



AUGUST 2007

(For Private Circulation)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Aug

- 15 Mettupalayam: Blessing of the Retreat Centre
- 16 Udthagamandalam: Visitation
- 18 Dindigul: Consult
- 18-19 Dindigul: Secondary Education GBM
- 23-24 Thoothukudi: Visitation: Xaveriana
- 25-26 Palayamkottai: Higher Education GBM
- 27-30 Palayamkottai: Visitation: St. Xavier's College
- 31 Kanyakumari: Visitation: Thozhamai Illam

Sept

- 01-02 Nagercoil: Visitation: Carmel + Thoothur
- 03 Alavanthankulam: Visitation
- 07-13 Tiruchi: Visitation: St. Joseph's College
- 08-09 Tiruchi: Social Action and Dalit Commissions Joint Meeting
- 14 Tiruchi: Visitation: Clive's House
- 15 Dindigul: TVET General Body Meeting
- 16 Dindigul: Consult

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☞ **Fr. General** has appointed **Fr. Marianus Joseph Kujur** (RAN) of ISI, Delhi Consultor to the POSA. We thank **Fr A. Joe Xavier** for his service as a Consultor for the last three years.

- ☞ **Fr.A.M. Varaprasadam** will be in Dhyana Ashram from August till October working on a book.

- ☞ **Letter from the POSA on Philosophical Studies:**

In the light of the suggestions made by the JCSA to make philosophical studies in the Society more purposeful and relevant, I am constituting a "Commission for Reformulation of Philosophical Studies" with Fr K. C. Philip, the ADF as the Chairperson of this Commission. The other members are Frs. Tony da Silva, (Provincial of Goa), S. Ignacimuthu (Loyola College, Chennai), Nicolas Tete (St. Xavier's College, Ranchi), George Karuvelil (Dean of Philo, JDV), V. S. George (Principal of SN) and Francis Menezes (PCF, KAR). The Commission will submit its report to JCSA by September 2008.

- ☞ **Letter from POSA regarding Afghanistan:**

Afghanistan is in the news mainly for 'bad' reasons, but there is good news too! Our men are doing well and our apostolate is appreciated and well publicised with positive effects. The good news is that there is one more Jesuit from Spain as the chaplain to PRT of Spain at Herat. A representative of UNO who visited Herat University came to know of us from the students (who praised the Jesuits). He came to see us in our house and was so taken up with our simple lifestyle and dedicated mission with no security to guard us and travelling on bicycles that he has promised to help us in our mission of training teachers.

Afghanistan needs teachers specially those who have taught English in our schools/colleges. Retired Jesuits in reasonably good health who could live a simple life and can adjust to a new situation are most welcome. We tried some young men from the formation houses during summer. The experiment was a great success but short-term visas are difficult to get and the Government would like to have men for a longer duration. Hence this call.

I would like you to publicize this message in your newsletter. If anyone desires to offer his services for at least one year, he is most welcome. Please do not send us those who have problems with food and living in/with a community. Both at Herat and Bamiyan we need people who could adjust to each other. There is enough security and the living is simple but comfortable. The rewards are great though life at times is demanding. The Afghans appreciate our efforts and are friendly towards Indians. The job satisfaction is 100%. You are accepted and loved. If anyone is willing, please let me know.

Three JMJ Sisters will be leaving on 17th July for Herat to teach and work in the Hospital. This marks another new and important stage in our ongoing mission in the Afghan outreach. The other INGOs are helpful and we have begun some projects with their help.

☞ **Spirituality Centre in Bangalore:**

Karnataka Jesuit Province is launching a new apostolic initiative in the form of an IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY CENTRE (ISC) shortly to be housed on the campus of Mount St. Joseph, Bangalore, with the aim of sharing the riches of Ignatian Charism with all sections of the people of God through retreats, seminars, courses and guided study, on Discernment, Spiritual Direction, Lay Leadership, Community Animation, Religious Formation, Retreat Direction, Personal Counselling, Youth Ministry and other related themes.

Apart from the regular courses organized by us, the residential and other facilities of the ISC will also be available for courses organized by others, for Assistancy-level meetings, etc. The very first such programme will be the forthcoming JCSA meeting in mid-October 2007. Contact address:

Director, ISC, c/o. Mount St. Joseph, P.B. 7645, IIMB Post, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore – 560 076, Tel: 080 26580441, Cell: 9901842750.

☞ **Please note the following changes:**

Fr. Royappan Kulandaisamy has a new cell no: 94420-92175, and a new email: roysj2002@yahoo.com

☞ **Addresses of Supamites: Deacons:**

Edwin Thadheu, Catholic Church, Adhichennur, Via Veerapandi, Thirukovilur TK., Villupuram Dt 605 705; Tel: (04153) 203068, 203139, Email: getedwinsj@jesuits.net

Joseph Antony Jacob, St. John Baptist Church, Thirumanur, Via Mangalapuram – 636 202, Salem Dt. Tel: (04272) 222342, Email: msjacobsj@gmail.com

Louie Albert, O.L. of Miracles Church, Alagappa Samudram, Arasadikuppam – PO 607 103, Via Kadampuliyur, Panruti Tk; Tel: (04142) 278750 Email: louiesj2002@yahoo.co.in

Paulraj Packiam, Catholic Church, Madhapuram, Nerkuppai – 630 405, Sivagangai Dt Tel: (04577) 266027; Email: paulraj61@yahoo.com

Selvaraj Soosaimanickam, Catholic Church, South Kallathupatti, Thamaraipadi PO, Dindigul – 624 005; Tel: (0451) 2411485; Email: maduraiselvasj@gmail.com

☞ **Sch. Pavalan Justin P.** left the Society on 23 July 2007.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

Fr.M. Pavulraj, gave a course on “Intensive Journal” for would-be theologians of nine dioceses at St. Peter’s Seminary in Viraganur. On 21 July, we had the Jubilee celebrations of **Frs. R.S. Amalraj, P. Santiago** and **Br. Santhanam**. Fr. R.S. Amalraj preached a soul-stirring homily during the Mass. **Frs. G. Packiaraj, S. Amalraj** and **R. Dhanaraj** felicitated the Jubilarians. Fr. Provincial presented them with *ponnadais*.

The Beschi community went on a pilgrimage on 26 July to the Church of St. Ignatius at Anandarayankottai. On 29 July, **Fr. Thottungal** gave an exhortation to the community. The novena to St. Ignatius also helped us to celebrate the Feast of St. Ignatius meaningfully. In the morning of 31 July, we celebrated the festal Mass and joined the St. Mary’s Community for Benediction at noon followed by

dinner. The CIS Sisters who had gone to Nagapatanam for a two-week fieldwork returned on 5 August. Kindly remember in your prayers **Fr. M. Asirvadam** who is in the hospital.

M. Christu Raja

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

Satya Nilayam is back to its normal rhythm of life from June 20th onwards. The academic year 2007-08 opened with 88 young, dynamic, budding philosophers from 18 different Provinces of South Asian Assistancy of India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, along with 12 eminent and exuberant Jesuit Staff.

Fr. V. Ignatius is back from abroad, after the completion of his favourite ministry: conducting charismatic healing prayers and counselling service to parishioners of different parishes of many countries in Europe.

A unique opportunity given to all of us here is language classes in French, Spanish and German. The enthusiastic learners are aided with 2 hours of classes twice a week by competent teachers and assisted with text books, audio aids... etc.

As part of our campus ministry, evening classes for the slum children in and around Satya Nilayam are being conducted every day under the able guidance of **Fr. Antony Arockiam**, our Minister. **Sch. Theresunathan** the Co-ordinator organizes all the programmes meticulously and efficaciously for the children with the help of a few scholastics and two lay staff. From time to time parents' meetings are planned to be held. On the eve of St. Ignatius' feast, the parents of the slum children were invited to take part in our fellowship of high tea followed by a small cultural programme given by the children themselves.

V. John Michael

ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI

To add colour and vitality to our community, a vibrant Jesuit from Andhra Province **Fr. Ravi Sekhar** has joined our community. He will be spreading his musical talent here as he is doing M.A. Music in Madras University.

Fr. Raj Irudaya conducted a two-day animation programme on "Servant Leadership and Participative Administration" to the General, the Provincials and their teams of Gonzaga Congregation. He has been co-opted in the team of Biblical scholars who are

engaged in writing a Dalit Bible Commentary to be published by the Centre for Subaltern Studies, Delhi. **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** is already a member of this team.

Fr. Maria Arul Raja delivered a series of lectures on "Theological Explorations from the Subaltern Perspectives" to the faculty members and students of St. Alphonse College of Theology (Redemptorists), CRI Theological Institute and United Theological College, Bangalore.

Fr. Xavier Irudayaraj was invited for a consultation by the CCBI-Laity Commission, as a resource person to prepare a handbook for the training of the laity in T.N. He also animated the teachers of Sunday Catechism to improve the quality of their service. The students of the Archdiocesan Carnatic Music Academy under the direction of **Fr. Chelladurai** have been invited by Bishop Devasahayam of CSI to give a music recital on August 15 on the occasion of "Krithuva Kirthanai Peruvizha".

As part of our commitment to Chennai Mission, the Arul Kadalites guided the students of Loyola School, Kuppayanallur, in leadership through a day of spiritual renewal.

Paul Benedict

VIDYA JYOTI, DELHI

It was a pleasant journey for the three of us to Vidyajyoti, Delhi. We reached VJ safely. During the day of orientation for the freshers, we were warmly welcomed into the community by the Rector **Fr Edward**. On 16th we had a meaningful Eucharistic celebration in the college with the Archbishop of Delhi, the **Most Rev. Vincent M. Concessao**, as the main celebrant. The theme for the Eucharistic celebration was 'Being and Becoming' on which the Archbishop gave us a special message. On 21st July, We were familiarized with Delhi through 'Delhi Darshan' specially arranged for the newcomers. It was a great joy for us to have **Frs. Joe Xavier** and **Ilanko** for the birthday celebration of **Fr. Leo Fernando**.

Frs. Arokiasamy and **Leo**, after teaching at Arul Kadal and Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth (JDV), Pune, took part in the *Colloquium of Bishops and Theologians* held at NBCLC, Bangalore.

During the inauguration of the academic year, the Principal placed on record the gratitude of VJ faculty for the *six years* of fruitful service that Fr. Leo had rendered to VJ as Principal of the College.

Fr. Arokiasamy has been equipped with *new sight* after a successful cataract operation and the new sight makes him more active in his ministry.

A. Michael John

DHYANA ASHRAM, CHENNAI

The Golden Jubilee of the entrance into the Society of **Fr.S.M. Selvaraj** was celebrated on 3rd June. Jesuits from Madras communities were represented. Fr Puthiadam gave the homily. **Fr James Rodrigues** welcomed the gathering. Co-Jubilarians **Frs. S. Arockiasamy, Xavier Rajan** and **Jesudasan** participated in the concelebration. **Fr A.Victor**, Chennai Mission Superior, also felicitated the Jubilarians. After the Mass a sumptuous dinner was served on the terrace.

Fr. A.J. Thamburaj preached a retreat to the priests of Manipur diocese. He gave a two-day programme for about 200 couples in Bangalore.

Fr Jerry Rosario was a resource person for the JEPASA coordinators, about 28 of whom met at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. In preparation for the feast of St Ignatius **Fr Vijay Kamath** from Sathya Nilayam gave points for recollection on Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm to the members of the Dhyana Ashram Community. In preparation for the feast of St Ignatius **Fr Bastian** preached a retreat for the college students of St Xavier's, Palayamkottai.

Thamburaj

ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL

A cultural week, to bring out the multifarious talents and hidden potentials of our students was celebrated during the first week of July. More than 1,500 students participated enthusiastically in the various cultural competitions. This week-long celebration culminated on the 6th with a prize distribution, and the inauguration of the Tamil Literary Association. **Mr.Thiyagarajan**, Tamil teacher from CSMA HS School, Kovilur, was the chief guest.

The 105th birth anniversary of **Mr.Kamaraj** was celebrated as 'Education Awareness Day' on 15th July. **Mr.Sinnakalai**, Registrar of PSNA Engineering College, in his presidential address spoke, on the significant contribution of Mr.Kamaraj to education.

Our 10th and 12th standard Catholic students with the staff went on a pilgrimage on 27th to the shrine of St. Ignatius in Anandarayankottai.

The ELT core group meeting was held at Dindigul on 21 July. The local coordinators from our nine schools came together and shared their various success stories in teaching and learning English. It was indeed enriching to learn from one another in this great venture.

S.M. John Kennedy

ST MARY'S, MADURAI

We held a solemn procession of the Blessed Sacrament, with **Fr. Michaeldoss** presiding over it. **Fr. John Britto** gave a touching sermon. The blessing of the Blessed Sacrament was given by the Archbishop.

The newcomers to the hostel were given a warm welcome. It was accompanied by an exhibition of talents by our wards.

With reference to the Diamond Jubilee of Independence, pupils from both the higher secondary and primary schools took out a rally calling for a "Green India". The Archbishop presided over the final meeting and **Fr.S.M. John Kennedy** aroused a great interest in ecology and conservation of nature.

The Madurai Jesuits from all the houses rallied under the banner of the Noble Knight at St. Mary's Residence on 25 July. Karumathur scholastics led us in prayer. **Fr. Xavier Arockiasamy** gave an exhortation highlighting and comparing the qualities of St. Ignatius and Fr. Arrupe.

A. Felix Joseph

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

Fr.F. Jayapathy underwent by-pass surgery successfully for five blocks at Chennai, and is now convalescing and waiting for happy home coming to Carmel. **Fr.P.S. Arul** went to Chennai and kept company with the patient.

Prior to the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, we started the festival on the 13th July, with flag hoisting. The School-band was sounding solemnly, with students attending the concelebrated Mass at 3.30 p.m, the V.F. of Kottar Vicariate, being the chief celebrant. On the 16th, the Diocesan Administrator led the Eucharistic Celebration and preached a homely homily. After the Mass, a sumptuous breakfast was served to about 300 guests, religious, lay and school staff.

On the 23rd July, we commenced in real earnest the novena for the feast of our Founder, St. Ignatius, with special prayers and reflections in the evening. On

the 26th, the Carmel and Thozhamai Illam Jesuits went on a pilgrimage to Kovalam where the novena to St. Ignatius, the patron of the Parish Church, was going on. **Fr. P.S. Arul** was the main celebrant and offered inspiring prayers at Mass. The Mass on the 31st, the feast of our Founder, was presided over by the Episcopal Vicar and it was followed by dinner.

S.M. Arockiam

XAVERIANA, THOOTHUKUDI

Our school bade adieu to **Br. Irudayam**, the retiring Headmaster and to **Fr. Stanislaus**. It welcomed his successor **Fr. Aruldoss**. The praises showered on Br. Irudayam and Fr. Stanislaus speak volumes for their accomplishments in the school. We wish them a healthy, peaceful, and happy life.

Dr. Vijayarangan, a well-known child psychiatrist in Thoothukudi addressed the parents of our XII std. boys. 'Save Your Children' was the warning, urge, and appeal of Dr. Vijayarangan to the parents. He met the XII and X std. boys on a different occasion to prepare them to be aware of and to meet the challenges of their age.

July 15, the birthday of Kamarajar was observed as 'Kalvi Valarchi Naal'. **Mr. Mullai Berchmans**, the chief guest of the day, stimulated the students to be always progressing in their studies.

The Inigo Parish prepared for the Feast of St. Ignatius in a fitting manner. **Frs. Vincent Britto** and **S.P. Savarimuthu** were present to encourage us.

Fr. I. Arul, our Superior, is emerging unofficially as a spiritual father to most of the convents over here. His age and experience add distinction to his mission.

We are thankful to St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai and Carmel, Nagercoil communities for having chosen our Inigo parish to make their pilgrimage as a part of their preparation to celebrate our Founder's Feast. While Fr. I. Arul led all of us into an hour of blissful prayer, **Fr. J.L. Pragasam** treated everyone to a sumptuous meal.

The 'Pearl City' is now heavily crowded with pilgrims from all over the world to get the blessings of Our Lady of Snows. A string of ceremonial and devout drills marked the flag hoisting. Welcome to all to witness the *Thanga Ther* (the Golden Car).

Aruldoss

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, UDHAGAMANDALAM

St. Joseph's Industrial School community is very grateful to **Fr. Anthony Samy** and **Sch. Benedict Lawrence** for their dedicated and tireless service to the community, school and hostel. The new team of administration is as follows: **Fr. Amalraj**, Principal and Hostel Director, **Fr. Soosai Raj**, Treasurer and Production Manager and **Sch. Kennedy**, Asst Director of the hostel; all have started functioning with a lot of zeal and enthusiasm. The carpentry and cabinet-making sections (Batch of 2004 -2007) completed their S.V.T. exam conducted by the Department of Employment and Training. Our trainees came off with flying colours. Further a Campus Interview was organized by Western India Plywood Limited, Kannur and the trainees were absorbed immediately. As a result, our trainees were invited for an industrial visit on 16th July, where they had a wonderful and enriching experience and were astonished to see women engaged in polishing, scraping and other works. The batch of 2005 - 2007 (Fitter students) have just completed their All India Trade exam successfully and are eagerly awaiting the fruits of their hard work. Construction work in Mettupalayam is in full swing. We are eagerly waiting for the grand inauguration of this Jesuit Residence. The hostel renovation work is yet to commence. Kindly keep this intention in your prayers.

M.F. Kennedy

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

It was a graceful occasion for the community to have Fr. Provincial with us from 11th to 14th July and to celebrate the 90th birthday of **Fr. C.V. Mattam**. The "Loyola Cup- 2007" of the basketball tournament was very well conducted, its primary aim being to deepen the relationship among the religious congregations in and around Karumathur. Among the eight teams participating Claret Bhavan bagged the cup.

On 6th, Mr. John Daniel, the president of the Commonwealth of Learning inaugurated a Life Long Learning Programme for former and present students of the college. It was carried out in collaboration with Commonwealth of Learning (COL). It was also a joint venture of Arul Anandar College with VIDIAL an NGO from Bodinayakanur, aiming at a fuller utilization of ICT (Information Communication and Technology) for the promotion of the welfare of farmers, village youth and women..

The executive committee meeting of Jesuit Alumni Association of Tamil Nadu (JAAT) was hosted by the AAC on 15th. The theme on environment protection and degradation with specific reference to land, water and air was shared by the panelists: **Dr. Paulraj Samuel** from Madurai Kamaraj University, **Mr. Guru Nathan** chief executive of Vaigai Kalangiam of Dhan foundation, **Mr. Ghort** of Covenant Centre for Development and **Fr. Danis Ponniah**, the co-coordinator of JAAT. All appreciated the sharing by the panelists. At the end, the participants decided to protect the environment through concrete programmes.

On the 28th, the feast of our Founder was very joyously celebrated in our college. **Fr. Victor**, the Rector of St Peter's Seminary, Viraganur and **Fr. Arockiadoss SVD**, delivered the feast day message for both the aided and the self-financed courses. On the 26th, **Prof.G. Ramanan** of the Uthamapalayam College was the chief guest for Loyola Hall Day celebration which was a great opportunity to bring out the talents of students.

Fr. Vincent Sekhar took part in the doctoral research committee meeting at TTS, Madurai and Gurukul, Chennai. Thanks a lot for all those who remembered Fr. Mattam in prayer. He is getting better; still we ask for your prayerful support for him.

Michael

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

At all meetings, **Fr K Amal** (Rector), **Fr Peter Sengole** (Secretary) and **Fr Albert Muthumalai** (Principal) constituted the unchanging trio, each performing effectively his role of rectifying and ennobling the student life in the campus. This year, the trio acknowledged the presence of our erstwhile counsellor **Fr. A. Victor** in his new role as Chennai Jesuit Mission Superior. Fr. Victor suggested that the trio collect the words of blessings, pieces of advice, etc uttered by each and have them published under the title '*Here have we heaved our Hearts*'. He hoped that this healthy practice of this Number One college would be emulated by the rest it leads.

On June 28, 2007, Fr K Amal, respecting an earlier commitment, proceeded to Malaysia as a resource person for a meeting of the International Movement of Catholic Students. He returned on July 8, 2007 to be on time for the inauguration of the PG courses the next day.

Fr Aelred D'Silva was given a warm send-off after years of service at Loyola College with God's blessings. 'His place let **Br Thomas** take' is how Andhra Province responded to our request. Both at the Bursar's office and also in the Minister's room at Berchmans Hall, Br Thomas proclaims: "File is my Life."

The **Most Rev. Dr.A. M. Chinnappa**, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, attended on July 11, 2007 a meeting of *Loyola Pro-Life Forum* on the occasion of the *World Population Day* celebration. In the evening there was the Senior Jesuits' Meeting, where the members were briefed about the admission to various programmes this year. On July 13, 2007, the Students Union Inauguration took place.

At the conclusion of the Jubilarians' Day on July 15, 2007, Fr K. Amal, in the name of the Jesuit community through a notice he put up appreciated us all for our varied contributions. He thanked the three Jubilarians - **Fr Dhavamony**, **Fr Xavier Rajan** and **Fr Viaguladasan** for their exhibiting jubilant styles during the Mass and the Felicitation as well (very much attuned to 'our Jesuit way of proceeding'). Special mention was made of Fr Dhavamony for 'meritoriously' driving home the real meaning and message of 'jubilee' scripturally, Fr Xavier Rajan for powerfully reminiscing the 'good memories' of his younger days with Dhavamony, and Fr Viaguladasan for his titillating 'acceptance' speech. There were also speeches by **Fr M Amaladoss** and by another Jubilarian **Fr S. M. Selvaraj** from Dhyana Ashram, referring to the contribution of the Jubilarians at various stages of formation. "It is nice to witness the Jubilarians listening to the glorious things said of them" remarked a young Jesuit. To serve delicious food on such occasions comes very naturally to **Br Sadanandam** (Minister) and his team. "I know on whom I rely" said Br Minister pointing to **Fr Xavier Vedam**, the Hostel Director. The able team of scholastics at Loyola Jesuit Residence and Berchmans Illam really spearheaded the Jubilee celebration till the end. The choir sang melodious songs and **Fr Arun** ably managed and made sure things were done. The inspiring sermon of **Fr Xavier Alphonse** filled with 'spiritual necessities' did not escape mention in Fr Amal's notice.

Fr Boniface Jeyaraj, former Rector, is having sabbatical rest and studies at Oxford. **Fr Ignacimuthu** visited Germany in connection with his research. Loyola College Internal Quality Assurance Cell and

Library jointly begin this year a practice of conducting book reviews; good initiative indeed! Fr Xavier Vedam through his outreach activities plans to make children of widows beneficiaries of the help provided by the Indian Oil Corporation. Fr Xavier Alphonse invites us all to rejoice with him as the community college scheme is about to receive recognition from the government.

A visitor to Loyola campus would simply exclaim: This is a church renovated! On these days when novena prayers are composed and conducted by our scholastics, the students remain to pray. Hats off to **Fr Lawrence Amalraj**, the Jesuit-in-charge of the scholastics! **Fr L X Jerome**, Campus Minister, conducted competitions on the occasion of the Feast of St Ignatius. The students are getting ready to face the First Continuous Internal Assessment. And the players among them are looking forward to the Bertram Tournaments organised by the Games President, Fr Lawrence Amalraj.

There was a burial Mass on July 16, 2007 for Chrishant P. Rayan II B Com student who got drowned on July 12, 2007.

A.G. Leonard

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

Our campus Minister, **Fr.P. Susai** and his team were very active during the month of July. The campus was marked by great spiritual fervour. We had the Mass of the Holy Spirit in the college church on 6th July. The Rector, **Fr.S. Lazar**, presided over the liturgy and it was attended by all the staff and students of the college. The college church could hardly accommodate all of them. The U.G. and P.G. hostellers had their annual retreat on 21st and 22nd of this month. The Catholic staff of St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School had their retreat too. It was preached by **Fr.J. Thamburaj** of Dhyana Ashram. The Catholic day scholars of the college had their annual retreat on 28th and 29th of July. Apart from the customary novena prayer service for the hostellers, we revived the special prayer service in honour of St. Ignatius for all the staff and students of the college. It was conducted at 8:30 a.m. on Monday 30th July in front of the Inigo Block. It was an occasion for us to acquaint all the staff and students with the life of St. Ignatius and the vision of the Society of Jesus. The community of St. Joseph's had a fervent exhortation on St. Ignatius preached by **Fr.A. Victor**, the Superior of the Chennai region. All these spiritual activities as part of our preparation for

the feast of St. Ignatius reached their climax with a concelebrated Solemn High Mass in the college church on 31st July followed by breakfast for all the staff (teaching and non-teaching) in Britto Hall.

There is now unusually great interest among the staff and students in improving their communication skills in English because of the increasing emphasis on communication skills in a demanding job market. Courses in English language and literature have many takers in Tiruchi colleges. At St. Joseph's College, there were over 300 applicants for BA English. To meet the demand for this programme, the college has started an additional section to accommodate 60 more students this year. The importance of soft skills in enhancing the employability of students was stressed by speakers at the release of the book *Success through Soft Skills* on 30th June. The book written by the faculty members of St. Joseph's College, has been prescribed as a text for UG and PG courses in Bharathidasan University. The book was released by **Dr.V. Ramachandran**, Vice Chancellor, Anna University, Tiruchi and the first copy was received by **Ms. K. Meena**, Principal, Shrimathi Indira Gandhi College. The Communications Club of St. Joseph's College, was inaugurated at the beginning of this month. **Mr. Srikanthan**, Chairman of Ebek Language Laboratories spoke on "the Role of English in Globalisation" and emphasized that students must cultivate communication skills in English and soft skills for securing employment in corporate companies.

The annual sports day in the college lacked lustre all these years and did not invite enthusiastic participation from the day scholars since it was mainly a tussle between the Sacred Heart and the New Hostel. From this year onwards it has been made interdepartmental. One could see from our new JIM Building, students of various departments practising with keen interest, the march past and other athletic events. This year's sports meet promises to be quite a lively event.

PARISH

The monthly Masses and the catechism classes for children got started again. A campaign to get individuals of the parish to appeal to the Prime Minister to include the Dalit Christians in the S.C. list ended with a Mass on the 22nd of July. The postcards were offered during the offertory of the Mass and posted in

the post office. All leading dailies carried this news item with photographs.

Louis Xavier

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

The Director of ICRDCE visited the Bhopal Community College on 8th of July 2007. The Annual Day was celebrated with the Archbishop of Bhopal the **Most Rev. Dr. Pascal Topno**, as the President. It was he who started the Community College. It has helped 60 students to get employment. Arpan Trust chaired by one of the UGC members **Dr. Sashi Rai** conducted a workshop on the Community College System inviting 40 participants belonging to various organizations in and around Bhopal. We hope to have three Community Colleges started in 2008. The Director of ICRDCE was the Chief Guest at the annual convocation of many Community Colleges. Even before the students finished their Tamil Nadu Open University Exams, they got jobs. We also had a get-together of M.S. University Community Colleges on 14th July 2007 to discuss issues at St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai. The G.O. to devise a mechanism to implement the Community College System in Tamil Nadu is being considered by the Secretary of Higher Education, Tamil Nadu.

Xavier Alphonse

LOYOLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RANIPET

The new arrivals to our community are: **Fr. S. Arul Oli** and **Sch. John Paul**. The former has taken charge as Principal and the latter is assigned to JRS.

The academic year for 2007 was formally inaugurated on 28 June with a prayer service in which the staff and students implored God's abundant blessings for the academic year. It was followed by an orientation seminar for two days 28th and 29th June animated by **Fr. M. Ilanko Xavier**. On the second day of the seminar, the newly - admitted students were introduced to the staff members of different trades and at the end of the evening session, their respective trade masters took the students to the workshop centres. Regular classes started from July 2nd, Monday.

Vedanayagam

THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

On 31 May 2007, **Fr. Lawrence Gabriel** was installed as the new Director and Team Leader of Thozhamai Illam in the presence of **Fr.P.S. Arul** and the neighbouring parish priests and religious Sisters.

We wish the new Director fruitful service in spiritual ministry, counselling and dialogue ministry which are his fields of interest.

Our inter-religious dialogue group, *Kanyakumari palsamaya sangamam*, is attracting more participants than before: doctors, engineers, poets, etc. for our dialogue meeting every month. They see this meeting in Thozhamai Illam as a forum where people of all faiths and of no faith can share their views and perceptions in a friendly atmosphere.

Fr. Joseph Nedungatt was away from the house practically the whole month on his retreat preaching mission.

Fr. Maria Jeyaraj together with **Fr. Korkoniyas Moses** attended the *Tamil Nadu Ashram Aikya Satsang*, at Pazhani from 25 to 27 July, 2007. The theme of the Satsang was "The Experience of God in Music and Tamil Poets". **Dr.Sr. Margaret Bastin FSJ**, Principal of Kalaikaviri College of Fine Arts was the chief resource person.

C. Valiaveetil

DASTEC / GANSOVILLE

Hearty welcome to **Br. Irudayam Antony** and **Srs. Vimala** and **Lima** of St. Anne's, Tiruchi who have joined the Gansoville team.

The teachers of the Evening Study Centres were privileged to attend the III phase of the one-day workshop on study skills and methods conducted by **Mr. Maran** at DASTEC.

Four more Evening Study Centres have been opened in Indra Nagar and Anna Nagar (at Devakottai), Andavoorani and Arivithi.

The Oriyur community was here for their recollection.

A. Masillamani

SAHAYAMATHA MISSION, KILPENNATHUR

AHAL Centre is happy to have 9 young and energetic French students and one Jesuit priest. The big-hearted souls are here from 21 July to stay till 15 August to build 12 houses for the needy. The people at Kilpennathur are glad to have houses which are to be built with cement.

Two girls from our area joined nursing courses and for the first time from Kilpennathur; one girl joined Loyola College to do her M.Sc. Biotechnology.

Congrats to **Fr. Arockiaraj** who took much trouble to send them to various demanding courses in a wide range of places. His timely help has brought cheerfulness to the faces of these simple, innocent people.

AHAL Kalaikulu is very keen on bringing awareness on various issues to the people. It has staged a variety of programmes in Karungalikuppam substation of Kilpennathur during the feast of St. Antony of Padua. Since it was the very first festivity in the church the participation of the people was very high and their camaraderie was highly appreciated. They were also very happy to show their identity as Christians to their Hindu brethren.

Those who were not married in the church were given a half-a-day seminar on marriage by **Fr. Amalraj** on 21 July and their marriages were rectified on Sunday, the following day, during the Mass.

S.A. Durai

DACA, MADURAI

“DACA Cadres Meet 2007” was held on 6 and 7 July with the theme “Visions, Goals and Dreams of DACA”. A total of 150 Regional Co-ordinators, Zonal co-ordinators and Animators of our Self-Help groups and Evening Study Centres participated in the Cadres Meet. **Fr. C. Marianathan** and his team played a vital role in highlighting the theme. We were happy to send 27 girls for computer and 18 for tailoring exams conducted by the Tamil Nadu Government. Ten staff members from DACA’s Education and Women Empowerment department took part in “Leadership” and “Legal” training at IDEAS. A zonal sports day was conducted for the students of our Evening Study Centres at Vasudevanallur. One hundred and fifty students took part in the sports and every student got a prize. Dr. Ambedkar Women Teacher Training Institute is busy welcoming the newcomers into the institution. Postcards numbering 260 were sent to the Prime Minister of India requesting him to implement the recommendations of the Justice Ranganath Misra Commission.

S. Packiaraj

KARISAL KADUTHASI

Karisal team is blessed with three new members: **Frs. Sahayaraj, Kingsley** and **Sch. Lawrence**. **Fr. Sahayaraj** is now in the USA for his teaching programme. On 18th June the Jesuits of Karisal went

on a picnic to Kuttralam as part of orientation. During the annual visitation **Fr. Provincial** left behind a lot of proposals such as fund mobilizing, quality outcome of the students and a business plan to make Karisal self-sufficient. A mini truck has been given to us by the Province to make the hollow brick business commercially viable.

Ms. Teresa is back in KARISAL as coordinator for technical training of girls and Packiam Nala Vazhvu Maiyam. The technical training students were given a set of lectures on Society and Politics by Fr. Kingsley, on Social History and Analysis by **Fr. Michaelraj**. They had also a three-day session on Folk Arts conducted by **Mr. Ponnuchamy**.

Apart from regular medical awareness programmes in different villages, the health team of Packiam Nala Vazhvu Maiyam with the help of local doctors conducted medical camps in three places. Around 400 villagers and 120 students and staff benefited from these. They also had sessions for the staff and students of Karisal centre on maintaining cleanliness and healthy environment in the campus.

The May summer camp was conducted with the help of Jesuit scholastics and Karisal staff. Around 106 students participated in the camp and gained a lot from it. Muthan Illam (hostel) has made history by admitting over 85 boys and girls this year, the highest strength in the hostel since it began. Fr. Kingsley conducted a two-day orientation to the inmates to start the new academic year with renewed spirit.

In a nearby village called Kundayiruppu, an Arunthadhiyar family was unjustly attacked and their house burnt. Karisal is playing a supportive role while the issue has been taken up by TADF (Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyar Democratic Front). The Karisal Media Unit has documented the whole event and the field workers are engaged in bringing justice to the affected family. The Media Unit was also involved in making a video documentary on World Social Forum convened in Nairobi, Kenya, in January 2007. This year 20 Evening Study Centres are getting revamped and brought to a new life. Around 800 students and 30 part-time teaching staff are participating in this programme.

M.M. Lawrence

AICUF

On 4 July St. Joseph's College AICUF unit was inaugurated by the State Advisor, Fr. Arul Ravi. The Unit Ex-Co members of St. Joseph's College took a meaningful oath on that day. On the same day they had a hot discussion and a debate on "Sivaji the BOSS and Periyar the DOSS". **Prof. Beschi** channeled the students and their thoughts on the hot topic. Congrats to **Dr. John**, the Unit Advisor who prepared the students to plan meticulously to have a meaningful inaugural function.

From July 6 to 8 we had a joyful and thought-provoking State Council session that enhanced the spirit of the AICUF students to spend this academic year with lot of zeal and spirit. In front of the Kamarajar Statue, the State Council was started by **Fr. Henry**, the National Advisor. He released balloons in the air symbolically proclaiming to the society that the students' community is ready to break the bondage that had chained them in the past.

The students marched towards the hall singing the song "We were born in an unjust society and we will not leave it as we have found it". As they were marching forward they also staged 'parai aattam' on the street. Once they all entered the hall they lighted candles and thus symbolically conveyed a promise that they would contribute to social transformation. They also ensured their participation in the meaningful struggle to bring about a progressive change in the society.

The State Advisor **Fr. Arul Ravi** in his introductory speech insisted that unless we get incarnated in the struggles of the poor we will not be able to bring about a change in the society.

Fr. Henry in his felicitation speech provoked and demanded that the students had to free themselves from the chains of casteism. **Fr. Baskar** the Unit Advisor of Arul Anandar College emphasized that our goal should get resurrected with life; only then our existence will be meaningful and worth living.

Fr. Packianathan in his inaugural address reminded the students that history needs to be reread from the subaltern perspective and his talk created an ideological stir among the students. To create a new social order the AICUF students were ready for an alternative election that would fetch a new set of leadership among them. The leadership we visualize is not like that of our political parties, rather one that

would make the students selfless and ready for social change: social analysis - a search for equality, leadership to free ourselves from the clutches of human bondage and women's personality from women's perspective. The above-mentioned were the topics that were dealt with during the Council session by renowned scholars like **Fr. Arul Ravi, Dr. John, Dr. Diana** and **Fr. Dominic**. Their talks really inspired the students to be valiant soldiers of liberation.

Students also came up with a cultural evening brimming with the culture of revolution. They were very creative in their expression. They were trained to read the articles in the Press from an analytic perspective that would make them more creative and critical about the happenings around them. At the end, the Regional and the State Ex-Co members, the Dalit and the Women commission members gathered to plan the future. Now the State Advisor and the full-timers are on a trip to visit their units in various Colleges.

S. Ravi

FR. MARIA SINGARAYAR WRITES:

I arrived at Strasbourg, France on 30th June and I am staying at a Capuchins' House. I attended the 38th Annual Study Session at the International Institute of Human Rights founded by a famous Human Rights Activist of the twentieth century **Mr. Rene Cassin**. The theme for the session was "Population Movement and Human Rights" in which, 248 delegates from 53 countries participated. We discussed the Human Rights Protection Systems in the United Nations, Europe, America, Africa and Asia with special reference to the migrants and refugees. It was very interesting, informative and interactive and I learnt a lot from this session.

FROM THE GENERAL CURIA

In Cuba, Fr. General carried out the planned visits to Jesuits communities, religious and laypeople. He also visited the Military Engineering School which occupies now the buildings of the magnificent former Jesuit Belen School where Fidel Castro studied. The School began in 1845 with the present edifices being built in 1925. In Santiago de Cuba Fr. General also had the chance to visit a second of the four schools that in the past belonged to the Society: the Dolores School, named after our Lady. In La Habana Fr. General saw the grounds where, in the near future a Retreat House of the Society will stand.

The June 2 issue of *Civiltà Cattolica* carries an article by Father General on “The Universality of the Society of Jesus”. A semantic analysis of the Constitutions leads to the conclusion that the concept of universality advocated by Saint Ignatius transcends not only geographical dispersion but also the kind of ministry Jesuits are engaged in, without any limitation or apostolic preference, looking only for greater service to the glory of God.

On July 14th, Vietnam became a Province

The history of the Church in Vietnam coincides with the initial presence of Jesuits in the 17th century, a presence that continued until the suppression of the Society in 1773. The return of the Society to Vietnam began in 1953 when former students of a Jesuit College in China suggested that some of the missionaries expelled from China be invited to serve the Chinese community in Vietnam.

In 1955 the Saigon government sounded out Fr. General Janssens about the possibility of a Jesuit University in Saigon. The plan did not materialize but instead, the Apostolic Delegate proposed a Pontifical Seminary in the city of Dalat.

In 1956 the first Jesuits expelled from China arrived in Saigon and one year later they established a community in Saigon and took the responsibility for the Pontifical Seminary in Dalat. The apostolic activities continued until 1975 when, as a consequence of political upheavals, the foreign missionaries were not allowed to remain in Vietnam. At the end of 1975 there were 11 Jesuit priests, 10 scholastics, 1 brother, 4 novices and 15 candidates.

In 2007 the new Province of Vietnam boasts of 134 Jesuits: 38 priests, 45 scholastics, 20 brothers, 31 novices and 150 candidates.

HOLY SEE

On June 1st the Congregation for the Causes of Saints made public the Pope’s Decree of approval for the beatification of 188 Japanese who suffered martyrdom between 1603 and 1639. Among these, there are four Jesuits: Fathers Pedro Kibe, Diego Yuuki Ryosetsu, Julian Nakaura and Brother Nicholas Keian Fukunaga. The beatification ceremony will take place in Japan at a date to be determined.

The Holy Father has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Paschal Topno, S.J.

Some 250 persons attended the presentation of the Italian version of the book, “Pedro Arrupe a Man for the others”. The event took place on May 30th in the aula magna of the Gregorian University. Cardinal Roberto Tucci, S.J., Professor Andrea Riccardi, founder of Saint Egidio Community, and Father Federico Lombardi, S.J. offered their comments on the book, edited by Professor Gianni La Bella and published in Italy by Il Mulino. There is also a Spanish edition published jointly by E1 Mensajero y Sal Terrae, Jesuit publishing houses.

On June 4 the Court of Appeals of Rome absolved Cardinal Robert Tucci, S.J. and Father Pascual Borgomeo, S.J. of the accusation regarding the dangerous emissions of electromagnetic radiations from the transmission Centre in Santa Maria di Galeria on the outskirts of Rome. The accusation originated in 2001 and has gone through a long and complex legal process. On behalf of Vatican Radio, Father Federico Lombardi, S.J., the present General Director, expressed satisfaction for the legal decision and particularly because it states clearly that Vatican Radio has been always concerned with the welfare of people and always kept the radio transmissions within the legal limits established by national and international regulations.

The Gregorian Foundation, together with the Jacques Maritain International Institute, has organized a course for diplomats from Mediterranean and Middle East countries under the title The Catholic Church and the International Politics of the Holy See. The three-week course took place in Rome and Turin. Georgetown University of the United States, and the University of Saint Joseph in Lebanon participated in the programme.

CHINA

An anthology of homilies, pastoral letters and articles authored by Aloysius Jin Luxian, S.J., Bishop of Shanghai, has been published with permission of the Chinese authorities as “internal communication”. In an interview published by the Italian monthly *30 Giorni* the 91 year old Bishop spoke clearly about his own situation. In answer to a question regarding his episcopal ordination, he said that when in 1985, without appointment from the Vatican, he became Auxiliary Bishop, it was not possible to contact Rome. But he invited a Chinese priest from Hong Kong and a Jesuit from the United States to be present at the

ceremony. Since they both accepted the invitation, Bishop Jin took it for granted that the Pope was aware of the appointment because “it was inconceivable that both would have accepted the invitation without receiving permission from the Vatican.”

NEW RELEASES

- ☞ “**Pilgrim Poems**”, Fr. Francis Gonsalves, (Theologian – Poet at VJ, New Delhi) Gujarat Sahitya Prakash, pp. 120, Rs. 80/-.
- ☞☞ “**The Catholic Social Teaching**”, Fr. C. Amalraj SJ, Vaigarai, pp. 58, Rs.25/-.
- ☞ “ ” >Fr. Jerry SJ, Vaigarai, pp.72, Rs.20/-.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Jose Maria Navarro (GUJ) 81/64 on 18 July 2007 at Vadodara

Fr. Simon Fernandes (BOM) 51/33 on 20 July 2007 at Pune

Mr. Tony Montfort (67) on 26 June in England. He worked at Jesuit Missions, London for 44 years. He stood ‘as a joyful example of faith, hope and love in action’, whose presence was ‘a grace in times of joy and crisis’ said Fr. General. Many an Indian Jesuit would have tasted his hospitality.

Mr. S. Antony (68) the eldest brother of Fr.S. Marianathan on 7 July 2007 at Alavanthankulam

Mrs. Thresia (90), the eldest sister of Fr. Joseph Nedungatt on 27 July at Kavakkad, Kerala.

Mr. Thamburaj (94) father of Fr. Francis Thamburaj on 31 July 2007 at Tiruchi

Mr. Arockiam (89), father of Br. A. Victor on 2 August 2007 at Thavasimadai

If you don't receive the MNL by 15 of every month, please inform us immediately – Editor.

IGNATIUS AND IGNATIAN

We must return to the original source [and enter deeply into the thought and spirituality of St Ignatius]. We cannot depend on the charism of St Ignatius merely in that form in which it was made manifest in the various periods of our history; rather, we must think it out anew each time, by going back to the beginnings, to the ‘pure idea’ which is to be applied to the current situation.

We must reincarnate this charism, not by rummaging through the centuries and the thoughts and deeds of the Jesuits during those centuries, but by seeking out anew St Ignatius. And we should study him as founder not as superior general.

There is a distinction which we must carefully make. There is that which, for St Ignatius, constitutes the essential charismatic elements, those which we could call the Society’s specific identity; and with them too are the fundamental and common attitudes which flow from them logically and necessarily.

We must carefully distinguish between these and the other complementary prescriptions which are much more subject to change.

We can no longer disregard the two levels between which the Text that St Ignatius left us oscillates. There is Ignatius the Founder, and there is Ignatius the General, who was the superior on the scene in one precise era, forming the motley community which constituted the Jesuits in Rome in the 1550’s.

To consider this text as a solid block to be taken as “the whole or nothing” - this is to ignore the most elementary principles about the spirit and the letter of the Ignatian legislation.

Courtesy: **Pedro Arrupe Treasury** - Notes - Quotes - Anecdotes, Hedwig Lewis, S.J., p.136.

