

MNL

AC 35



A FIRE THAT KINDLES OTHER FIRES

Madurai News Letter

SEPTEMBER 2010

(For Private Circulation)

Priestly ordination

Dear friends,

We, six Madurai Deacons cordially invite you to our Sacerdotal Ordination at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi on 9th October 2010 at 5.00 p.m. Our hearts are filled with gratitude, as we remember each and everyone of you for accompanying and shaping us in very many ways through our different stages of formation. Trusting in the Lord who has called us, we go into the world to be fruitful in our ministry.



J. Arockia Dass



V. Innaci John



I. Irudaya Valanarasu



G. Joseph Ignaci



A. Justin Prabhu



S. Paul Benedict

NAME	PLACE	DATE AND TIME
J. Arockia Dass	St. Annai Velankanni Arockia Matha Church, Nedungampattu, Pondicherry	10 October 2010 05.30 PM
V. Innaci John	St. Antony's Church Marambady, Dindigul	10 October 2010 05.30 PM
I. Irudaya Valanarasu	Sacred Heart Church Thiruvarangam	10 October 2010 05.30 PM
G. Joseph Ignaci	St. Joseph's Church Patcherry	10 October 2010 09.00 AM
A. Justin Prabhu	St. Thomas Church Veerapandiya pattanam	10 October 2010 5.30 PM
S. Paul Benedict	St. Joseph's Church Soosaipatti	10 October 2010 05.30 PM

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

September

03	Kuppayanallur Loyola
04	Chennai Loyola
05-09	Sri Lanka: Visit of JCSA Provincials of the Southern Region
09pm-10	Chennai: Visitation: Berchmans Hall
11	Chennai: Chennai Mission Officials' Meeting
12	Tiruchi Zonal Meeting
15-16	Dindigul: Visitation: St. Mary's
17-18	Dindigul: Beschi Illam: Superiors, Coordinators and Consultors Meeting
19	Dindigul: Consult
20-21	Dindigul: Bishop's House Pastoral Commission GBM
24-25	Madurai: Visitation: LATI
26	Madurai Zonal Meeting
27-30	Karumathur: Visitation: Arul Anandar College

October

02-03	Dindigul: Beschi Illam: Dalit Commission GBM
06	Nagapattinam: Visitation
07	Visitation: Vilangudi, Kumbakonam, Thirumanur & Viragalur
08	Poondi & Ariyamangalam Visitation
09	Tiruchi: Ordinations
10	Dindigul: Consult

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✳ **Fr. General** has appointed:
Fr. Keith Abranches (GUJ) Rector, De Nobili College, Pune (He will assume charge in November 2010)
Fr. Joy Karayampuram (PAT) Consultor of the S.A. Assistancy, Chair, North Zone
Fr. Anton Ronald J. (MAR) Secretary ad interim of Higher Education.
Fr. William J. Currie, (JPN) Delegate to the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae.
- ✳ **Fr. Paul Locatelli** (CFN), Secretary of Higher Education died after a brief illness. He received this appointment on December 19, 2006 (AR XXIII 923), and spent his time of service with his characteristic dedication and generosity to this mission. His last activity was the organization of the Congress of Universities of the Society, held in Mexico last April. R.I.P.
- ✳ The **POSA** has appointed:
Fr. Dudley Mendonca (BOM): Director and Acting Superior, Sadhana Institute
Br. Pravin Falcao (GUJ) : Treasurer, Sadhana (Additional responsibility)

Fr. I F S Jeyaraj (AND) : Staff, Sadhana

Fr. Joseph Parakad (DAR): Reverts to Darjeeling Province

Fr. Oscar Rozario (BOM) : Reverts to Bombay Province (in Nov 2010)

Fr. V.S. George Joseph (AND) : Director, Research Institute, Satya Nilayam (Additional Responsibility, effective from May 2010)

Studies:

Jerome Kerketta (JAM) : M Th Studies in Berkeley, USA

Vincent Ekka (MAP) : M Phil Studies in JNU

Alwyn PD'Souza (KAR) : Ph D Studies in Mysore University

The Assistancy is grateful to **Fr. Joseph Parakad** (DAR) and **Fr. Oscar Rozario** (BOM) for the valuable and dedicated services they have rendered in Sadhana Institute and De Nobili College, respectively.

- ✳ **After the beatification of Bernardo Francisco de Hoyos on 18 April 2010, the Congregation** for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments established by decree that the **Blessed Bernardo Francisco de Hoyos** be inserted into the liturgical calendar of the Society of Jesus on November 29 as "**Optional Memorial**" ("celebratio Beati Bernardi Francisci de Hoyos, presbyteri, inseri valeat, die 29 mensis Novembris gradu memoriae ad libitum quotannis peragenda"), and that the **Blessed Martyrs of Japan Kibe Kasui and companions** be celebrated together with the Japanese Martyrs on 6 February as a "Memorial" ("celebratio, insuper, Beatorum Petri Kibe Kasui, presbyteri, et sociorum, martyrum, uni eidemque memoriae Sanctorum Pauli Miki et sociorum, martyrum in Iaponia, coniungatur die 6 mensis Februarii iam constitutae") with the title: "Sanctorum Pauli Miki et sociorum, atque Beatorum Petri Kibe Kasui, presbyteri, et sociorum, martyrum."
- ✳ **Fr. Anbarasan Savariraj** will make his Final Profession on October 07 at IDEAS, Madurai.
- ✳ **Transfers:**
Br. Antony Sinnamuthu from St. Mary's, Dindigul to Pontifical Biblical Institute, 3 Paul-Emile Bota St., P.O.B. 497, 91004 Jerusalem, Israel.
Fr. Chelladurai Thomas from Beschi Illam to Berchmans Illam, Chennai.
- ✳ **Fr. A. Arockiasamy** participated in an International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM 2010) at Hyderabad from 19 to 27 August. It was a beautiful and memorable experience to be in the company of 3500 famous mathematicians from 105 countries of the world discussing the growth of the research activities in the mathematical horizon.
- ✳ **Fr. Albert Muthumalai**
 <albertmuthumalai54@gmail.com>

Fr. Mark Stephen <smlmarks@gmail.com>

Fr. Simonraj <simonrajsj@gmail.com>

Fr. Xavier Irudayaraj:

<xavierirudaya@yahoo.com>

Fr. M. Devadhas: 96774-34007

❖ **The following Scholastics have left the Society:**

Innacimuthu Santiago on 2 Sept 2010

Ravikumar Sacariyas on 5 Sept 2010

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

LIBA Convocation 2010 was held on 14th August. **Mr. N. Chandrasekaran**, CEO & MD of Tata Consultancy Services, presided over the function and gave away the certificates to the full-time and part-time PGDM students and four batches of Executive PGDM students. A new placement brochure was also released by the Chief Guest. LICET staff had an orientation course for a week (Aug 16th to 20th). The inaugural prayer service was held on Aug 25th prior to the beginning of classes.

Fr. Francis P. Xavier conducted an orientation course for the teacher trainees at DACA (July 31st and Aug 01st); and gave a talk on August 6th to a group of American fine-arts students on 'Education in India'. A paper entitled 'Anthropogenic Activities and Ethical Dilemma towards Climate Change and Future Security' co-authored by **Dr. Francis Xavier and Dr Selvanayagam** (LIFE) was presented during the Eleventh Asian Bioethics Conference in Singapore on August 1st.

In the international conference on *Family in a Multicultural Society: Changing Facts and Faces of Living*, conducted on Aug. 23rd & 24th organized by Loyola College, AIESC & Satya Nilayam, **Fr. Emmanuel** gave a talk on Family Therapy in a Multicultural Context. At the initiation of the second phase of Mentoring in the College, **Fr. Jeyaraj** spoke about the importance of mentoring while Fr. Emmanuel was a resource person to motivate the staff on effective mentoring.

Loyola World Alumni Congress 2010 held on Aug. 28th was a grand success. Organizing such a fantastic and colourful event that required meticulous planning and execution speaks volumes about what the organizer **Fr. Casimir Raj** could achieve with the help of his team. About 3000 alumni from all over the world congregated to relive their experience as students of Loyola and to reconnect with their former friends and the college. The personal sharing of luminaries in various walks of life, including the **Hon. Minister P. Chidambaram, Mr. Dayanidhi Maran** and **Editor N. Ram**, was not only

enlightening but also making us proud to be part of this great Jesuit institution of learning.

During the evening function, Fr. Rector, the Principal and the Secretary proudly portrayed the current status of the College and painted a colourful picture of the future and the road map for further growth. Awards were given to some illustrious alumni. Some of the recipients were: **Mr. P. Chidambaram, Dayanidhi Maran, Mr. Vaithilingam**, C.M. of Pondicherry, His Excellency MOH Farook, Chief Secretary, **Mr. Rajendran**, IPS, Commissioner of Police, eminent Doctors: **Dr. Badrinath, Dr. Rangabashyam** and **Dr. Pratap C Reddy**, Chief Justice of Kerala **Mr. Jasti Chelameshwar**, Judges: **CT Selvam, Chandru, Sundaresh** and **Sivagnanam**.

Four alumni shared their experiences in the College. **Mr. C.V. Narasimhan** shared the concern and the individual care shown by **Fr. Racine. Mr. Jerry Rao** spoke on how his father and he imbibed the values of the College and how he should give back something to the College. **Mr. Sainath** spoke on how the College developed his concern for the poor and the spirit to fight for social justice. **Mr. AMSG Asokhan**, Chairman of the Congress gave the vote of thanks. Loyola College students presented a thrilling entertainment. The Congress ended with dinner.

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

On 16 July the entire school was filled with a sportive spirit as different sports competitions were conducted in view of the 16th Sports Day. **Ms. N. Seetha Lakshmi**, an illustrious alumna of our school who is now serving in the Police dept. graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. **Mr. C. Selvaraj**, an alumnus of Carmel who had won the Asian gold medal in javelin presided over the function. Their mere presence and their inspiring speeches boosted our pupils to scale great heights in life.

Fr. Francis P. Xavier was here for a day-long orientation programme for our staff on 17, July. He in his own style inspired them and they, we believe, in their own ways would live out those inspirations.

The 20th of July marked the arrival of the freshers in the Teacher Training Institute. Special thanks to **Fr. Martin** for his painstaking and strenuous efforts owing to which there are now 50 students admitted in the first year. **Sr. Clare**, ICM with all her attractive and creative games and presentations, made them fathom the important role a teacher plays in the society. Needless to say that her inputs put them on the right track to forge ahead with great commitment. We wish them all the best.

The inmates of Loyola and Gracy Illams, along with a sizeable number of day scholars were taken on an educational tour from 29 July to 1 August. The boys freshened themselves in the falls of Thirparappu, Papanasam, Courtallam, etc. whilst the girls lost

themselves in the scenic beauty of Kodai hills, Mukkombu, Kallanai, etc. We thank all the Jesuit communities who willingly offered place and food for our children.

The thundershowers that flooded the campus on 13 August 'the 16th School Day' in no way deterred our determination to have a colourful evening. **Mr. C. Antony**, an eminent industrialist from Chennai, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Though differently-abled, his talk centering on self-esteem moved every one. We also had **Frs. A. Victor and B. Jeyaraj** from Loyola, honouring us with their presence. 'The Kadhambam dance' in which not less than a hundred students took part marked the grand ending of the memorable evening.

On the Independence Day, **Ms. Lilly**, a co-worker in our residence hoisted the Tricolour in the school and delivered a highly patriotic speech. She appealed to the students to avail themselves of the opportunities provided and become good citizens of the country. On the same day, in the Teacher Training Institute, **Mr. K. Sundar**, M.L.A. hoisted the flag. In his address, he urged us all to be optimistic in our approach towards appreciating the country's development.

The 24th of August was a red-letter day for the students of LTTI as the newly built auditorium was opened for use that day by **Fr. Joe Ubelmesser**, the former Mission Procurator of Germany. His presence along with that of **Ms. Gabrielle, Frs. A. Vicor, Maria Joe**, and **Yesumarian** was indeed cherished by all of us.

Sahayaraj

LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

On 9th August to abate global warming we planted 150 saplings in the College premises. **Fr. Ignatius Amalraj**, the Superior, planted the first sapling leading a crusade in favour of cooling the temperature of the planet for which both staff and students gave their full cooperation by planting tree saplings.

On 19th August we had a seminar on the menace of global warming by **Fr. John Britto** from St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. He motivated the students to ponder over the problem and act on it. On 15th August we paid our tribute to Mother India by celebrating Independence Day in a grand manner. The flag was unfurled by **Fr. Michael Doss**, Secretary and **Fr. M. Elias**, Principal, delivered the Independence Day message motivating the students to play their role in building a healthy and wealthy nation.

On 24th August a red-letter day in the annals of our College, we had the inauguration and blessing of our digital library by **Fr. Joe Ubelmesser** and **Ms. Gabriele** from Germany. **Fr. Maria Joe** the mission Procurator accompanied them. The architect of the digital library **Fr. Ignatius Amalraj** was well appreciated.

Poondi Rajan

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, UTHAGAMANDALAM

The feast of our Founder was celebrated on a grand scale. The **Most Rev. Amalraj**, the Bishop of Uthagamandalam, along with some religious graced the occasion.

We have initiated computer classes for the deserving girls who had completed their X and XII stds and for the school-going girls from St. Theresa's High School, Finger Post on 2nd of August. This is well appreciated by the local people.

Finger Post parish priest **Fr. Amalraj** invited the Jesuits to celebrate the Ignatian Sunday in the parish on 8th of August. It was a remarkable opportunity for us to speak about the life of St. Ignatius and the outstanding services done by the Jesuits in Tamil Nadu. **Fr. Amaladass** from Palayamkottai and **Fr. S. Amalraj**, the Principal of the St. Joseph's Industrial School concelebrated the Holy Eucharist. **Schs. Justin** and **Vasanth** trained the parish youth to enact the life of St. Ignatius and also presented a video show narrating the history and the works of Jesuits in Tamil Nadu. The main emphasis was on vocation to the Society of Jesus. Our sincere thanks to **Fr. Paulraj**, the vocation promoter, who provided us with the materials that were displayed in the parish and to the parish priest of Finger Post, Ooty. Eight of the final year carpentry and cabinet making students were given special training for driving vehicles. All of them have come up with flying colours. We wish them all great success in their life.

Two modern machines have been installed in the carpentry and cabinet making sections on 16th August to upgrade the quality of the trade. Our special thanks to all those who were instrumental in getting these machines.

Vasanth

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

The academic spirit of the pre-novices is soaring high as the focus is mainly on learning English. After accomplishing the mission, **Fr. Herman**, an Indonesian felt immense joy and gratitude to his mentors, the Jesuits. The students from France had a meaningful experience in Thirumanur. An eye-catching farewell programme was given by the pre-novices and the parishioners on 15 August. The French students felt much indebted to **Fr. R. Arockiaraj**, who had made their stay pleasant by his meticulous planning and relentless work.

Viji Bose

ANDHRA JESUIT NOVIATE

On the feast of St. Ignatius the play 'Blood in El Salvador' was enacted by the novices and won the appreciation of the audience. A befitting farewell was given to **Fr. Sundar**, the former socius. We warmly welcomed **Schs. Balaswamy, Jayaraj** and **Jesudas**.

Our second year novices went for their hospital experiment at M.C. houses, in Vijayawada and Khamam. We had a one-day recollection under the guidance of **Fr. Stanley**, The 1st year novices had classes on 'Time Management' by Sch. Balaswamy.

We celebrated the birthdays of **Fr. Kishore**, novices **Nikhil George**, **Zenith** and **Vidyasagar**. In the evening we put up a short cultural programme and our neighbours attended the function and partook in our joy and happiness. Onam festival added new colour and vigour in us as we prepared a delicious Onam meal and the community relished it very much.

Zenith

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

The Beschi Community bade farewell to **Fr. Chelladurai** who left Beschi and has joined Berchmans Illam, Chennai.

On 27 July Beschi Community went on a pilgrimage to Anandarayankottai as a preparation for celebrating the Feast of our Founder St. Ignatius of Loyola. On 28 August **Fr. Arul Sivan** gave an exhortation to the Community on the foundational experience of St. Ignatius. The Community celebrated the Feast with concelebrated Mass in the morning. For the Benediction at noon Jesuits from St. Mary's, Dindigul, priests and religious of Dindigul diocese joined us and doubled our joy.

On 8 August, in gratitude for the dedicated service to the Society of **Frs. George, Michael Alosanai, Dhanaraj, Mampra Xavier, Alphonso Miranda, Apolline Miranda, Brs. Savarimuthu** and **Santiago**, the Community celebrated their Jubilee grandly.

On 23 August **Fr. Dhanaraj** enlightened the novices on the importance of a pilgrimage in a Jesuit's life and instilled into them the spirit of St. Ignatius the pilgrim. **Fr. Britto Peter** gave a course on "Emotional Maturity" to the novices from 24 to 27 August.

Fr. Arul Sivan directed a one-month retreat to a group of Sisters of Holy Cross Congregation, **Vallaparaja** a first year novice is hospitalized in Chennai for treatment.

A. Vino Selukas

JESUIT JUNIORATE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

On 31 July Vidyaniketan wore a festive look when we celebrated the feast of our Founder St. Ignatius with pomp and gusto. We had fun and frolic and a quiz programme on St. Ignatius' life and current affairs which enlivened the day.

A five-day course on Film Appreciation by **Fr. George Sebastian** of Kerala Province, commenced on 2 August and provided a window to the wider world of films. On 15 August, the 64th Independence Day was celebrated with a Solemn Mass, flag-hoisting and inspiring speeches by Schs. Gopi and Charles.

On 23 August we celebrated Onam on a grand scale with great enthusiasm. A Solemn Mass in Malayalam was celebrated by **Fr. Sunny** the College Principal. His sharing brought out the real significance of Onam. On the eve of the celebration **Dr. Iris** from St. Xavier's college introduced us to the nuances of this festival with a sharing, song and video-show. Minor games added joy to the celebration. After the Onam lunch, we went to the city to enjoy the cultural items, presented by various groups. Indeed it was more than a harvest festival. Now **Fr. Jossy Rodriguz** of Karnataka is with us to give a three-day course on Psycho-Sexual integration.

Vimal

DNC, PUNE

With a concelebrated High Mass, the Community celebrated the Feast of our Founder in a grand manner on 31 July.

Spotting an unused corner within the campus, HARMONI, DNC's eco-club started working on a 'wealth from waste' project involving the arduous efforts of philosophers under the leadership of **Sch James** and **Fr Robin**. This Eco-corner holding "Harmony with God that implies Harmony with Oneself, Others and Nature" as its theme was inaugurated on 15 August and indeed it adds beauty to the DNC entrance.

Congratulations to **Sch Baskar** who came third in the JDV level Essay competition on Ecology. Fr Robin gave classes on Religious life and vows to an inter-novice group in the city. After the series of first term exams, the philosophers went to Lonavala on 25 August for a picnic.

Gladwin

VIDYA JYOTHI, DELHI

On 21st July, a meaningful prayer service was conducted and placards were prepared by the Madurai scholastics for the Dalit-Christian rally Organised by Catholics and Protestants under the banner of the National Council of Dalit Christians (NCDC) at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi.

Fr. S. Arokiasamy was gratefully acknowledged and applauded for his dedicated service as the editor of Vidyajyoti journal for 26 long years.

Fr. Leo gave a two-week course on Indian Christian theology to the Morning Star Seminarians from 9th to 20th August at Barrackpore, West Bengal.

On 15th August **Fr. Baskar Antony** hoisted the National Flag and delivered an Independence Day message and celebrated Solemn Mass in R.K. Puram Tamil parish. **Schs Manuel** and **Roch** organized a cultural extravaganza to mark the celebration.

James Suresh

ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

To celebrate the 100th Annual Sports Day a volleyball tournament among the best teams in Tamil Nadu schools was conducted from 12th to 14th. The team from Veludaiyar H.S. School, Thiruvavur won the winner's trophy and St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai, the runner's trophy.

On 16th **Mr. S. Shanmugam**, President of our Alumni Association flagged off a rally of students who carried placards, displaying slogans on environmental protection and tips for healthy life. An exhibition was organised on this occasion displaying the various victories of the School in games and sports down the years. It was also useful to create awareness among the students on ways and means of maintaining physical health.

The twentieth was a red-letter day when sports were held. It had all the pomp and pageantry. **Mr. M.S. Jafer Set** I.P.S, an alumnus and now I.G of the Intelligence wing was the Chief Guest. The whole gallery wore a colourful look as the students wore caps and T-shirts supplied by the school according to their houses. Kudos to all for the meticulous planning and excellent execution led ably by **Frs. Ignatius Britto** and **Gerlin**.

The school assembly celebrated Mother Teresa's birth centenary. There was a voluntary collection made from the students on this occasion. The entire amount was given to the Missionaries of Charity in Madurai.

John Kennedy

LATI, MADURAI

Our Founder's Novena and the Feast Day celebration with our students, staff and the city religious were remarkable. **Fr. Anthony Arockiam** accompanied the LTI staff for a two-day tour to renew the spirit of service. **Br. Ignatius** sent the students to watch the 'Commonwealth Sports Train' for social awareness. The Hero Honda company has selected our LTI as a centre for training and now it provides the training to the 6th batch of the students. **Fr. Wilfred** led the students to IDEAS for a social awareness film.

Frs. Ambrose and **Freddie** created a lot of affinity among the community members by leading a day-outing joyously. Fr. Wilfred was honoured by his parishioners by making him the main celebrant of the village feast to distribute the first Holy Communion to the faithful and also the chief guest of the Catechism Annual Day celebration. He guided 60 religious of two groups in a retreat for a week. He gave a one-day course on 'Virtues Never Fail' to the staff, students and parents of St. Antony's, Auxilium and St. Anne's Schools. He also preached a day's retreat in one of the parishes of Cuddalore.

Wilfred

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

On July 31st, emeritus Bishop the **Most Rev. Edward Francis**, was with us the whole day for the Feast of our Founder and concelebrated a Solemn High Mass with religious and priests. On July 30th, the Feast was celebrated in our school. **Fr. Darwin**, the parish priest of Oriyur was the Chief Guest and delivered a motivating speech to the students about our founder.

On August 19th, we had our community orientation given by **Fr. Moollel**. He gave thought-provoking, edifying and meaningful points on Jesuit Identity which is a felt need.

The 67th School Day was celebrated on August 27th. **Dr Ramasamy**, the Vice-Chancellor of Gandhigram University and who is also our old student was the chief guest and gave a very good speech recalling all the beautiful moments he had in our campus.

Our campus was very colourful on August 7th for the 67th Sports Day of our School. Games were conducted for the students, the teaching and the non-teaching staff.

The inauguration of 'Kanal Elutthaaler Iyekkam' was held on August 16th. **Mr. Selvam**, our alumnus was the Chief Guest and **Mr. Michael Cruz** gave a meaningful speech persuading the students to pick up the writing habit.

M. Selvam

CARMEL HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

The celebrations of Sports Day on 13th and School Day on 28th, had exceptional oomph with a very good showing in the government examinations. It was significant that 48 out of 50 students who had the dubious distinction of failing in all the school tests, passed. Many trophies were won in sports and in various competitions. The **Honourable Minister, Suresh Rajan**, graced the Sports Day and was much impressed. **Mrs. Helen Davidson**, the MP from Nagercoil stayed through the entire function and had her supper with the Jesuits. She singled out for special praise a few of the Carmel initiatives: Carmel Animation Programme for Students (CAPS), Breakfast Scheme, Evening Study Programme and the Student Counselling Services. The impact of ELT programme was manifest in the English one-act play enacted with confidence and creativity. Ecological awareness permeated the programme and was a great success.

The Student Counselling Services, directed by **Fr. Devadhas**, has started functioning with a team of 10 teachers and a number of programmes aimed at facilitating the physiological, psychological and intellectual growth of the students. A Referral Form is being used by the staff to guide students to counsellors. Carmel has enlisted the services of four professionally trained counsellors who have made a firm commitment

to be available for our students. A series of inputs is planned for the next three months.

JMAADD

JMAADD has completed 32 treatment camps for alcoholics and is poised for three more camps in September: in Carmel, Madurai and Chengalpattu. Working on the premise that alcoholism is a brain disease which affects the entire family and is treatable, the camps have blazed a trail as an effective model of dealing with alcoholism. Unique to JMAADD is its approach of addressing the disease as a family problem and its package to support wives and children of alcoholics. **Ms Sheela** leads a team of counsellors working with the families of alcoholics.

A new venture is reaching out to the school-going students and parents in a systematic effort taking into account the nature of alcoholism and tested ways of dealing with it. **Mr.L.M.John** and **Mr. Jesu Roy** make the team that goes round schools. So far they have addressed students, both boys and girls, in five schools in Rameswaram Island and one school in Palliyadi. Parents of 30 government primary and middle schools were addressed by the team. The response is very encouraging and, though still not a flood, a definite trickle of invitations have started coming in.

F. Jayapathy

DACA, MADURAI

A course on "Communication English" by **Mr. Regis** was organized for the computer and tailoring students from 26th to 31st of July. The course has increased the interest of students in learning English.

On 30th and 31st of July **Fr. P. Francis Xavier** took orientation classes for the Teacher Training students. The students expressed that the course was timely and very useful. The feast of our Holy founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola, was celebrated with a meaningful Mass, followed by dinner. Our benefactors and Jesuit friends from nearby communities graced the occasion with their presence.

On the 2nd of August, a course on Skill Training in cutting and tailoring was inaugurated at Naduvappatti near Sattur. Forty women in and around the village are benefiting from this training.

On the 20th of August a "Dharna" was organized in Nagaram near Sankarankovil by the Self-Help Group members of DACA to demand the basic livelihood rights of the Dalit village Ramasamiyapuram.

On the 21st of August a Cadres meeting (சமூக இயக்கத்திற்கான செயல்வீரர்கள் கூடுதல்) was organized for building up a social movement. **Dr. Dharmaraj**, Head of the Department of Folklore, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai and **Fr. Irudhyaraj**, Professor of Philosophy, St. Arul Anandar College, Karumathur were the observers who shared their views on the meaning of a social movement today.

Fr. Joe Ubelmesser, SJ, a benefactor of DACA, along with **Ms. Gabriele** paid a visit to DACA on the 22nd of August. Their visit was a joyous occasion for the DACA family and it was celebrated in the form of a cultural evening. **Fr. Joe** praised the noteworthy services of DACA for the liberation of the Dalits.

Madurai City Conservancy Workers Welfare Programme had its "முப்பெரும் விழா" on the 25th of August. The function was arranged primarily to distribute the scholarships and school bags to the school-going children and Certificates to 35 women who had completed a six-month tailoring. The Commissioner of Madurai Corporation **Mr. Sebastian** was the Chief Guest who gave away the prizes and certificates. He appreciated the work of DACA especially the slum project. The Skill Training course at Anupanadi provided those women not only an alternative employment but also self-respect and social status.

A. Sebasthiraj

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

The inauguration of the Management Scholarship for the Student Health Care Programme was held on August 2. Business Philanthropists **Mr. Bherulal Jain** and **Mr. Hashmukh Singhvi** were the Chief Guests. The UGC supported Centre for Women's Studies of AAC organized on 4 August a one-day workshop on Gender Sensitization for the school teachers of Usilampatti Taluk. **Ms. Bimla Chandrasekar**, the director of EKTA Resource Centre for Women, Madurai was the resource person. On August 6 the departments of Physical Education and BBA in the Self-Financed Course organized successfully a Parents Teachers Meeting for the third year students. The Department of RDS conducted free medical camps (VETEX) for Animal Husbandry on August 11 in Kovilankulam and Nathapatti villages. **Fr. Xavier Vedam** inaugurated the camps. The inauguration of the Commerce Association took place on August 13. **Fr. Joseph Xavier** from ISI Bangalore delivered the inaugural address.

Our NCC students along with the people of Kovilankulam Panchayat celebrated the Independence Day when **Fr. Peter Xavier**, the HOD of Commerce and **Mr. P. Jeyaraj**, the President of Kovilankulam Panchayat honoured us by their presence. **Frs. Montaud** and **Prince** State Level Inter-Collegiate Tournaments for Hockey and Football were held from 19 to 25 of August. SRM University and Loyola College of Chennai were the winners of Hockey and Football respectively. BBA organized on August 24 a State Level Seminar on 'Contemporary Issues in Management' **Mr. B. T. Banger**, the M.D. of Hi-Tech Arai Pvt. Ltd. was the Chief Guest. The Department of History had a State level seminar on 'Bhopalicide and the Aftermath' on August 31. **Rtd Prof. Kathiresan** from the department of Commerce from the MKU was the Chief Guest.

Kingsley

ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

On 31st July the Community celebrated the feast of St Ignatius of Loyola meaningfully remembering the spirit of our forefathers.

Fr. Joseph Kennedy made his final profession on 15th of August the Feast of the Assumption of the B.V.M. in a very devout and simple ceremony.

The Arul Kadal theologians were here to attend a seminar on "The World View of the Subaltern People" organised by FRRC (the department of Folklore) from 2nd to 6th August.

On 6th August St. Xavier's Hr. Sec. School was the champion in the southern district level volleyball tournament. Our school won the second place both in the first State level "**Rev. Fr. Santhappan Rolling Trophy**" volleyball tournament and in the 5th State level volleyball tournament.

Our school conducted the 4th State level "**Rev. Fr. Leveil** football tournament" from 29th to 31st July, when nine schools from different parts of the State participated. On 28th July the research centre in the PG department of commerce was inaugurated in our College. On the 30th I & II Shifts paid homage to St. Ignatius of Loyola. Associate **Prof. Francis Xavier** from the Tamil department gave an inspiring message. The Parents' meeting was held on the same day. A large number of parents attended the meeting for Shift I in the morning and Shift II in the afternoon. Mark sheets were distributed to students in the presence of their parents. The College council meeting took place on the 4th of August and the general staff meeting on the 10th of August. Preparation of the NAAC visit was initiated at the meeting.

To mark the birth centenary of **Blessed Mother Theresa** of Calcutta we had a special Eucharistic celebration for the Catholics and a prayer service for all the non-Catholics on 26th August.

Francis Xavier

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The much-awaited additional section in MBA has been started. It can admit 120 students every year and the additional section will become functional from 30th August. The additional class rooms were blessed by **Fr. Susai**, the Rector. Congratulations to **Fr. Pappuraj** on his strenuous and persevering efforts to get the necessary approval from the concerned academic bodies.

The Community remembered **Bl. Mother Theresa** in a special way on the occasion of her Birth Centenary in a Community Mass on 26th August. The students of the College and School were also sensitized on the inspirational life of Mother Theresa. The First UG students are given special extra classes of two hours a day on English known as Bridge cum Remedial course, making them familiar with English. This course is arranged for one full semester. All the parents of I UG

students were invited on 28th August and an update was given by the administrators both at the College and the Hostels.

The Corpus Christi procession was an occasion for the different units like school, hostels, college and parish to work in unison. The Eucharistic Lord was taken through the arteries of the College to receive His blessings and **Fr. Johnson** from St. Paul's Seminary gave a soul-stirring sermon. Congratulations to **Fr.M. Arulanandam**, the parish priest.

The School had its Annual Sports Meet on 13th August and the Annual Day on 20 August. A downpour was threatening but the skies cleared and the function went on smoothly without any hitch.

Sebastian Anand

IDEAS, MADURAI

After attending the National JESA Coordinators' Meeting in Mumbai from 21 to 23 August at which he was elected as the South-JESA Coordinator, our Province Social Action Coordinator **Fr. Michaelraj** was busy preparing for the annual GBM of Social Action Ministry scheduled for 28 and 29 August in IDEAS campus. He said that the highlights of the Mumbai meeting were: (1) The unanimous support and useful suggestions from all the Provinces to go ahead with the Ignatian Advocacy Network regarding Governance of Natural and Mineral Resources (GNMR) in the central part of India to start with; (2) The decision to come out with a corporate policy for social action in each Province, and (3) The resolution to work collectively at local and zone levels along with SAPI on specific issues.

A one-day programme on 01 August at IDEAS on Media Education for 23 young girls and 25 young men from St. Mary's Parish, Madurai was conducted by the Media Education Team under **Fr. Stephen's** guidance. The video-commentary show-cum reflection programme on 15 August attended by 55 students and religious Sisters in Madurai was a big success. The Training for Trainers (ToT) organized at IDEAS and conducted by **Fr. Eugene** from 17 to 19 August had 22 men and 22 women trainers, coordinators and field activists sent by Dalit Movements, Jesuit social centres, NGOs and various Diocesan Youth Commissions in Tamil Nadu. On 23 and 24 August, **Fr. Aloysius** facilitated 70 full and part-time social worker/social activist Sisters of Madavaram St Anne's Congregation in Chennai to draw up an action plan for the forthcoming years.

Two of our solidarity NGOs utilized the campus for their training in August: from 11 to 13, the Society for Integrated Development of Tribals (SIDT) working in Kodaikanal had their Orientation and Motivation Training for 21 (3 men and 18 women) of their new staff members; on 21 and 22, Dalit Pengal Viduthalai Iyakkam from Devakottai trained 23 of its Dalit women on Leadership Skills.

Aloysius Irudayam

THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

Fr. Ignatius Puthiadam has gone to Germany for a two-month mission programme. We are making some improvements in our building structure with some additional self-contained rooms, sinks in all the rooms, hot water facilities and inverters. **Fr. Lawrence Gabriel** is preaching a one-month retreat to the novices of Tiruchi St. Anne's in Chennai. **Fr. Packiaraj** preached two retreats with the help of **Fr. Maria Jeyaraj** to a group of De la Salle Brothers and Gonzaga Sisters. **Fr. Jeyabalan** is busy preaching retreats to the clergy and the religious all over India.

Maria Jeyaraj

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

On 26 of July Kodaimalai Ambedkar Unorganized Labour Welfare Union, the extension of PEAK, organized a protest meeting claiming the fundamental rights of the target people in Kodaikanal.

On 29 of July prior to the celebration of our Founder's Feast our community invited our neighbours and co-staff of our house to share our joy by hosting a high tea followed by cultural events. Kudos to **Fr. Leonard** for his tireless effort to bring the people together.

On 30 of July co-workers of different departments had a one-day seminar on the importance of "Education and Issues related to Fanaticism".

Antony Anand

TERTIANSHIP, SHEMBAGANUR

The tertians, having gracefully sojourned with the Lord through the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises, studied the same deeply from diverse perspectives. The intensive 'retreat preparation' that followed has richly equipped them to direct and preach retreats according to Ignatian and the adapted modes. **Fr.R.J. Raja's** sessions on 'Biblical Retreats' were an immense help in the process. Brimming with abundant graces received in the retreat, the tertians have left for homes and hospices situated in seven South Indian Jesuit Provinces for their Ignatian Experiments to be in communion with the suffering and to direct retreats.

Earlier, **Frs Anbarasu** and **Paul Pragash** preached the 'Festival-Retreat' at La Salette on 7th and 8th August, which was locally-televised for the benefit of all the faithful in the hills. Tertians' 'Heal the World' programme at Mother Theresa's Birth Centenary celebration in the University on 27th Aug was a commendable one.

Paul Pragash

YOUTH DAY CELEBRATION "ILAIYORIN EZHUTCHI ... VIDUTHALAIYIN VITHAHIDA.."

It was a historical event in the history of Mullaikudi Parish. We the Mullaikudi Parish youth gathered on June

20 to discuss the activities of our Parish and being the Year of Youth we wanted to celebrate the Youth Day meaningfully and therefore we decided to have a one-day seminar on soft skills training for the children and cultural festival for the parishioners. The dream of our youth became true on 8th and 22nd of August. There were about 500 parishioners who participated in the parish cultural feast. There was a march past depicting different themes like eco-friendliness, feminism, religious fundamentalism and equality presented by each substation. Also we had competitions like rangoli, drawing, oratory, singing, skit and dance depicting the theme "இளையோரின் எழுச்சி விடுதலையின் வித்தாகிட".

Arul Ravi

LICET: (Loyola-ICAM College of Engineering and Technology)

Blessing of the building and inauguration of the academic year - aug 25th 2010

The blessing of the LICET building took place at 8:00 am. in the presence of the members of the Jesuit Community and the staff members. Fr Victor, Chennai Mission Superior led the prayer and **Frs Victor, K. Amal**, and **John Pragasam** blessed the various sections of the building.

The academic year began with a meaningful prayer service prepared by **Fr Jacob** (Loyola Campus Minister) in Bertram Hall. **Frs Francis Xavier** (Director) and **Joe Arun** (Deputy-Director) welcomed the gathering and gave a brief introduction to LICET history. **Frs Victor** (Chennai Mission Superior), **Kamal** (Rector) and **B. Jeyaraj** (Loyola Principal) and **Dr Jose** (LICET Principal) and **Mr Jean-Baptiste Suchet** (ICAM Representative) offered felicitations. Fr John Pragasam (Dean of Studies) explained the guidelines to be followed in LICET and **Fr Maria Augustine** proposed a vote of thanks through a meaningful Power-Point presentation.

There were over 750 people (parents and students) assembled in Bertram Hall. After the coffee break, the students were taken by the faculty members in groups for a campus tour while the parents assembled for a meeting. Fr John Pragasam read out the rules and regulations to be followed in LICET. The parents interacted with the officials with regard to meals, transport, hostel facilities, supportive help, etc.

After lunch the students had two classes from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. They were given general introduction to LICET and to Jesuit education. (In the next two weeks much concentration will be given to English coaching for the students.)

Today has been a wonderful and meaningful day. Sincere thanks for all you have done to and for all you are to LICET.

Francis P Xavier

AHAL, KILPENNATHUR

The AHAL team thanks **Schs. Clement, Kennedy,** and **Therasunathan** for their generous service rendered during their three-week long immersion experience around Kilpennathur. They were doing investigations for the “Thurumbar Viduthalai Iyyakam” and conducting Evening Tuition for the students.

Sch. Wenish attended a course on “Legal Resources for Social Action and Empowerment” from 3rd to 16th Aug in Bangalore. The course was indeed a boosting factor for the betterment of the service done in AHAL.

Fr. Josef Übelmesser, SJ along with **Ms. Gabriele** from Germany visited AHAL on 18th August. They were very much impressed by the performance of our hostel boys and the service done to the people in and around Kilpennathur. **Fr. Bellarmine** and **Sch. Wenish** attended the Social Action GBM in IDEAS, Madurai on 28th and 29th Aug.

The people of Vedanatham were very happy to celebrate their village feast for the first time since their church was built. **Fr. Santiago**, the Assistant parish priest hoisted the flag and celebrated Mass on 29th Aug. **Fr. Bellarmine** celebrated Mass on 30 Aug and blessed the Car. **Fr. Josephson**, the PP of Mekalur Parish celebrated the feast day Mass on 31st Aug. People shared their joy with a fellowship meal.

Wenish

JRS / TN

JRS/TN organized an annual training for 312 JRS teachers in the months of June and July. In four places the 5-day training was successfully realized with the full support of religious institutions namely, St. Joseph Teachers Training Institute, Salem; St. Justin B.Ed College, Madurai; St. Xavier’s B.Ed College, Palayamkottai and Stella Matutina B.Ed College, Chennai. The **Most Rev. Jude Paulraj**, Bishop of Palayamkottai and Mr. Jayakumar, Deputy Commissioner for Refugee Rehabilitation presided over the valedictory function held at St. Xavier’s and Stella Matutina B.Ed College respectively. This kind of annual training has helped our teachers to become very competent in our complementary education centres.

From 7 to 10 July, we had a six-month project evaluation at LIFE Centre in Dindigul. South Asian Director **Fr. Louis Prakash** was present with us to evaluate our work and rejuvenate our spirit in Arrupe’s vision.

Fr. Louis Prakash visited refugee camps and a couple of institutions, where our students study in Salem, Vellore and Thiruvannamalai Districts. He explained about the current situation in Sri Lanka to various groups in the camps. It was an eye-opener for our people to make the right choice whether to live in India for some more time or leave India immediately.

In the month of July, a new batch for Girihini training was kicked off with 23 and 18 students at Mullaikudi and Dharapuram respectively. From this year onwards, computer and spoken English trainings are introduced in this six-month course. We extend our gratitude to Fr. Albert Muthumalai, Secretary of St. Joseph’s College, Tiruchi and Fr. Louis Prakash JRS south Asian director Fr. Louis Prakash who offered totally 8 computers to Mullaikudi Girihini Centre.

At the end of July, a three-day training on General Based Violence was given to 49 JRS counsellors to actively take up counselling in various refugee camps in 10 districts.

Fr. Premkumar, JRS Staff **Sr. Mercy** and **Sr. Gracy** actively participated in a ‘National Seminar on Refugee Situation in India today’ organized by UNHCR and the Centre for Asia Studies on 18 August.

The **new JRS office** was opened by **Ms. Francisca**, JRS finance and project officer Rome and blessed by **Fr. Devadoss**, Provincial on 1st of September. Over 300 guests attended the function mostly from the Refugee Camps namely teachers, leaders, grihini students and religious sisters.

Premkumar

KARISAL KADUTHASI

In the seminar on social analysis and legal awareness for women held in Rajapalayam on the 25th of July, **Fr. Philomin** highlighted various issues affecting women. **Ms. Pandeewari**, a lawyer was the guest speaker in the women’s programme held in Thombakkulam on the 8th of August.

Sch. Cyril Suresh of Arul Kadal underwent his Immersion Experiment at Pethu Reddya Patti near Sattur.

KARISAL is currently going through a process of Organizational Development (OD), guided by **Fr. Lazar**. As part of the OD process, the staff will be put through a training programme for 15 days in different spells during this year. The first session took place on 20th & 21st August in Arogyagam, in Andipatti. This was facilitated by a professional agency called Rainbow Foundation.

KARISAL organized “Parents’ Day Celebration “ of Muthen Illam on August 22 in which nearly 50 parents participated. After the programme, we had a discussion about students- teachers relationship and their growth, etc.

Mr. M.Manimuthu, former hostel warden, now in a Government School, was the speaker who motivated our students to come up in life, making use of opportunities. It was well organized by KARISAL TEAM.

Fr. Anbarasan was in CIS, Beschi Illam to give a course on social analysis for the Sisters, from 25th to 27th of August. Karisal media centre is busy with various

activities. At present, it has completed another CD, a collection of songs, called “அருந்தமிழராய் எழுந்திருவோம்”. Congratulations to **Frs. Michael Raj, S. Lazar, Anbarasan** and **Sch. Robert** who participated in the Social Action Commission GBM at IDEAS.

Robert

YOUTH COMMISSION MEET

All the members of the Province Youth Commission gathered together in Madurai at LAAS Illam on 21st August for evaluating the work carried out by the Commission as well as to plan out the future course of action. With an introductory prayer the Coordinator welcomed the new members and explained to them how the Commission reached this stage of focusing its full attention exclusively on the unorganized sector. He also shared with the group the ongoing work in the unorganized sector, the area of operation and the mode of functioning. He further shared how the members of the Commission have extended their full support in planning and implementing various programmes among the youth and the women. All the members while endorsing and approving the works of the Commission insisted upon focusing its attention on the unorganized sector in an uncompromising manner. Then each member shared the possible ways in which they could contribute to the works of the Commission. Since the Church has declared this year as the year of youth, the members of the Commission sincerely felt the need for organizing a youth conference especially for the unorganized youth highlighting the issues related to this sector. If the proposal to hold the conference in the month of January 2011 is accepted by the Provincial, the Commission agreed to have yet another sitting on 24th of October, to plan out and implement the same. The Commission selected 2 youths as per the guidance of the Provincial and JYMSA Secretary for sending them to attend the MAGIS 2011 Programme that is going to be held in Madrid, Spain.

On 20 August 200 women took part in the one-day symposium on “Women’s Leadership in the Society” organized by the Youth Commission in Palani in collaboration with the Holy Cross Sisters. Around 60 young men from 4 villages in and around Watrap gathered in Srivilliputhur to learn their own untold history which motivated them to get to know the innovative strategies used by their forefathers in fighting social injustice. **Fr. Philomin Raj** addressed the young volunteers from Bishop Appasamy College, Coimbatore who are motivated by a handful of professors to commit themselves to the social issues. A day-long interaction with 140 such students helped to understand the prevailing mindset of the younger generation. A two-day workshop on “Fascism and its Ideology getting rooted in India” organized by the Youth Commission in Batlagundu on 27 & 28th of August, had a very good response from the 40 selected youths who attended from 8 districts of Tamil Nadu. **Fr. Philip Sudhakhar, Mr.**

Glady and **Mr. Joel** were the resource persons who inspired the minds and hearts of the participants in their own innovative method.

Philomin Raj

ARIYAMANGALAM

During the celebration of the feast of St. Ignatius eight students narrated what Jesuit education had done in their personal values and lives. The Independence Day was celebrated in a colourful manner. The pupils danced to the tune of “*Semmozhiyana Tamil Mozhiyam*”. Our children tied the yellow ribbon of friendship to the enemies of their families!.

Felix Joseph

LAAS ILLAM, MADURAI

One of the main strategies of LAAS is forming paralegal persons for placing them in their locality to attend to the legal issues of our target people. In order to gain knowledge, first hand information and experience in this regard, **Frs. Philomin Raj** and Santhanam undertook a week long expedition to South Gujarat, a tribal populated region. We visited the SHAKTHI-Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre (LAHRC) at Songadh, which has so far trained around 1000 paralegals from the tribal communities. We interviewed around 30 paralegals in their own locality and studied their performance. One of the mega events during our visit was the celebration of World Indigenous People’s Day on 9th August at Uchchhal fully organised by paralegals of SHAKTHI – LAHRC. We sincerely thank Jesuits working in South Gujarat and our instructor advocate Fr. Stanny Jebamalai, in particular, for exceptional hospitality and schooling.

Fr. Philomin Raj addressed 1200 students of Nirmala College, Coimbatore on 26th August highlighting the issues related to women and social justice.

A.Santhanam

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

ICRDCE conducted its 24th Community College Teachers Training Programme at Dhyana Ashram from 7th to 12th of June. The participants were 60 from 7 states of India including East Africa and PNG.

The Education Today Conducted a Symposium on Mother Teresa on the occasion of her Birth Centenary and the Mother Theresa Memorial Award was given to **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** and also to the ICRDCE for the services rendered to the Community Colleges world wide.

Fr. Xavier Alphonse was conferred the Arul Pani Chemmal Award given by the CSI Diocese of Vellore for community service and education.

Xavier Alphonse

FROM BENEDICT SANTOSH, TAIWAN

Arrived safe and sound!

I was happy to see **Fr John Manipadam** and **Sch Sujay Pais** at the Taiwan airport to receive me on August 15! And outside **Fr Thuc Tran** was waiting with his characteristic wide smile in the car. My first impression of Taiwan was very positive. And even before I met my Jesuit companions, my co-passenger during the flight from Kuala Lumpur to Taipei was very friendly. I landed at the Taipei airport with my anxiety reduced to half and once I saw my Jesuit companions, I felt even better.

I have not yet seen the entire Jesuit community. But of those whom I have seen, most are with grey hair but still very young at heart. The Chinese Province surely needs a lot of youngsters. I am here for my regency, which the Chinese Jesuits call the Chinese International Regency Programme. The first batch of international regents are doing their regency per se in different parts of the province. In my batch there are five regents - **Yves Vendes** from France, **Roberto Villasante** from Spain, **Diego Cristancho** from Colombia, **Audrick D'Mello** from Goa, and I. In my community there are Jesuits belonging to ten different nationalities. There are three former Provincials. I am learning a lot more than just Chinese (Mandarin) here.

NEW RELEASES

☐ **“Living in a Secular Democracy”** Fr. Michael Amaladoss, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul; pp. 174; Rs. 80/-

☐ **“Streams on the dry ground”** Fr. R.J. Raja, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul; pp. 80; Rs. 35/-

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Anthony D’Costa (BOM) 87/71 on 17 August at JNH, Vinayalaya.

Donatus Slapsys (PUN) 89/73 on 19 August at Shevgaon

Maria Arul Kulandairaj (GUJ), 49/28 on 31 August

Loganathan, 72, brother-in-law of Fr. Louis Adaikalaraj, on 14 August

Sironmani Rajan (83), sister of Fr. Ephrem, on 5 September

FR. AMALRAJ SELVARAJ, S.J.

(05.07.1927 – 24.07.2010)

Fr. R. S. Amalraj celebrated his 83rd birthday on 05.07.2010. He had carefully timed his annual retreat in such a way that he could conclude it just on his birthday. Had he any premonition that it would be his last? Fr. Amalraj was sent to Beschi Illam for a well-earned rest. He took to writing books both in Tamil and English.



Altogether he had eight books to his credit and one of them *In the footsteps of the Saints* in Tamil has seen seven editions and is still in great demand. He completed his last and eighth book on St. Joseph, his favourite saint and published it with a foreword by the Bishop of Sivagangai.

But this tireless work took its toll on his poor health. He had only an artificial bladder that had to be changed every third day. On Monday July 19 he developed breathing trouble and was admitted to the ICU in St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul. The doctors found that he had hernia also. Given his age and the poor condition of his health they were reluctant to operate on him. **Fr. A. Ambrose**, Minister of Beschi Illam who visited him found him fully conscious. He had no inkling Fr. R. S. Amalraj would pass away so soon. The Father died peacefully at about 9.00 p.m. on July 24. His body was taken to Beschi Illam and was laid in the parlour.

The requiem Mass on 26th Monday Mass was presided over by **Fr. M. Devadoss**, Provincial. **Fr. Victor** of Salem diocese, a close relation of the deceased was a concelebrant. In his introduction Fr. Provincial said that Fr. R. S. Amalraj was a true missionary who had worked as a pastor in different parishes.

In the funeral homily **Fr. Arul Sivan** of Beschi Illam referred to his own experience as a novice when he was sent to Alavanthankulam where Fr. R. S. Amalraj was the pastor. He was a man of prayer and spent one hour daily before the Bl. Sacrament in the infirmary chapel.

At the end of the Eucharist Fr. Provincial blessed the body. The last rites at the grave were performed by **Fr. Arul Irudhayam**. Fr. R. S. Amalraj will always be remembered by his parishioners to whom he was of great help spiritually and financially. R.I.P

Mampra