chennai from 11th to 14th August on the theme "AICUF calls: Analyse, Assess and intervene to Humanise the World". Tamil Nadu State Advisor **Fr. Maria Singarayar** along with student leaders participated in the Council. Dr.G. John, Dept. of Commerce St. Joseph's college Tiruchi is appointed the new State Animator

of Tamil Nadu in the place of Dr. Antony Cruz. The Chennai Regional Executive Committee met on 20th and 21st August to plan for the forthcoming activities.

A new unit was inaugurated at Ananda College, Devakottai by the State Advisor Fr. Maria Singarayar on 25th August.

The State Dalit Commission members gathered on 26th & 27th August to plan for the State Dalit Convention to be held in December and the State Executive Committee meeting was held on 27th & 28th August and planned the future programmes.

Singam.

SUPAM MEET

The first SUPAM Meet organized at Marappanaickanpatty of Namakkal parish was a rejoining and rejuvenating experience for us: **Amalraj, Arul Ravi, Paul Pragash** and **Sebasthi John Baskar**. The

terse reports presented bore witness to our authentic socio-pastoral immersion. **Fr. Maria Arul Raj** churned the matter discussed and extracted the theological cream for us to cherish and exhibit effectively in our mission-fields. The cream was threefold: need for prophetic pastoral intervention in conflict situations, establishing popular devotions as locus for social transformation and ethicizing the symbolic world of the people. 'Quality, Solidarity' with the people denied of life is the need of the hour: it won the nod of all. The inspiring lead and interventions by **Fr. Jerry Rosario** the SUPAM coordinator all through the day were commendable.

While our spirit rose to new heights enriched by the vivacious cum down-to-earth pastoral tips and tactics of **Fr. Masillamani**, the VF of Namakkal, the delicious dinner hosted by him was a feast to our taste buds. The Eucharist in the evening with the little flock of Marappanaickanpatty was made meaningful by **Fr. Jerry**, the main celebrant and Deacon Amal who gave the homily. Thanks to Deacon Baskar and the Parish Priest for the splendid arrangements!

Paul Pragash, S.

OUR TERTIANS AT GOA

Fr. Philominraj and I reached Raia, Goa safely on August 8th morning. The tertianship programme at Arrupe Institute, Raia, started on August 9th. We are 19 tertians altogether from 12 Provinces, including one from Hungary and another from the USA., having **Fathers Michael Alosanai** (MDU) and **Jose Changanacherry** [GUJ] as our instructors.

The enchanting natural beauty of our campus and of Goa invites us to be in union with the Lord. We after having gone through the initial programme and having journeyed with Ignatius the man through his Autobiography, are ready to enter into our Spiritual Journey - the Long Retreat - from September 07th to October 09th. Hence we kindly request your fervent prayers especially during those days. And we also assure you of our prayers.

A. Soosai Raj

JESUIT TSUNAMI SERVICE, NAGAPATTINAM

We got admission for 250 students (boys and girls) in 10 different community colleges for nine diploma courses all over Tamil Nadu. **Fr. Paul Mike** and **Fr.A Irudayaraj** visited these colleges and spoke to the students. They are all happy to do the chosen diploma courses with a hope of getting a job in future.

The preparatory work for the newly emerging community college in a rented building is going on in full swing. We have planned to start the following four diploma courses: 1.Computer Hardware 2. Electrical and Electronics 3. Office Management 4. Refrigeration and Air Conditioning. We are also applying for TNOU(Tamil Nadu Open University) certificate. In this connection, **Frs. Paul Mike** and **A. Irudayaraj** attended a one-day consultation meeting with TNOU officials and directors of all community colleges, organised by MCDRCE in Chennai. We place on record our thanks to Br.A. Ignacy and Fr. Guna who were of great help to us in planning and equipping the curriculum.

We have started two other new Tailoring Centres in Poombuhar and Kodyakarai. Many unemployed girls and married women benefit from these tailoring centres. To cater to the needs of the poor school-going children, we have started three evening study centres.

Baskar

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Lazarus Edattel (KER) 79/57 died on 26.07.2005.

Fr. Cyril V. Silva (KAR) 90/70 died on 12.08.2005 at Mangalore.

Fr. Edward George McGuire, (DAR) 78/61 died on 15.08.2005 at Kalimpong.

Fr A Devashayam, (KAR), 82/62 died on 23.08.2005 at St Philomena's Hospital, Bangalore.

FR. MICHAEL G. BERCHMANS, SJ

17.12.1928 - 09.08.2005

Fr G. Michael who was carrying out his Dialogue Ministry in Kudiyiruppu, Courtalam was not keeping good health in recent months. His friend **Fr Xavier Ignatius** of Thoothukudi diocese who had gone to Kudiyiruppu on 6th July 2005, found Fr Michael seriously ill with constant diarrhoea and fever. He therefore took Fr Michael in his car, admitted him to the Sacred Heart Hospital, Thoothukudi on 7th July and informed **Fr Royce**, the Superior of Xaveriana. Fr Royce at once informed the Rector of St Xavier's. **Frs. Rector, Leo Tagore** and **L.V. Kumar** rushed at once to see Fr Michael and consult the doctors. The doctors diagnosed that Fr Michael had an acute retention of urine and enlarged prostate. Father was in a state of delirium and was rather disoriented and mildly violent. He was therefore brought to Tirunelveli on 21st July 2005 and admitted to Raja Hospital under the care of Dr C. Paneerselvan an expert Psychiatrist. Fr Michael showed marked improvement and when **Fr Provincial** visited him in the company of Frs. Pappuraj and Royce on 28th July night he was very normal though extremely weak. He was discharged from Raja Hospital on 1st August 2005 and brought to the Jesuit Residence. But on 3rd August, his condition grew worse and so he was taken to Mother Hospital run by ICM Sisters. His condition did not improve. Soon after, his condition started deteriorating and Fr Michael passed away quietly at 6.00 a.m. on 9th August 2005. The body was brought to the Jesuit Residence. The Staff and students of the Arts College filed past the body in respectful homage.

The funeral Mass at 4.00 p.m. that day was presided over by **Fr Joe Michael**, the Socius and more than 20 priests participated in it. Fr Pappuraj preached a homily, touching on the constant search for Truth that made Fr Michael give up a settled life in an institution where his deep erudition and fluency in languages would have been fully utilized. He also held him up as a model of simple and sacrificing life, deep faith and love for the poor. After the Communion Fr Xavier Ignatius spoke of his long association with Fr Michael; Mr. Maria Louis Pandian, a regular visitor to his Ashram spoke on behalf of the family

and Fr Rector thanked everyone who took care of Fr Michael during his illness. He made a special mention of Arulraj the phone boy who looked after him with exemplary dedication.

Fr Leo Tagore conducted the obsequies after the Mass. The body was taken in procession by our Staff and students to St Antony's Church, where Fr L.V. Kumar gave the final absolution. Fr Michael was laid to rest by the side of ours who had preceded him.

A. Pappuraj

BR. BOSCO JOHN, SJ

17.01.1936 - 21.08.2005



On June 20th, Br. John Bosco while coming out of our chapel at St. Joseph's Tiruchi after hearing Mass swooned and fell down. He was rushed to the KMC hospital. The scanning showed that he had suffered a brain haemorrhage. He was in the hospital and given the best treatment but he suffered a second haemorrhage on 7th August. Since then, he remained unconscious and remained in the intensive care unit. He passed away at 6:20 pm on 21st August. The funeral Mass was said at 3 pm the following day presided over by **Fr. Provincial**. Moving tributes were paid to him by Fr. Albert Joseph, Superior of Loyola Hr. Sec. School, Kuppayanallur, **Fr.A. Joseph**, the former Rector of St. Joseph's who had known Br. Bosco quite well and **Fr.S. Lazar** the present Rector of the college. The speakers referred to Br. Bosco as an exemplary religious, a man of prayer and discipline and extolled his silent and dedicated service. Many of his former hostellers - some of them living abroad - remember him even today with affection. The Brother spent his last days looking after the house garden with great care.

He had helped in a special way the Sisters of St. Anne and attended the funeral service in large numbers. A number of hostellers, relatives and friends of Br. Bosco also attended. The college band was in attendance and sounded the last salute as the coffin was placed in the crypt. A condolence meeting was held in the college on the 23rd and the college remained closed for the day.

Louis Xavier