

# FEBRUARY 2007

(For Private Circulation)

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### Feb

- 05 Chennai: Consult  
06 Chennai : Jubilee felicitation by Archdiocese of MM  
13 AM : Amaravathipur : Gansoville GBM  
13-14 Chenjai: SUPAM: Visitation  
15-18 Vallankanni: TNPCRI  
21 Visitation: Ayyampalayam, Manalur  
22 Visitation: Perumalmai, Bodhi Zendo, Palamalai  
24-25 Dindigul: Finance Commission: GBM

### Mar

- 01-06 Dindigul: Visitation: Beschi Illam  
04 Consult  
10 Bangalore: ISI GBM  
11 Chennai: Visitation: Dhyana Ashram  
11 PM to 17 Chennai: JSCA Meeting: Dhyana Ashram  
18 Chennai: Visitation: Dhyana Ashram (ctd)  
19-21 Chennai : Visitation : Arut Kadal

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✂ The **Holy Father** has appointed **Father Angelus Kujur, S.J.**, 61, of the Dumka-Raiganj Province (India), Bishop of Purnea.
- ✂ **Our medical man in Mumbai**  
**Fr. Britto Joseph** on his return from the U.S. and Tamil Nadu, suddenly took ill on February 1<sup>st</sup>. He threw up blood and he was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition. He ended up in the ICU at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and his condition continues to be closely monitored.

- ✂ **MEDICAL REIMBURSEMENT:** All those in service in our institutions and also those who have retired and draw pay or pension from the Government can claim reimbursement for one or more surgeries undergone by them in recognized hospitals. The hospital bills duly stamped and signed must be submitted to the Government Department from which the pay or pension is drawn. The reimbursement is 75% of the expense / s for those in service; the maximum amount is Rs. 1,00,000 and for those in retirement it is Rs. 50,000. Those who got Rs. 1,00,000 while in service can again claim up to Rs. 50,000 while in retirement since the two accounts are separate.

- ✂ **Please note the following changes**(in address, tel. no. etc.)

**Fr. Stephen de Souza** has a new address: Our Lady Help of Christians, PO Box 6, Palmerston NT 0831 Australia, **Phone:** 618 8932 3922, Fax: 618 8932 4384, **Email:** sjesuamdg@yahoo.com.au (or) sdesouzasj@hotmail.com

**Fr Vincent Britto** has a new mobile number: 94865-58265

- ✂ **Sch. Daniel Savaridas** left the Society on 14.01.2007

## NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

### JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

With invigorated spirit the pre-novices returned to VMI after their Christmas vacation. A two-day course on Social Analysis at the opening of the term paved the way for their better understanding of the society at large. Thanks to **Frs Eugene** and **Anbarasu**. The Republic Day was a red-letter day for the pre-novices as they played a volleyball match against the Clivites and were happy to see that their elder brothers won after a tough fight. **Fr Paul Pragash** participated in the South Indian Jesuit Formators Meet at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai and **Sch.**

**TOWARDS THE GENERAL  
CONGREGATION 35 – (7)  
- JANUARY 2008 -**

**How many days into the Congregation was the new  
General elected?  
(1820-1983)**

CONGREGATION	GENERAL	DAYS
20 (1820)	Luigi Fortis	10
21 (1829)	Jan Roothaan	10
22 (1853)	Pieter Beckx	11
23 (1883)	Anton Anderledy	9
24 (1892)	Luis Martin	9
25 (1906)	Franz Wernz	8
26 (1915)	Wlodomiro Ledochowski	10
29 (1946)	John B. Janssens	10
31 (1965)	Pedro Arrupe	16
33 (1983)	Peter-Hans Kolvenbach	12

In the first two Congregations:

1558: Diego Laynez, 14 days

1565: Francisco Borja, 12 days

In all the elections of Generals:

The longest period before the election: 48 days  
(Congregation 7, 1645, Vincenzo Carafa)

The briefest period before the election: 8 days  
(Congregation 25, 1906, Franz Wernz)

**Roch** attended a symposium on “Jesuits and Modern Science” at JDV, Pune.

*G. Victor Roch*

### DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

New Year 2007 was celebrated as the Titular Feast of the Society. **Fr. Ralph da Costa**, the Rector, gave a soul-stirring homily on ‘Transcendental Love’ at a concelebrated Mass.

DNC organized a five-day (1-5 Jan) international symposium on ‘Jesuits and Modern Science - past heritage, present status and future prospects’, to continue the conspicuous legacy and heritage of Jesuits in science, as a Triple Jubilee special, with the collaboration of JDV, PS, CBCI-CSRS and ASSR. The Bishop of Pune, the **Most Rev. Valerian D’ Souza** presided over the inaugural function. The main aim was to kindle the hearts of the young Jesuits to launch into the scientific apostolate and to dispel the conflict between Church and science. About 150 people participated in it, including eminent Jesuits and scientists from all over the world.

**Fr. Job Kozhamthadam**, President of JDV, delivered the keynote address on ‘Science for the Greater Glory of God and Service of Humanity’ with a large mass of data to show that Jesuits had played a major and significant

role in the origin and development of modern sciences in India.

**Fr. Ignacimuthu** imbued the throng with his stalwart work on “My Mission through scientific Research”. **Fr. John Pragasam** read the paper of **Fr. Francis Xavier** on ‘Science and Social Relevance’ and also expounded his presentation on ‘**Fr. Lourdu M Yeddanapalli**: Man, the Scientist and the Jesuit’.

**Fr. John Britto** engrossed the audience with his erudite and scholarly work on ‘An Integrated Programme for Classical and Molecular, Systematic, Conservation Research and Environment Awareness’.

**Fr. V.S. Manickam** dumbfounded everybody with his prodigious memory and the ins and outs of ‘Biodiversity Research at the Centre for Biodiversity and Biotechnology’. During the seminar, every day we had the Holy Eucharist with suave and zesty homilies on science.

On 4th Jan. **Fr. Arokiadoss Peter**, the Dean of Theology, infused us with his inspiring homily on ‘Come and See: Discovering the Immanent Transcendence’

On 14th Jan. Scholastics of Ghorpuri Apostolate celebrated Pongal Festival with grandeur and gaiety in Ghorpuri and Chinchwad Parishes.

**Fr. Arul Jeevan**, the Librarian of JDV, is making a study of the preservation of ancient manuscripts especially palm leaves at Saraswathi Mahal library, Thanjavur in pursuit of improving the library of JDV.

**Fr. Robin**, the new faculty member of Philosophy in JDV initiated the philosophers on the Philosophy of Human Person with his vivacious and sterling creativity.

*Antony Inigo*

### VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

When we were reeling under the icy breeze and cold wave, the visitation of **Fr. Provincial** comforted us with warmth and love. Fr. Provincial briefed us on the culmination of the Jubilee celebration, civic function and the Province assembly. Indeed it was a moment of joy and grace to us. Fond memories and invaluable services of **Fr. Paddy** were recalled and relived in the Eucharistic celebration which was organized to commemorate his first death anniversary. The commemoration was of much significance on account of the presence of his relatives and friends who had come from Australia and the release of his book “**Paddy Fields and a Grain of Rice**” edited by **Fr. Francis Gonsalves**. The cultural heritage of Tamils was showcased by scintillating folk dances during the Pongal celebration at VJ. **Sr. Inigo**, the former Mother General of St. Anne’s of Mathavaram was the chief guest. **Sch. Jacob** played a commendable role in organizing the show.

A one-day seminar was organized to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the death of Brahmabandhab Upadhyay. **Prof. Julius Lipner**, University of Cambridge, U.K., brought to light the most essential contributions of Upadhyay in his inaugural address. **Frs. Anand Amaladass** and **Leonard Fernando** presented papers in their fields of specialization. A few seasoned academicians from different Universities were present at the seminar.

**Frs. Hector D' Souza** and **K.C.Philip** made their annual visitation of VJ. Their visitation infused new energy and enthusiasm.

Braving all odds and security hassle we reached Rajpath to get a glimpse of the Republic Day parade and the floats passing by.

*Louie Albert*

## ARUT KADAL, CHENNAI

We began the New Year 2007 with a fruitful Triduum guided by **Fr. Cyril Antony** at Jyothy Mada Alayam Retreat Centre in Okkiampet. On 17<sup>th</sup> Jan. we celebrated Pongal by sharing our joy with our co-workers. Our community outing to Mahabalipuram on 24<sup>th</sup> was enjoyable and refreshing. On 28<sup>th</sup> we were delighted to organize Children's Day. About 160 children from the slums performed their excellent cultural programme and enjoyed the whole day with us. **Fr. Rajrudaya** conducted a seminar on "Feminist Theology and Perspectives of Women's Liberation Today" to the members of the Women's Commission of both the Archdiocese of Madras –Mylapore and the Diocese of Chengalpattu.

*Dominic*

## BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

The novices had their study experiment from 26 to 30 December. They studied the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus and exposed the same. This exercise helped them cherish the Society's origin, aims and vision envisaged in the Constitutions. **Fr.V. Stephen** shared with the novices his experience of tertianship. Also, **Fr. Shabi** of the Hungarian Province threw light on the missionary zeal of Jesuits and on the ministry of Hungarian Jesuits. The I year novices have gone to Karumathur for their work Experiment, while the II year novices have left for Chatpet, Kumbakonam and Tuticorin for their Hospital Experiment.

January 11 was a special day in the Centre for Ignatian Spirituality (CIS) when the newly added building was blessed by **Fr. Britto Peter**, the PCF and inaugurated by **Fr. S. Mariadoss**, the Province General Procurator. A group of 22 Sisters belonging to five different Congregations are undergoing a 3-month long tertianship programme. The Beschi community along with the Sisters celebrated Pongal in a traditional manner at the dairy farm.

*V. Santosh*

## CHENNAI MISSION

**Fr.A.M. Varapasadam** from La Reunion, France, visited us at the beginning of January and spent a day with us. He was taken around the different trade workshops and he interacted with the trade masters and students with keen interest. He celebrated Holy Mass on the first Friday for the staff and students with much unction. The sports day was held for our students on January 13 before the Pongal holidays. There was a week of preparation for that day during which students exhibited their physical talents in athletic events with great enthusiasm. One of our former students **K. Shanmugavel** secured the 3<sup>rd</sup> rank in the Tamil Nadu Open University Exams in the Refrigeration & Air-Conditioning Technician

Programme and received a Diploma from the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

*I. Vedanayagam*

## DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

On the occasion of the Triple Jubilee celebration, we had a procession from St. Mary's Girls H.S. School to De Britto School, on 9<sup>th</sup> of December. It was a prayerful one with thoughts of Saints and devotional hymns lead by **Br. Kulandai** and **Fr. Ambrose**. At 6:00 pm a special Eucharist was arranged. The **Most Rev. Susaimanickam** the Bishop of Sivagangai was the main celebrant. The choir was superb with the help of St. Mary's. The stage was attractively festooned and floridly decorated for the Eucharist and for the civic function directed by **Fr. Simon** and helped by **Br. Arockiasamy**. The Bishop in his short and sweet speech applauded the Jesuits for their fruitful services in the diocese. **Thavathiru Kundrakkudi Adikalar** attracted the audience with his thought-provoking speech. There was a spectacular sound and light programme on the life of our Jubilee Saints, arranged by our Headmaster **Fr. Gualbert**, which deserved a commendable appreciation. The whole programme was well planned and executed by **Fr. John**, our superior. Kudos to Fr. Superior and the community for the grand success of the Jubilee celebration.

On the occasion of Pongal, the community went on a picnic to Kanyakumari and Thiruvananthapuram. The trip was enjoyable and unforgettable. We also visited the Jesuit communities of Palayamkottai, Thozhamai Illam and Carmel at Nagercoil. Thanks to these communities who served us delicious meals.

It was an encouraging and enlightening day for our hostel students when they went on a pilgrimage to St. Arulanandar Shrine at Oriyur to get blessings for their forthcoming public exams. Our sincere gratitude to the Oriyur Jesuit community for spending their valuable time in serving us throughout the day.

On 27<sup>th</sup> of December, the 63<sup>rd</sup> School Day was celebrated. **Mr. Justice Abraham Lincoln**, was our chief guest. Prizes were distributed by **Mr. Ramanathan** our old student who is also the famous Star Vijay participant in "Kalakkappovadhu Yaaru". On the same day the Old Boys Association held a meeting in our school. They had a seminar on "Kalviyum Manidha Neyamum". There was a good number of participants. The film director **Mr. S.P. Muthuraman** preside over the function.

*Jesu*

## ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL

Our Catholic students participated enthusiastically in the cultural competitions on Biblical themes, conducted for a week exclusively for them. **Selvan Naveen**, our IX std. student captained the Tamil Nadu volleyball team at the below 16 years national games, held in Assam and won the second place. **Selvan Prabu**, our XI std. student represented Tamil Nadu volley ball team in the national rural State games, held in U.P for below 19years.

*S.M. Kennedy*

## ST MARY'S, MADURAI

In the first week of January the school was playing host for the State level Science Exhibition. It was a

spectacular show. **Fr. Ignatius Britto** made the event memorable. The CEO was all praise for the dedicated and committed services of the Headmaster.

On the New Year Day, the Archbishop honoured parishioners, from different professions, who had done yeoman service to the public.

*Felix Joseph*

## LTI MADURAI

It was a memorable event for the Loyola Technical Institute when some of its students were invited to Chennai by the Director of the Industrial Training Institutes to perform a cultural programme on the relevance of technical education. **Br. Ignaci**, the Principal, took twelve of his students to Chennai to present the programme at the meeting of all the Principals of the Technical Institutions, presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the Anna University. The dignitaries present appreciated our presentation and it was a rare honour and privilege for our students and for the Institute.

The Old Boys' Association of Loyola Technical Institute had its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January and we were impressed by the attendance and participation of our old students. It was also an occasion to honour **Fr. T. M. Mathai**, who had built up the institute. The Old Boys were grateful and generous and they instituted the Rev. Fr. Mathai Scholarship Fund. It was a very memorable occasion and they hope to keep in contact with the Institution.

**Mr. Muthusamy** a popular industrialist from Coimbatore with his son addressed the final year students and explained many interesting technical details about their company. They have promised to recruit our students after completion of their studies. They have also invited our staff to visit their factories in Coimbatore. The ISO Monitoring Committee visited our Community College and has confirmed the ISO certification of our Community College. **Fr. Jerry** motivated our staff and the students on the need and relevance of donation of blood and of vital organs. **Br. S.M. Susaimanickam** is still in the Dindigul hospital and is recovering slowly and steadily.

*G. Packiaraj.*

## LAAS, MADURAI

LAAS team is engaged in taking up cases of victims in and around Madurai. **Fr. Santhanam** is back after his tertianship and with his arrival, the team is in its full strength. Christmas Carols from Cheshire home and Othakkadai parish were sung at two different midnights of the season and brought new life and hope to our new mission. A daylong programme on "Intricacies of Human Rights Violations and Interventions", for the advocates and other movement leaders was organized on 16.12.06. Human Rights activists **Mr. P. Rathinam** and **Mr. K. Sukumaran** shared their experiences and pointed out the difficulties in making interventions. They further insisted upon collaborative action with movements and student bodies in making strong interventions. It evoked a good response from the lawyer's fraternity. **Fr. T.B. Jeyaseelan** conducted a one-day seminar for Karaikudi Chekkalai parishioners on "Christian Marriage Laws". He admirably moderated the General Chapter of Gonzaga Sisters of

Pondicherry from Dec 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. For two weeks in January, **Fr. Jeyaseelan** was at Arut Kadal introducing the 2<sup>nd</sup> year theologians to the general norms of Canon Law. **Fr. Santhanam** got a favourable order from the High Court in two writ petitions filed by him on behalf of two tsunami victims to avail themselves of loans. He gave a week-long renewal programme during Pongal to a group of CIC Sisters who had completed 10 years of religious life. A daylong legal awareness programme was conducted by **Fr. Santhanam** for the JRS Girihini students at IDEAS. He compiled a book 'Tsunami Chuvadugal' containing the reports of the advocates in the tsunami-hit Nagercoil area and it was published by LAAS. **Fr. Philomin Raj** with his colleagues and other movement leaders set out on a fact-finding mission to Nakkalamuthanpatti village on 12<sup>th</sup> Jan., where Mr. Jakkaiyan, a Dalit president was brutally beaten to death by caste Hindus. Based on their findings the fact-finding team is making all-out efforts to bring all the accomplices before the law. He also played the role of an intervener and successfully challenged the bail petition of the main accused in the murder case. In an effort to bring justice to a recently married post-graduate couple, **Fr. Philomin Raj** filed a writ petition in collaboration with his colleagues and sought a direction from the High Court to the State to instruct all the police stations to act in accordance with law while allegations were brought to them in "inter-caste" marriages.

*Philomin Raj*

## ICRDCE, CHENNAI

It was a milestone in the history of the Community College movement when 67 Community Colleges became Vocational Programme Centres of the Tamil Nadu Open University. There were 4711 students who appeared for the exams in eight job-oriented subjects. The students of the Community Colleges have obtained rare distinctions: 38 ranks of the University including 7 gold medals (first ranks) in seven skills-development programmes. There were 933 tsunami-affected students who did their training in 30 Community Colleges. Ten of them have obtained ranks in different subjects. These students were honoured by the Chancellor of TNOU on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January during the second convocation of TNOU at Chennai. We congratulate the 20 Community Colleges from where the students have become rank holders. The Jesuit Community Colleges in our Province have obtained the following ranks:

St. Joseph's Community College, Nagapattinam – I  
and V, Loyola Community College, Ranipet: III,  
Kovalam Community College, Chennai : III

The Directors **Frs. Irudayaraj, Gunasekaran** and **Xavier Vedam** deserve our special congratulations. The rank holders with their parents and Directors of Community College were felicitated by ICRDCE. This year (2006 – 2007) we have 97 Community Colleges as Vocational Programme Centres of TNOU. **Mr. Cletus Babu**, Chairman of SCAD group of Institutions, Tirunelveli has defended the first doctoral thesis in India on the Community College System at the Gandhigram Rural University. **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** has been nominated as the Chairman of the National Committee on Community Colleges. The Committee is to draw up the guidelines to include the Community College System in the XI Five

Year Plan. The Committee is expected to submit its report by the end of March 2007.

*Xavier Alphonse*

## SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

PEAK organized Balamela for students of evening study centres on December 2 and 3 at Shembaganur. Ninety-two children participated in this event. The programme was mainly used as a means to infuse into the children a desire for learning and provide an opportunity to bring out their hidden talents.

Meetings were also organized for the alumni of Inigo Children's Home at Shembaganur during the second week of December. Around 150 students participated. The talks given by **Fr. Arockiam** challenged the youngsters to dedicate themselves for the betterment of their community.

On December 23, parents of Inigo Children's Home participated in an awareness seminar on their social condition and on government reservation policy as they came to take their children home for Christmas holidays. **Fr. Arockiam** gave a theology course for two weeks at St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchi. **Fr. Edward Jeganathan** directed a week-long retreat for DMI Sisters at Vadagararai.

*Ravikumar*

## ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

The first National Conference was held by the department of Computer Science on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. **Mr. Lourdu Manoharan**, an alumnus and the Oracle Delivery Manager, Bangalore, inaugurated the conference and several experts from software industries presented the latest trends in Information Technology. Similarly, many lecturers from various colleges presented papers. **Ms. Rajalakshmi**, Director of software Technology Park in India, was the chairperson for the valedictory function and she spoke on the vast scope of employment in this industry.

The "Family Day" of Arul Anandar College was celebrated on the 27<sup>th</sup> evening. Nearly 350 members of families from the teaching and non-teaching staff participated. Many varieties of games were conducted by the scholastics and a cultural programme was presented by the children of the staff and the college students and the function was concluded with a family dinner hosted by the Jesuit management.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, an animation session for senior Jesuits of the Andhra Province was conducted by **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** at Satyodayam, Secunderabad. It was well received and highly appreciated by all who attended.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Jan., **Fr. Vincent Sekhar** conducted an Assistancy level meeting of partners in dialogue. He handed over the secretary's work to **Fr. Victor Edwin** of Delhi Province after completing over 7 years of hard work. Earlier he addressed the theology students of the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, USA for 2 days.

**Fr. Freddie** took part in a social movement called "Traditional Percussionists' Trade Union" consisting of 12 members. So far they have visited 10 places in Chennai city promoting the art.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, the Department of History organized a food mela that was highly appreciated. Varieties of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian food were sold out like hot cakes.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, "Farmers Day" was celebrated by the department of Rural Development Science with the usual pomp. **Dr. Thenraja**, Head of the Department of Chemistry, was the chief guest. His elegant message on "Culture of Tamil People" was much appreciated by all who participated.

The Departments of RDS and History arranged an Educational Tour on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> respectively to various places pertaining to their subjects

We wholeheartedly welcome the first year novices of our Province who have come to Kannanur Farm for their month-long work experiment, we wish them all the best.

**Fr. Mattam** had a severe knee pain and was hospitalized for a week in Leonard Hospital, Batlagundu. Now he is back home. We request your prayers for his good health.

*M. Selvam*

## LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

To invoke God's blessings in the New Year, the staff and students of Loyola, gathered as a family on 5<sup>th</sup> of January in the college church. It was a time to pray for one another and to thank the Lord for all His graces.

The Department of Tamil in association with the Students' Union organized "Pongal Mela" for which **Thiru Kumarianandhan** was a special invitee. As a part of Pongal celebration, the Department of Outreach organized an antiboghi awareness programme in various places of the city inviting everyone to be eco-friendly and avoid pollution of the atmosphere. It was a red-letter day in the history of the Commerce Department for it hosted for the first time a national conference on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of January on "*Indian Banking: Challenges in the Post-Liberalization Era*". The various paradoxes and internal contradictions of net banking, ATM banking and other matters in the banking sector, in the global and in the Indian contexts were brought to light and solutions were sought out in the conference. The presence of **Mr. Damodaran**, chairman, SEBI added colour to the event. The success of the programme was evident from the papers and participation of the delegates from all over India. **Fr Peter Xavier** was the kingpin of the entire show. Hats off to him for his meticulous planning that made it a grand success.

**Thiru T.P.M. Mohideen Khan**, Minister for Environment, TN, inaugurated a national conference on "*Environmental Biosensors*" organized on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of January by LIFE. **Fr B. Jeyaraj** gave a talk on gas-sensors. **Fr Francis P. Xavier**, was the organizing secretary of this conference. Entomology Research Institute (ERI) conducted a national symposium on "*Recent Trends in Insect Pest Management*" on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of February.

On 27<sup>th</sup> of January our campus brimmed with graduates to mark the 79<sup>th</sup> convocation ceremony. **Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss**, the Hon'ble Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India delivered the convocation address. He lauded Loyola College for

integrating social consciousness with the curriculum and the dedicated efforts of the Jesuits and missionaries towards the progress of education and health in India.

Fr. Ignacimuthu inaugurated an international conference on Biotechnology at Muthayammal College, Rasipuram.

It was indeed a pleasure to have **Fr K.C.Philip**, the ADF and the southern region PCFs, Novice Masters and Pre-novitiate Directors with us on 4<sup>th</sup> January. A sumptuous dinner was served to share the joy of their presence.

**Frs.S. Ignacimuthu** and **J.B. John Pragasam** participated in an international symposium on “*Jesuits and Modern Science, Jan 1-5, 2007*” organized by De Nobili College, Pune, to mark the Triple Jubilee of the Society of Jesus. The former presented a paper on “*My Mission through Scientific Research*” while the latter talked about the contribution of **Fr.Yeddanapalli, S.J.** to modern science with the title: *Fr.Dr.Lourdu M. Yeddanapalli—the Man, the Scientist and the Jesuit*. Also a paper by Fr.Francis P. Xavier “*Science with Social Relevance*” was presented by Fr. John Pragasam as Fr. Xavier could not be present.

S.A.Arock

## ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

**Fr.R. Rajarathinam**, our principal was very much on the move during the month of January. He attended the Annual JEA Higher Education Meeting at St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad from 15 to 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and the meeting on minority rights organized by the Director of Collegiate Education, at Chennai on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2007. He also attended a workshop with the international Ranking Agency at XLRI Jamshedpur on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

St. Joseph's H.S. School has not only distinguished itself in the area of academics but has recently won laurels in succession in the field of fine arts too. In “The Young Talents Scheme” organized by the Government of Tamil Nadu in Vellore, **G. Monojkumar** of XII std, won the coveted first prize in the extempore elocution contest (Tamil) in the State level competition. Students from 30 districts of Tamil Nadu participated in this competition. In the same competition the team consisting of **A. Jim Christy Gabriel, R. Bala Subramanian** and **N. Prasana Kumar** bagged the 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for folk dance in the State level contest.

**M. Jarvis Solomon** was given the meritorious award of “*nrh: tjj j fh*” by Jeyam Fine Arts Institute in Tiruchi for his eloquence in Tamil. Periyar Teacher Training Institute at Tiruchi conducted literary contests in Tamil as part of its Pongal celebration and **K. Azhivendan** stood first in the elocution contest and **K. Maris Kanna** secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> position in essay writing competition. In the 39<sup>th</sup> National Book Festival K. Azhivendan secured first, second and third prizes in elocution, essay writing and poetry contests respectively.

The Clive's community was extremely happy to conduct Balamela for children of its neighbourhood. Around 200 children from Devarayaneri, Devadhanam and Fathima Nagar participated in that Balamela. Children were very enthusiastic in displaying their talents. The whole campus was filled with singing, dancing and

acting. After a sumptuous dinner they went home with sweet, joyful and unforgettable memories. It is noteworthy that the majority who participated were from the least privileged sections of society: Narikuravars, children of AIDS parents and others mostly drawn from very low income groups. **Fr. Lazar** the Rector of St. Joseph's presided over the function and gave an inspiring talk to the children.

Louis Xavier

## ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTION, PALAYAMKOTTAI

St Xavier's College of Education organised SXAV 2007, an inter-collegiate cultural competition for the colleges of education affiliated to MS university, Tirunelveli on 20 Jan. Students of fourteen colleges displayed their talents in twenty different events so meticulously organised by the students and staff. **Mr Paramasivan** of Arunagiri Groups, inaugurated the show along with the Rector. **Kalamamani Pitchaikani**, H.M. Panchayat Union Middle School delivered the valedictory address. St. Mary's College of Education, Seithuganallur lifted the overall championship. Earlier the students attended a scout training camp from 2 to 12 Jan. A four-day Rural Renovation camp was organised from 25 to 28 Jan at Kadampankulam near Moolaikaraiathy for the future teachers exposing them to the social realities of villages and the making them aware of the cooperation needed from them to build the future India.

The college auditoriums were filled to capacity with karagam, thappu, thavil, villu and silambbam to be made use of in GRAMIAM 2007, a folklore cultural competition for school children, organised by the FIRC for the fifth time on 20-21 January. Nearly 30 schools exhibited their variety of knowledge and depth in folkcultural arts. Pongal was celebrated in a very grand manner in the school. **Mr Pitchumani**, an artist of FM radio, entertained the students with humour and wit to suit the sweet pongal distributed to all the students and staff. The swimmers of our school yet again brought laurels to the State and school when they clinched the overall championship in the State level competition.

Rufus

## THOZHAMA ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

**Fr. Joseph Nedungatt** was away from the house during the whole month of January on his retreat preaching mission. He preached retreats in S.H. Convent, Bangalore, JMJ Novitiate Manoharbad, A.P., Holy Cross Convent, Amaravathi, Divya Jyoti, Hira Nagar, Nagpur and SMMI Novitiate, Bhatagaon, Raipura. **Fr.Chacko Valiaveetil** preached a retreat to two CTC Sisters in Thozhamai Illam.

**Fr. Maria Jeyaraj**, as a member of a Dialogue Circle in Chennai, arranged a meeting on 20th January on the mystical experiences of saints from various religious traditions. The meeting was very enriching.

Christanand C. Valiaveetil.

## AICUF

Madurai Regional Executive Committee met on 7th January at IDEAS, Madurai and Tiruchi Regional Executive Committee met on 9th January at AICUF house, Tiruchi and planned for the forthcoming activities.

The State Dalit Commission organised a State level special training camp for Dalit students and some non-Dalit students from 12th to 14th January at IDEAS centre on the theme "Education as an Instrument for Dalit Liberation". The programme was inaugurated by **Fr. Jebamalai Raja** and the State advisor **Fr. Maria Singarayar** offered felicitations. **Dr. Antony Cruz** of St. Joseph's College, **Prof. Arul Prasath** of Arul Anandar college, **Mr. Maran**, specialized in skills training and **Mr. Nagaraj**, General Secretary of "Puratchi Puligal" were the main resource persons. The regional advisor **Fr. Arul Ravi** co-ordinated the camp.

The State advisor Fr. Maria Sinagrayar conducted the National Dalit Commission Meeting at AICUF house, Chennai on 13th & 14th January. Four of our girl students along with the full-timer **Ms. Gomathi** participated in the National Women's Commission Meeting held at AICUF house, Chennai from 17th to 19th January and **Ms. Vincey** of St. Mary's College, Tuticorin was elected as the National Convenor of the Commission.

The seventh World Social Forum with the theme "Another World is Possible" was held at Nairobi, the capital of Kenya from 20th to 25th January. The National Student Convenor **Ms. Beena Joice** of Fatima College, Madurai and the State advisor Fr. Maria Singarayar represented AICUF in the forum as SAPI delegates. We are ever grateful to **Fr. Joe Xavier**, the co-ordinator of SAPI, who gave this golden opportunity of being part of WSF.

A three-day street theatre training was given to thirty members of St. Joseph's College, Cuddalore from 26th to 28th January by our full-time volunteers **Mr. Ananda Babu** and **Ms. Gomathi**.

Singam.

## JESUIT TSUNAMI SERVICE- CHENNAI ZONE.

In the Chennai zone, different events were organized in the past three months. The joy of Christmas was shared with the staff and students of St. Joseph's school in Pulicat celebrating it in a grand manner when **Fr. Louis**, Coordinator, Chennai Zone gave the Christmas message. A one-day leadership programme was organized for the 11<sup>th</sup> std. students and the sessions were handled by Fr. Louis, **Schs. Poondi Rajan** and **Thangadurai**. A one-day outing to Vandalore Zoo, Vedanthangal birds' sanctuary and Kuppayanallur was organized for the 10<sup>th</sup> std students of Pulicat on 20<sup>th</sup> of January. On January 25<sup>th</sup> a Health Awareness Programme was organized at Pulicat. **Sr. Thecla FSJ** a staff nurse, organized the programme. There were around 50 women participants who benefited by it.

*Poondi Rajan*

## JESUIT TSUNAMI SERVICE, NAGAPATTINAM

The Jesuit team sat with the staff members for a review to take stock of all the activities right from the beginning up to date. The staff members were actively involved in the review and shared their views on the mission of Jesuit Tsunami Service. Significant points on the strengths and weaknesses of SAPI emerged in the meeting. They would really help the team to work out newer strategies in future. A group of fifteen Jesuits who came for a one-day consultation with the SAPI team threw light on how the Nagai mission should spread its wings in the days to come.

The second year anniversary of tsunami was observed in all the coastal villages of Nagapattinam. The tsunami survivors who had lost their friends and relatives were in tears and lit candles in front of the tsunami memorials. The Nagai Jesuit Team along with its staff paid homage to the dead in front of the tsunami memorial built in *Pudupetta*. People of this village believe that all the dead have become little gods and actually protect the village from the odds of nature.

Two more community halls in *Puliyandurai* and *Maragatham Colony* were completed and were inaugurated. People of these two villages feel proud to have a tall building as a symbol of unity and integrity. They always express their gratitude to the SAPI team.

Accompanied by a professor, six students of Boston college who are doing Master of Social Work were with us for a week-long exposure programme. They had field visits coupled with serious reflections on the reality of Dalits, fisher folk, the youth and orphan children. We are grateful to **Fr. Lazar**, Rector of St. Joseph's college and his team who came all the way from Tiruchi to facilitate a fruitful interaction with the Boston students. We thank **Fr. Aloysius** and his research associate, **Jai Shree** for their commendable guidance and journey with the students. **Fr. Paul Mike** and **Sch. Baskar** had made meticulous arrangement for the success of the programme.

St. Joseph's Community College students celebrated Christmas and Pongal in a simple and meaningful manner. The cultural programme of the students was enjoyable and the thematic speeches of the special guests instilled hope and confidence in the student community.

St. Joseph's Community College secured one gold medal and one rank in the Tamil Nadu Open University exam conducted during the last academic year, 2005-2006. **Pastin Raj**, our student of Refrigeration and Air conditioning Technician course secured the First Rank and Gold medal and **Junaiitha Begum**, our student of Office Management course got the Fifth rank. Both the students received the gold medal and the rank certificate respectively from the Governor of Tamil Nadu at the second convocation ceremony held in Chennai. It is significant that in the very first year of its existence, the college has achieved something praiseworthy.

**Fr. A. Irudaya Raj** conducted a two-day seminar on Media Education for 55 refugee girls from various tailoring centres organized by JRS. **Fr. Paul Mike** conducted four days of sessions on social analysis for Holy Cross tertian Sisters.

*A. Irudaya Raj*

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## FR. PROVINCIAL'S VISIT TO MADURAI DIASPORA IN KENYA, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE

I was very happy to visit **Frs. Zac Pazheparambil**, **Mariano Dorairaj** and **Maria Wenisch** in Nairobi, Kenya. Wenisch delayed his departure to Dar es Salaam to meet me. Fr. Zac came by public means from Nyeri and Fr. Dorairaj has been at PAC (Pedro Aruppe Community),

Nairobi, for about a year. I found Fr. Dorairaj in good shape physically but with a failing memory. My proposal to take him to Dindigul for rest and recuperation was kindly consented to by him, his local and major superiors.

I found Nairobi invaded by a whole host of Jesuits from different provinces on the occasion of the seventh World Social Forum (WSF) from 20th to 25th January. The Ignatian *parivar* had a three day session in preparation for the WSF and I had the pleasure of meeting many friends. The Madurai participants were **Frs. Michalraj, Singarayar, Stephen Martin, Jebamalai Raja** plus two sent by the POSA, **Frs. A. Joseph Xavier** and **Kamal**. All six of them paid me a visit in the UN Office, Gigiri. Jesuits from other provinces visited me in Loyola House. It was a memorable occasion, indeed.

Owing to a missed connecting flight, I arrived in Harare (Zimbabwe) a day later than scheduled. However, as **Fr. Andrews** had come from Bulawayo to Harare, I could meet him, meet the brethren in the Province Infirmary and joined ,for an after dinner recreation, my Jesuit friends on the staff of Arrupe College.

From 27<sup>th</sup> January till I boarded my flight back to Nairobi-Mumbai, **Frs. Dhana** and **Ravi** were with me and **Frs. Singam, Raja, Joseph Xavier** and **Kamal**. This the first time I did a visitation with a delegation! Actually, it turned out to be a picnic or a guided tour to the Chikuni Mission, Livingstone and Victoria Falls, one of the seven natural wonders of the world and a World Heritage site.

The work of our men in Africa is much appreciated. Even those who had a stint in Zambia, e.g., **Frs. Vara, A. Maria Joseph, Andrew, Vinny** and others are fondly remembered. I had useful exchanges with the concerned major superiors in terms of Jesuits to be missioned to Africa and arrangements for African students including Jesuit students to study in our colleges in Tamil Nadu.

## A LETTER FROM THE JRS INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR TO THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Fr. Provincial,

Christmas is a special time for the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS). We are called upon to be effective signs of God's love and reconciliation. Even in the darkest moments of the last six months, staff and volunteers brought light to the most forgotten. As peace returns to Angola, Liberia and Indonesia, IRS teams have accompanied displaced persons back home and where this was not possible helped them to integrate into their new communities.

In other countries, primarily Sri Lanka and Sudan, conflict has exploded. Estimates put the number killed this year as high as 3,000 in Sri Lanka, on top of 65,000 killed and 350,000 displaced since 1983. The recent violence and displacement have seriously curtailed our capacity to provide education and rebuild local schools and homes. Nonetheless, JRS Sri Lanka continues to bring humanitarian relief to suffering persons. In Darfur, western Sudan, the situation is catastrophic where some two million people have been forced to flee from their homes and despite the sporadic violence, IRS has continued to provide educational services to displaced children.

Calls to establish new projects and expand others are constantly made to IRS. In Angola, without adequate documentation, many refugees end up in prison. We are now working to ensure that refugees get proper documentation to protect them from arbitrary detention. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, JRS negotiates with armed groups to free child soldiers, and ensure they receive psychosocial support, educational and vocational training. Since June this year, other projects have also been opened in Guinea, Indonesia, and Liberia.

Your support and prayers for IRS are essential. Without them, we would struggle more than ever to fulfil our mission to accompany, serve and advocate the cause of the refugees. Meeting so many diverse needs is an ongoing strain on our already overstretched resources. Our role is to promote peace and struggle against injustice. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for your solidarity.

Yours sincerely  
*Lluis Magrina, SJ*

## NEW RELEASES

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## ABIDE WITH THE LORD

- Br. Albert Soares** (GOA) 70/46, on Jan 03 at Panaji, Goa.
- Fr. Antony Manipadam** (KER) 85/60 on Jan 15 at Calicut.
- Fr. Vadakencherry Thomas George** (AND) 76/57 on Jan 15 at Sanathnagar, Hyderabad.
- Fr. Dominic Gomez** (KER) 71/52 on Jan 23 at Thiruvananthapuram.
- Mrs. Arputhamary** (70) elder sister of Br. Joseph M. Arockiam, on Jan 13 at Athoor.
- Mr. Manuel** (79), father of Fr. Vincent Amalraj, on Jan 17 at Rajakembiram.
- Mrs. Soosaiammal** (90) sister of Br. A.M. Santiago, on Jan 22.
- Sr. Mary Amalit** S.A.T. (62) , sister of Fr. Gabriel Lawrence on Jan 22 at Tiruchi.