



Madurai News Letter

FEBRUARY 2010

(For Private Circulation)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

February

- 06-07 Dindigul: Beschi: Formation Commission GBM
- 08-14 Tiruchi: Visitation: St. Joseph's College
- 12 Tiruchi: SUPAM
- 13 Tiruchi: AICUF House: Youth Commission GBM
- 15 Tiruchi: Visitation: Clive's House
- 20-21 Dindigul: Anugraha: Communication Commission GBM
- 21 AM Dindigul : Vaigarai Silver Jubilee celebration
- 22-26 Vettavalam, Kilpennathur, Vallam, Palliagaram, Kuppayanallur, Ongur, Ranipet: Visitation
- 27 Chennai : Consult and Berchmans Illam Golden Jubilee celebration

March

- 6 Dindigul: Consult with Fr Lisbert
- 7-13 Trivandrum, JCSA
- 14 - 22 Chennai: Visitation: Loyola College

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☛ **Fr. General** has appointed:
Fr. John Dardis President of the Conference of European Provincials (from October 2010)
- ☛ **Transfers:**
Fr. Devadhas Muthiah Chaplain at Gonzaga Novitiate, Tindivanam
Fr. Lourduraj Arokiasamy Jesuit Novitiate, Arusha, Tanzania (East African Province)
- ☛ **Please note the change of Email and Cell No:**
Fr. Justin Emmanuel: justemmasj@gmail.com
Fr. Valiaveetil Chacko: 94876-41662

PROVINCE RETREAT

This year the Province retreat will be preached by **Fr. Errol Fernandes**, (Bombay) from **5th evening till 13th evening of May 2010** at **Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur**. Jesuits from the South Asian Assistency are also welcome. Contact person: Fr. Britto Peter, PCF Cell: (0) 94426-26581

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

On Jan 25th 2010, **Fr K Amal**, Rector, signed on behalf of Loyola College the legal agreement between Loyola College Society and ICAM; the Director-General of ICAM-Group will sign it later in France.

Ten days prior to this event, a group of ICAM engineers, numbering 60 visited the engineering college building site at Loyola College and were very happy about the progress achieved so far. **Fr. Joe Arun** neatly presented the proposals. The group members were happy to meet **Fr Ceyrac**.

LIFE organized a national conference on 'Climate Change and Future Security' on Jan 8th and 9th 2010. Though it was a national conference, scientists from Japan, Scotland, and Germany presented papers. The Vice-Chancellor of Madras University very much appreciated the research work in Loyola especially the LIFE conference on a current topic. On Jan. 8th **Prof. Kenzo Iwao** of Nagoya Institute of Technology, Japan delivered an endowment lecture on "New mosquito trap to control west Nile fever, dengue fever, malaria, chikungunya and other diseases caused by mosquitos".

Fr. Francis P. Xavier was invited to assist the Presentation Congregation in the discernment process of a school ministry on Jan 3rd. He directed a seven-day retreat for the Major Superiors and their counsellors of St Anne's Congregation, Tiruchi (Jan 14-20).

A G Leonard

LOYOLA COLLEGE, VETTAVALAM

After the Christmas vacation, classes commenced on 4th Jan. We are much indebted to **Fr. Emmanuel Arockiam** for being with us on 9th January. He gave the staff and the students a few helpful tips. One of the staff mentioned that it had been very enriching and inspiring. **Frs. Elias and Royce** and **Sch. Poondi** conducted a follow-up programme to the non-teaching staff on the same day as to how effectively they can render their service.

The first Annual Sports Day was held on 23rd January. **Mr. K. Puhazendi**, District Sports Officer, Thiruvannamalai presided over the function and gave away the prizes to all the winners. Our students took active participation in all the events. On 26th January the 60th Republic Day was celebrated in a meaningful manner. Fr. Royce, Vice-Principal hoisted the National Flag and gave the Republic Day Message. To mark this day, 100 saplings were planted in the campus by our students and the staff.

Fr. Bob Grimm, Associate Treasurer General visited our College on 8th January and we had a meaningful interaction with him. **Mr. Phil Nevett** from England visited our College. **Ms. Hania Lubienka**, JMV Volunteer Coordinator, Jesuit Mission, London was with us for two days to assess the favourable conditions in view of sending two volunteers from August 2010 for six months primarily to teach English to our rural students; she had interaction with our students and visited two neighbouring villages to meet the parents of our students.

Poondi Rajan

ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI

The Scholastics began the New Year with a fruitful triduum, meaningfully conducted by **Fr. Bellarmine** at the Servite Brothers' Novitiate, Mamallapuram. On 16th January the children from our neighbourhood ministries were brought together to Arul Kadal for Children's Day Celebration. It was a moment of joy for the children especially for the differently abled children to exhibit their talents. **Fr. Ignatius Irudayam's 100th Birthday** was celebrated on 19th January in Arul Kadal. His followers in collaboration with Arul Kadal held a public meeting on the same day evening inviting the **Most Rev. Chinnappa** and the **Most Rev. Lawrence Pius**, and leaders from other faiths. Also the photo exhibition organized by the Arul Kadalites, depicted the growth of Aikiya Alayam during the time of Fr. Ignatius, brought his memories alive to the invitees.

Fr Provincial's Visitation was a moment of grace to the Community and we are grateful to him for his encouragement and guidance. Fr. Provincial blessed and inaugurated the new Digital Library. Arul Kadal convened a two-day Seminar on 23rd and 24th of January on the theme, "Priesthood in the 21st century: Challenges and Responses". Eight papers relevant to Priesthood were presented by the Alumni with two panel discussions. The participants were able to reflect and present Priesthood from the contextual needs and different perspectives. **Fr. Maria Arul Raja** addressed 150 OMI priests and formees and 25 minor seminarians of Vellore Diocese on the topic "Priesthood

amidst Conflicts" and gave a talk on "Healing the Broken World" to the Loyola College hostel students. He also delivered the Christmas Message to the staff members, MCDS. **Schs. Gnana Raj, Roch, Ignacy, Wilson** and **Fr. Wenisch** wrote one-minute reflections for the Advent season for the Vatican radio. Fr. Wenisch presented a paper titled "Integrating Indigenous Knowledge (IK) and Scientific Knowledge (SK) using Ontology in a Knowledge Based System" at an International Conference organized by the Industrial Engineering Department of Anna University, Chennai.

Antony Robinson

ST JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, UDHAGAMANDALAM

The inauguration of the 2nd block of our St. Joseph's Boys' Home, was held on the 13th of January. **Fr. Antonysamy**, the Assistant Parish Priest, Cathedral, Madurai, blessed and **Fr. Victor Arulappan**, our Mission Superior opened the building. The renovated statue of our patron saint St. Joseph was unveiled and blessed by **Fr. Rajarathinam**, the Principal, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi. Fr. Mission Superior thanked all who were involved in the construction work and specially appreciated the inmates and acclaimed their contribution in putting up the building. He also asked the boys to use the new building as their own home where they can grow in life earning skills and discipline. As our boys have a new, secure home to stay and study well, we gratefully remember all our well-wishers and benefactors for their prayers and timely support. Our sincere thanks to **Mr. Johannes Mispegal** (Germany) and his team, for having donated a 1500 lpd solar water heating system, which was installed in the last week of December, 2009.

Theresunathan Soosai

AHAL, KILPENNATHUR

On 07th January the teachers from study centres were called for a meeting to plan out the strategies of the Pongal Sports Day.

The Pongal Sports Day was celebrated on 13th January. Students numbering 517 from 30 villages participated and enjoyed the events such as the march-past, common games, stall games and cultural programmes. **Fr. Michaeldoss**, Secretary, Loyola College, Vettavalam and **Mr. Ruben**, Assistant Headmaster, Boys Government Hr Sec. School, Kilpennathur were the chief guests. The Pongal Day was celebrated in the Kilpennathur parish and in the substations on 14th and 15th January by the Women Groups.

Rayappan

DHYANA ASHRAM CHENNAI

Fr. S.M.Selvaraj and **Fr.X. Irudayaraj** had a two-day special programme on 06 and 07 January at Dhyana Asram on "Consecrated Life Today" which was attended by religious drawn from various Congregations. **Frs. Jerry** and **Thamburaj** also handled sessions in it.

Fr. James Rodrigues directed a retreat for the Jesuit deacons in Vidyajyoti, Delhi. **Fr R.J. Raja** conducted a retreat for some Andhra Jesuits preparing for their final commitment.

Fr. Jerry was in Nepal for a week to Nepal before Christmas to address the faculty members of the Jesuit schools and colleges on Education and collaboration. He had 5 one-day seminars on the above themes. He also addressed students of various departments of St Xavier's College, Kathmandu, and had sessions with the Jesuits-in-formation in the region of Nepal.

A week-long Mission Retreat at DA Chennai preached by Fr Jerry during the Christmas Octave was attended by 62 women religious of four congregations. He gave talks to the Assembly of MSFS of Tamil Nadu-Pondy at Tiruchi, besides leading a workshop for the priests of the Diocese of Eluru. He organized a free medical camp (for 400 beneficiaries) at Chennai.

Fr. Thamburaj preached in early December two retreats in Igatpuri for the priests of Vasai and Amaravati dioceses. After Christmas he addressed the National Charismatic Convention held at Vasai on the theme 'How to build the Body of Christ by making use of charisms. Around 14000 people attended the convention.

Fr Provincial's visitation was a new year gift for us.

The second DABEX-2010 (Dhyana Ashram Book Exhibition) had 31 productions by the Dhyana Ashram Community in the last year of 2009. Two magazines are being edited. Two CDs, 2 biblical/theological sections and 25 books, many of them have several editions.

"An impressive communication-contribution by a small Jesuit community" commented Fr. Provincial. **Fr. Varaprasadam** is with us after recovering from a severe viral fever.

Thamburaj

JESUIT PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

VMI breathed fresh air on the arrival of our pre-novices for the third term on 4th of January.

On the day of 'Pongal' the pre-novices were exuberant in offering in the special Mass the chemical free and home grown yields of their own hard labour and sweat. They had a 'day out' to Poondi.

A triduum animated by **Fr. X. Savarimuthu** for the pre-novices turned a new leaf in their life. It helped them clear the fog in the path of their vocation and geared their motivation too.

A much-needed water pipe line was laid and a submersible motor was installed in our house within a short spell of time. Carpentry works are also going on in full swing. Special thanks to **Fr. Britto Peter** and **Fr. Thomas** for their strenuous efforts and timely execution of the proposals of Fr. Provincial.

Clement

JESUIT JUNIORATE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Community Day celebration went on well from 26 to 28 December. Through various games we exhibited our talents and deepened the community spirit. On 29th evening we enacted the life of St. Francis Xavier

in a mega sound and light show. This helped people to deepen their devotion to St. Francis Xavier. On 30th we had a one-day cultural tour to Kanyakumari where we were stunned to see the colossal statue of Thiruvalluvar, the imposing Vivekanandar Memorial and the breathtaking view of the three seas. In the evening we enjoyed the kind hospitality of the Jesuit community in Thozhamai Illam.

The New Year began on 6th Jan with a refreshing Triduum by **Fr. Jacob Madukakuzhy**. On the third day, we renewed our vows with fervour, remembering our first commitment. Pongal festival was the first grand celebration in the New Year. On that day we prepared pongal in the open. It was blessed and shared in the refectory after a grand sung Mass in Tamil.

The children's festival 'Balamela' was conducted for 350 children from neighbouring parishes. It was a day of fun, games and cultural activities. The whole day was filled with uproarious laughter and tumultuous applause. From 20 to 22 January we attended a course on Psycho-Sexual Integration given by **Fr. Jossy Rodrigues**, Rector of St. Aloysius College, Mangalore. It was helpful towards greater assimilation and personalisation of psycho-sexual factors. Juniors' day out on 25th was a good break from regular work. Republic Day was celebrated praying for peace in the country.

Arock

DNC, PUNE

From 1st to 5th of January IISR organised an international seminar in Lonawala on Science-Religion Dialogue in the world of Nano science, in which some of our province men participated. JDV reopened after the Christmas vacation on 5th January. On 15 Jan, DNC had a festive lunch prepared by the Tamil scholastics, sharing the joy of Pongal with the entire community. The annual play was staged on 23rd and 24th Jan. **Fr. Cyril Desbruslais'** "The Future of Pilgrim" portrayed the life of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and it was both informative and inspirational to all in JDV. A special word of appreciation to Schs. William and Santosh for their participation as actors.

Y. Baskar

SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI

From 2 Jan 2010, **Fr. Ilanko Xavier** directed the scholastics of Satya Nilayam in a Triduum unfolding the aspect of 'Mystical God Experience through our Vows.' It was well appreciated. All of us, including the director renewed our vows during the third day Eucharist. **Fr. Britto Peter** followed by **Fr.M. Devadoss** visited our community. We are grateful to them for their encouraging words and support.

Sch. Anton Robert, along with his team, organized the Pongal Celebration in the Community. 'Love, Joy, Gratitude... Life Abundance' was the theme that captured the minds of everyone here. **Sch. Thomas Antony** is well known for his blessing ministry. With his team, he is in great demand for blessing the faithful especially on the festival days. **Fr. V. Ignatius**, besides his teaching and television ministry has successfully conducted the annual charismatic convention in two places near Chennai. He has also released his new audio CD-'Punithame

Punithame'. **Fr. Anand Amaladoss**, Emeritus Professor, keeps himself busy presenting papers and giving lectures.

Fr. Jerry Rosario took classes on Periyar and Ambedkar. We thank **Fr. Christie** Director, LIBA for providing us with a new computer. **Sch. Kilbert** is busy planning for an educational trip to Kilpanathur and Vettavalam so that the second years may come to know about the Jesuit Mission among the target people and Ramana Maharishi. **Sch. Jaya Prakash** is our new coordinator who shows great interest in the Province activities.

Cyril Suresh

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

On 14 January the Beschi Community had a Solemn Mass for Pongal festival. On 15 they along with Sisters of CIS and the co-workers at the farm had a grand Pongal Celebration. On 26 January the 60th Republic Day was celebrated with a High Mass, followed by flag hoisting and an inspiring speech by novice **Paul Raj**. **Fr. Arul Sivan** gave an 8-day retreat to the Holy Cross Sisters. He also conducted a workshop for three days on discernment, for the Holy Cross Sisters who are preparing themselves for their final commitment.

Frs. Dhanaraj and **Chelladurai** participated in the Birth Centenary Celebration of Father Ignatius Hirudayam held in Chennai on 18th and 19th. Fr. Dhanaraj was one of the main speakers in the public meeting. Father Chelladurai gave a short music recital of the songs of Fr. Ignatius Hirudayam. Later he gave a music demonstration at St. Paul's Seminary in Tiruchi on the Feast day of the Conversion of St. Paul.

A. Leo Pereira

ST. MARY'S, DINDIGUL

The Alumni Association of St. Mary's organized a camp and screened all our VII standard students for dental problems. Students participated actively in this camp and benefited from it. **Dr. P. Senthil Kumar** BDS, our alumnus, helped us in this camp. On Republic Day, our alumni members went to St. Joseph's Hospice for the dying destitute and sponsored a lunch for all its inmates. It was a meaningful and useful gesture. Our members were impressed and inspired by the wonderful service done there for the suffering humanity.

We celebrated our remarkable victory in hockey during a school assembly on 23rd. Our hockey teams, both super senior and senior, won gold medals in the State level hockey tournament. So far only sports hostel hockey teams have been winning in the State level matches for the past twenty seven-years. St. Mary's super senior hockey team has created history by winning this for the first time. Twenty donors came forward to felicitate the teacher in charge and the teams with valuable prizes. Our hockey coach, **Mr. Victor** has been adjudged the best games teacher in Dindigul district and our district collector honoured him with a merit certificate and a medal during the Republic Day celebrations.

S.M. John Kennedy

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

There is something very special about the Christmas Crib in the Cathedral: year after year, people of all faiths especially Hindus in thousands and Muslim women also flock to receive the blessings of the newborn babe Jesus. The midnight Holy Mass marking the birth of the New Year was celebrated by our Archbishop with the usual piety as well as fanfare. As a symbol of peace, prosperity and fraternal harmony, two doves were also let out by him in the skies. The Cathedral Parish arranged an Environmental Protection Programme to the Parish Council members and **Fr. Samy** with the help of LCD Projector made it an interesting and educative programme. This was immediately followed by a Thanksgiving Mass after which the Pongal prepared by all the 'Anbians' of the Parish was blessed and distributed to the people much to their delight.

The Apostolic Home after a lapse of some years celebrated the Feast of Sr. Francis Xavier in a fitting manner bringing out at the same time the latent talents of the inmates. Our community had a meeting with **Fr. Bob Grimm** and of course **Fr. Roy**, our Procurator was leading the discussion of devising ways and means for augmenting our financial resources. Later the community went on a pilgrimage during the Pongal holidays to the Shrine of St. Alphonsa at Bharananganam, which was really a spiritually enriching event in the midst of day-to-day hectic activities.

The School has seriously begun preparing the students for the final exams, hoping that this year also the school would have good results but also with the accolades of the State Ranks, like last year. Kudos to Sivaramalingam, VIII Std boy of our School who has got Silver Medal in Boxing at the National level competition which was held in Maharashtra.

Bastian

LATI, MADURAI

Sch. I. Antony was invited to participate in an International Symposium on "Science and Religion dialogue in a nano-science world" held in Pune and organized by the Indian Institute of Science and Religion (IISR).

On 13th Jan. Pongal was celebrated jointly by Loyola ITI and Madurai Community College **Prof. Siriyapushpam**, drew attention to the uniqueness of the harvest festival of Pongal in Tamil culture. The students of both institutions performed a variety of cultural bonanza applauded by the audience.

Loyola Institute of Solar Energy and Technology (LSET) conducted on 22 Jan. a one-day workshop on Popularization of Solar Energy Solutions at LATI campus in collaboration with Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency (TEDA). There were 120 representatives from schools, colleges and NGOs, in the workshop. The delegates of solar energy companies demonstrated and explained the process of solar products. **Mr. Syed Ahmed**, Deputy General Manger, TEDA, Madurai presided over the function and **Fr. Stephen J. Muthu** highlighted the use of solar products in homes and institutions. LSET helped CIS and St. Xavier's College to install solar water heaters.

On 24th Jan. the Madurai Community College arranged the second parents' meet to sensitize students and parents to the importance of employable skill and industrial training. "Talents show 2010", a keenly awaited cultural ovation of the Madurai Community College, turned out to be an occasion for our students to exhibit their latent talents and prove their mettle in different ways. Thanks to Sch. Inigo, who coordinated the programmes.

Private ITIs volleyball tournament at district level was hosted by Loyola ITI. The Loyola team won the district level final match. Loyola ITI organised technical skill programme for the boys and girls in the slums, sponsored by Tamil Nadu Government Slum Clearance Department.

Our hearty congratulations to **Schs. Berkman** and **George** for securing first places in the semester exam of DIT and DME courses respectively at the MAVMM Polytechnic College, Madurai.

I.Inigo

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

Carmel H. S. School celebrated the birthday of Veeramamunivar, with competitions in singing, dancing, elocution, essay, drawing, drama, and mono acting, with emphasis on ecology - maintenance and development.

A research paper prepared by our XI th standard students on school environmental activities, studies on water resources in Kulachel Revenue district and the evils of air pollution caused by heavy vehicles and industries, was selected by the district authorities for State level contest.

Barnabas Kavin, a student won the Scooty Pep first prize in the talent-discovery-contest, held at SCAD Engineering College for the students of Kanyakumari Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi Districts. The school also secured four more individual prizes in the same competition.

On behalf of the Carmel Alumni Association, its director, **Br. Arockiadoss** with the help of his team has brought out the first bulletin of "Carmel Murasu" enumerating the many monthly activities of educational and social services to the poor students.

Fr.PS. Arul was one of the resource persons who addressed seventy Jesuit priests on the challenges and hopes of priests in their life, at a seminar held at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, on the 23rd and 24th of January.

S.M. Arockiam

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

On 12th and 13th the department of Philosophy organized a two-day UGC sponsored seminar on "Ethics and Praxis for Democracy". **Dr.R. Christodass Gandhi** I.A.S, Tamil Nadu Energy Development Agency, Chennai gave the inaugural address. The participants gained knowledge on various topics such as media culture, ethics, women and culture, tribal democracy, judiciary and democracy.

On 13th January the Department of RDS celebrated the Tamil New year and Pongal grandly with fun and games. Towards the end of the celebration **Prof. Dr. Aiyadurai** and **Fr.G. Pushparaj** were

greatly praised for their selfless service to their departments and honoured as they retire at the end of this academic year. In the evening **Fr. Robert Grimm** joined the Pongal celebration conducted by the self-financed staff and students. Fr. Principal blessed the pongal and Fr. Secretary spoke on the importance of the celebration in today's context.

The Tamil New year was celebrated with sweet pongal prepared by hostel students; 'Silambattam' was performed by the hostlers. **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** blessed the pongal and wished a Happy Tamil New year.

On 20th, the 31st Graduation Day was held in which the Honourable **D. Napoleon**, Union Minister was the chief guest. In his address he motivated the new graduates highlighting முயற்சி, முன்னேற்றம், முதன்மை to make our dreams come true. He also inaugurated the new block in AAC women's hostel. **Prof. R. Maria Saleth**, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai was the guest of honour; while appreciating the various activities of our College he promised to collaborate with our Dept. of Economics in future.

The constant and tireless effort of Fr. Principal in making buses available for the students has borne fruit. The Tamil Nadu Transport Corporation has permitted town buses to ply thrice a day to our college premises from Madurai and Usilampatty according to our College timings.

The Women Study Centre of our College conducted various programmes for the staff and girl students titled "Women and Gender Crime", "Women and Property Rights" and "Discrimination against Women" respectively.

The students of MCA secured I and II prizes in the various intercollegiate competitions conducted in Madurai.

The Fine Arts Club of our College bagged the overall shield in the cultural competitions conducted by "உதவும் கரங்கள்" in Madurai.

The ministry of Science and Technology has nominated Fr.G. Pushparaj as a member of "Project Evaluation Group" for Science and Technology in the country. Hearty congrats to him.

On 3rd we had New Year celebration with the children of our neighbourhood and gave them a dinner. The informal words of the children amazed us.

On 9th the co-workers of our house with their family members gathered at our house for the celebration of Pongal and were honoured.

Fr. Michael Jeyaraj gave three sessions on "Emotional Maturity for Formation and Relationship" to the professors and staff of the Major Seminaries in Tamil Nadu gathered at Christ Hall Seminary, Karumathur, for their annual Inter-Sem meeting. On 23 he also facilitated a group of Servite Sisters who are involved in social work on "Evaluation and Planning".

S. Antony Anand

ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The community was in the Sri Lankan refugee camp at Naranamagalum celebrating Pongal on 9th Jan. A few of our community members paid a visit to the Perumalpuram camp to distribute gifts in view of Pongal. The children of our non-teaching staff and the domestic workers were with us on 27th Jan for 'Balamela'. One could see the overwhelming joy and happiness on the faces of the children. The scholastics and **Frs. Arulandam, Anbu** and **Rufus** are to be congratulated for the meticulous planning and execution of these programmes. Scholastics made their triduum under the guidance of **Fr. Puthiadam** at Thozamai Illam, Kanyakumari. A warm welcome to **Fr. Paul de La Gueriviere** who has joined our community.

A one - day seminar was organized in SXHSS for our ELT Staff in view of the forth-coming Zonal ELT Mela. **Mr. Ramanujam** and **Mr. Jeyapandian** were the resource persons. LASAC zonal seminar was held on 20th Jan in which seven schools participated.

In SXC, the department of Commerce organized a two-day national workshop on 5th and 6th Jan. Inter-departmental 'Rangoli' competition was organized on 13th Jan, depicting Pongal meaningfully. A special seminar on Women Empowerment was organized on 21st by the women's forum. About 900 girl students of our college took part. **Dr. Rosary Mary** of the Department of Youth Welfare M.S. University was the resource person. The Department of MCA organized a State level academic competition with 22 colleges participating in it. **Fr. Alphonse Manickam**, the Principal, highlighted the meaning and historic importance of the Republic on the Republic Day celebrations; "one rupee per day per person" scheme was launched on that day to help deserving students.

The staff developmental seminar on the use of SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) was conducted on 29th and 30th Dec in SXCE. Dr. Raghavan of the Department of Statistics, Presidency College, Chennai, was the resource person. A series of seminars was organized for the B.Ed trainees on various topics: the 'Basics of First Aid and Scouting' on 4th Jan., 'Anti-Tobacco Awareness' on 6th Jan. and 'Rights of the Consumers' on 9th Jan. The entire College celebrated Pongal on 13th Jan. It was a day filled with activities such as cooking the pongal, games for all the staff and students and cultural programmes. Mr. Chellappa of Puthanery, an alumnus and a well-known public speaker was the chief guest. On 25th Jan. a 'Legal Awareness' programme was conducted by **Fr. Stephen Kulandaisamy** - a practising lawyer in the High court in Madurai. His simple but effective and lively seminar was very much appreciated by the students. A one-day inter-collegiate workshop was organized on 23rd Jan on 'Gender/HIV/AIDS sensitization' in order to sensitize students on the HIV/AIDS affected victims. The highlight of the programme was the sharing by the HIV victims themselves. Thirteen colleges participated in it. On this occasion poster and street-play competitions were held.

M.F. Kennedy

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

More than 1300 students who graduated in the year 2008-09 were given their degrees on 9th January.

'Pongal' was an occasion for the staff and students to come together to express and experience their cultural solidarity among themselves and with nature. Each one was given pongal in a meeting got up to celebrate the premier festival of Tamils. A couple from the peasant community were invited and honoured on this auspicious occasion. The symbolic gesture highlighted our indebtedness to the farmers.

Fr.S. Mani Valan went on air on 30th Dec in All India Radio as he spoke on Thanjai Vedanayaga Shastriar's "Life and Service to Tamil". **Fr. Sebastian Anand** presented a paper on Australian poetry in an International Conference held at Goa. **Fr. Rajarathinam** served as a NAAC Peer Team Member to assess a Government College at Dharwad.

The School football team emerged champions at junior division at the district level. Middle School and High School teachers numbering 50 were introduced to modern techniques in teaching in a two day seminar under the auspices of Shepherd Extension Department. Shepherd also arranged a one-day seminar to 'Anganwadi'(Pre-school) teachers on nutrition and child health. The above programmes and a three-month long programme currently underway on computer related skills for the rural poor are Government sponsored.

Sebastian Anand

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

"Exploration, Experience, Empowerment and Employment" a collection of research articles written on the Community College Movement from 1997 to 2009 was released by His Excellency Andrew T. Simkin, Consul General of the US Consulate. The first copy was received by **Dr. G. Thiruvassagam**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras. The Vice-Chancellor also released the Electronic Version of four Community College Text Books on Life Skills.

The ICRDCE was happy to felicitate 77 Rank Holders from 29 Community Colleges who had achieved this rare distinction in the TNOU exams conducted in 2007 -08 and January 2009 .

Fr. A.Victor, the Mission Superior gave a stirring speech on the Jesuit Mission for empowering the poor through Community Colleges and also a message of encouragement to Rank Holders. It was attended by 450 students, staff, parents and Directors from Community Colleges.

ICRDCE is also instrumental in starting the Nekimuddin Community College at Medinipur near Calcutta and Hindustan Community College at Padur, Chennai.

Xavier Alphonse

IDEAS, MADURAI

On 27 Jan. **Fr. Eugene** underwent bypass surgery in MMM Hospital. Now he is recovering fast. **Fr. Jebamalai Raja's** new book 'வன் கொடுமைகளை வேரறுக்க' [a handbook with pictures on SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989] was released in

Chennai on 24 Jan. on the occasion of the Seminar on Priesthood organised by Arul Kadal.

Determined to give a final shape to the new PSP (Participatory Strategic Planning) initiative launched in late 2009 by **Fr. Michaelraj**, Province Social Action Coordinator, ten of us in the social action ministry on 29 Jan. shared on the preliminary PSP drafts worked out by each social centre. It was then decided to meet again from 23-25 March to fine tune the plan documents. Prior to this meeting there were three important events in the campus: a seven-day gruelling workshop on Communication Skills: Speaking, Writing and Media handled by **Fr. Stephen** on Jan. 04-10. Apart from the cadres from different movements and staff from various Jesuit social centres, the 38 participants also included some Trainers for Training who are being/have been groomed to organize and conduct similar programmes on their own. Then, around 40 women from the Widows Livelihood Movement from KALANKARAI strode into the campus for training on Caste System and Patriarchy from 19th to 20th Jan. And just after this interesting training came 24 co-workers from our houses in the Province to continue their review and reflection of last year's theme related to life orientation.

Aloysius Irudayam

CLIVE'S HOUSE, TIRUCHI

On 23rd December we had Christmas celebrations with 'Christmas-Christ child' exchange of gifts. It was the day which brought us showers of seasonal blessings.

On 14th January, the momentous day of Pongal, we had a special Eucharist by **Fr. Paul Pragash** and remembered all the farmers who are the symbols of life in abundance. We also had an exultant volleyball match and an exciting pot breaking which were the highlights of the day.

On 15th and 16th Jan, we had a two-day community tour to Mysore and Bangalore. We relished viewing the palace. The splendiferous feelings made us feel blissful and renewed our vigour for our academic journey.

Sathyabalan

DACA, MADURAI

A long-felt dream of DACA has been realised with the launching of a monthly - "இது பெரிய எழுத்து" - a magazine with a difference. It amplifies the voice of the voiceless, their culture, stories, aspirations, dreams and ideologies. The magazine was released by **Fr.P. Francis Xavier** in the presence of **Dr. K.A. Gunasekaran**, Director of International Tamil Research Centre, **Dr.N. Muthu Mohan** Controller of Examination MK University and Artist Chandhru in a function organised at DACA on 6 December.

Madurai City Conservancy Workers Development programme, a Unit of DACA organised a "Free Medical Camp" in collaboration with Ceyrac Medical Foundation and Indian Medical Association (IMA), Madurai Branch. It was held on 12th December at Anupanadi benefiting 680 conservancy workers.

The "DACA DAY" was celebrated this year with a soul-stirring cultural event on 24th January. The

purpose of the celebration was to review the activities and achievements of DACA and to rededicate and kindle all the stakeholders of DACA in realising the vision. Month-long competitions, cultural shows and sports were organised for the 200 inmates. The quiz on "Ambedkar" stole the show among the other competitions. The audience were enthralled by the outstanding cultural performances including a fire dance of the students. The august presence of Dr.T. Chelliah, Dean-in-charge, Madurai Medical College and **Mr. Rajkumar Ambedkar** I.A.S enthused the children and motivated them to become agents of social change.

The students and staff of Dr. Ambedkar Women Teacher Training Institute have proved their calibre and competence by obtaining first place in pass-percentage (99%) and second rank in Madurai district. Kudos to students and staff. On 25 January, in collaboration with like-minded organisations, a public hunger strike was organised by the Sankarankovil region of DACA to bring to the notice of the government officers the deprivation of the basic amenities to Dalits at Andarkulam, a village near Sankarankovil.

The community had a day off at Dhanushkodi to celebrate its successes and on the way it had a meaningful Holy Mass in the church of Ven. Anthony Criminali at Vedalai.

Antony Sebasthiraj

LAAS LLAM, MADURAI

LAAS and IDEAS teams along with our lay staff took up the exercise of SWOT analysis and strategic planning initiated by **Fr. L.R. Michaelraj** and guided by **Fr. A.Joe Xavier** at LAAS centre.

Fr. Santhanam addressed the students of Justin B.Ed. College, Madurai and hundreds of women from Varusanadu hills on domestic violence, law and human rights. He conducted a one-day workshop on RTI Act for the young men and women of the southern districts of Tamil Nadu at Don Bosco ITI, Madurai. **Fr. Philomin Raj** along with **Mr. Rathinam** obtained a stay in the Madras High Court and successfully restrained the government from evicting 10 Christian families from their land at Vathalakarai village at Vilathikulam in Thoothukudi district. He presented a paper on "Civil Society and Search for Human Rights - Intervention of Priesthood" organized by Arul Kadal, Chennai. **Fr. Jeyaseelan** was at Arul Kadal, Chennai for teaching General Norms in Canon law from 18 January.

Mr. Thairiyam, our cook has completed 50 years as co-worker in Jesuit Madurai Province. He started his career at Shembaganur in 1960 and has served in the Province as chief cook. His dedicated service was gratefully remembered in the Golden Jubilee thanksgiving Mass and the felicitation function organised in LAAS. His family members, friends and Jesuits gathered to greet him on 17 January. He gladly recalled his cheerful moments and challenging situations in working with Jesuits.

A. Santhanam

ARIYAMANGALAM PARISH

Our Pongal celebrations had as its theme the five elements of Nature expressed through dance skit and singing. Seva Missionary Sisters along with the Sri Lankan refugee girl students participated in the event and enjoyed it.

It was followed by Biodiversity Week. Every day one theme was taken up; the teachers took turns to describe to the students the salient features of every theme. Competitions were held and prizes were awarded for the best articles on the theme of Biodiversity.

As a result of these activities the staff and students have developed a positive love for Mother Nature. The pupils have learnt to love trees and to conserve God's Creation.

NEWS FROM SRI LANKA

We, the parishioners of Maliboda, celebrated Pongal with gaiety. This brought the people together as one family witnessing that Tamil culture is still vibrant in them. It is really a challenging ministry among the Estate Tamils in the Ratnapura Diocese where 70% of the Catholics are Tamils and the rest are Sinhalese. In spite of divisions, disparities and oppression from various sources, the Tamil Catholics are longing for pastoral assistance and guidance. **Fr. Xavier**, the Holy Cross Sisters and I, as a team try to reach out to the people in various ways. Apart from the parish work I was invited to give life-orientation programmes, talks to school students and youths and those who have been victims of the recent conflict in Vavuniya and Mannar. More than 100 girls (between 10 to 29 of age) who were in 'Senchoolai' are now with the Salesian Sisters who are catering to their various needs. It was appalling to listen to their struggles during the two days of Academic Orientation programme 2010 in Vavuniya. Let us hope and pray for a better future for them.

Michael John

BROTHERS RETREAT CUM GBM IN DHYANA ASHRAM, CHENNAI

Fr. Lawrence Amalraj was our Retreat Preacher. Twenty-five Brothers attended the retreat. The main theme was: spiritual journey combined with time management. It was really a new experience to all of us.

After this, we had a General Body Meeting for three days with forty-five Brothers. Frs. Socius, PCF and the Vocation Promoter were present. On the first day and on the second day till noon we listened to erudite lectures by **Frs. A. Joseph Xavier, Arockiasamy Xavier, Britto Bonaventure** and **S. Ignacimuthu** on globalization, fundamentalism, ecology and on new medicines in the market, respectively. The Brothers interacted with the speakers.

In the afternoon of the second day we had an outing to Mamallapuram in honour of our Jubilarians (**Brs. Savarimuthu and Gnanadickam**: Golden and **Br. A.M.Santiago**: Diamond) **Br. Mariasusai**, 92, was also honoured. All the above were eulogized by **Brs. A. Irudayam, Bosco** and **Arulanandam**. It was followed by a splendid dinner in a beautiful resort.

The third day was a day of business. The PCF and the Vocation Promoter shared their views. It was followed by a thanksgiving Mass by Fr. Socius. Brothers were really happy and satisfied with the arrangements made by our Co-ordinator **A. Thomas** and his team. Kudos!

S. Antony

ELT MELA - 2009-2010

Last year, ELT Mela was organized at St. Mary's, Madurai at the State level for all our schools. This year, as per the wish of our SEC members, we had regional Melas in three different places. All our schools were divided into three zones. Thus the first Mela for St. Mary's, Madurai, De Britto, Devakottai and St. Arulanandar, Oriyur was held on 27th in St. Mary's, Madurai. The second Mela for St. Francis Xavier, Tuticorin, St. Xavier's, Palay, Carmel, Nagercoil, St. Thomas, Tuticorin and St. Antony's, Alavanthankulam was held on 29th in St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai. The third Mela for St. Joseph's, Tiruchi, Loyola, Kuppayanallur, St. Mary's, Dindigul and St. Mary's Tope, Tiruchi was held in St. Joseph's College H.S. School, Tiruchi on 30th. St. Mary's, Madurai, Carmel, Nagercoil and St. Joseph's, Tiruchi scored the highest points in the overall tally and took away Arrupe's ELT Rolling Trophies.

The aim of the Mela was to arouse the interest of the students in English learning and express and bring out their talents through English. All the schools prepared well for the Mela. This was evidenced by the quality of the programmes and intensity of the competitive spirit. There was vibrant participation in all the programmes.

At the end of each Mela, we had an evaluation with all the ELT teachers of the participating schools about the preparation and the execution of the Mela. There was unanimous feeling that they were able to learn from one another during the Mela. There was good cooperation and encouragement from the Jesuit management. It has definitely instilled confidence among students to speak and write in English.

S.M. John Kennedy
SEC - Coordinator

AICUF

The State Level Convention was held from January 16-18, and inaugurated with a parai dance. **Fr. Susai** in his address pointed out that our students should get involved in the transformation of society and contribute to its development which are very essential during the period of studentship. The AICUF national advisor **Fr. Henry Jerome** pointed out that if we do anything in favour of the people, the other organizations are always against it. **Fr. Rajarethinam** the Principal of St. Joseph's College shared his thoughts about the power of positive thinking.

Prof. Amalanathan spoke on "Marxism and Leninism from the students' perspective. He said that if we can solve the individual problem it is easy to find a solution for societal problems. **Fr. Arul Ravi**, said that radical change is possible only when students participate in politics and play an active role in it.

"The liberation of women and Dalits are in the hands of students because they are the only weapons to bring a change in society" according to Dr. Ambedkar, said **Mr. Vaikari**. **Ms. Anni Rose** and **Sherin** shared their experience which motivated the students to get into committed life. **Mr. Arthur Kumar**, **Mr. Chellapandi**, **Mr. Charless** and **Mr. Baskar** (ex aicufers) challenged every present aicufer to play an active part in the formation of social revolution. In the valedictory function Fr. Principal of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi insisted on individual as well as social responsibility. **Fr. Devasahaya Raj** in his presidential address said that the youth should have the courage to enter into movemental politics in order to make our life better and expressed his strong belief that the youth can do wonders by the very fact that they are energetic and expressive. The State Convention came to an end as the State vice president Alphonsa read out the vision statement of the convention.

Ravi

KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

Commemorating Children's Day, a day-long sports cum cultural events were organized in Nagapattinam for 150 children of our evening study centres from 10 different villages. Congrats to **Sch. Richard** on his initiative!

Four workshops each for three days were organized for women. Out of them three were on, 'Discriminating Cultural factors of Widows and Deserted women' and one was on 'Male Chauvinism and Caste System'. In each workshop, around 40 members participated.

Twenty widows along with **Fr. Paul Mike** went to Rameswaram on 11th December to take part in a public hearing organized by a federation of fishermen. Indeed, that was an eye-opener to the participants who came to know about the perils ahead of the entire east coastal region, and the violation of human rights done to the fishing community in a planned manner.

He presented a paper on "Priesthood in the process of the empowerment of marginalized women" in the seminar organized by Arul Kadal at Dhyana Ashram.

Loyola

YOUTH COMMISSION

The Youth Commission Meet was held at LAAS Illam on 26.01.10. The coordinator briefed the group of the works undertaken by the Commission during the past 6 months. The members expressed their solidarity with the efforts taken in the ongoing works of the Commission. They also designed the schedule for the General Body Meeting that is to be held on 13th Feb 2010. "நிழலும் நிஜமும் - இளையோர் ஏதார்த்தம்" is the theme chosen for the GBM. **Fr. Anbarasan** gave a brief note on the JYMSA Consultation held at Bangalore. On 23rd and 24th of Jan a special programme was organized by the Youth Commission for our 24 co-workers with the help of IDEAS, who found it very useful. **Fr. Xavier Antony** guided and accompanied them during the 2 days which included a short picnic to Vaigai Dam. On 9th Jan a seminar was organized at Sirumalai, a pilgrim centre of Vathirairuppu parish. **Mr. Chandrakumar**, Advocate, made them understand the social reality the youth encounter today. Thanks to Fr. Anbarasan for choosing

this wonderful place for the Seminar. On 21st Jan **Fr. Philomin Raj** helped a group of MSW students belonging to Bishop Appasamy College, Coimbatore to analyze the society during their village exposure in Thalavadi, Erode district. On different dates he gave orientation to the field staff belonging to various organizations in Coimbatore and Thirumangalam and helped the staff to address the rights issues arising in their localities. On 30th, PEAK team organized a volleyball tournament followed by a seminar for the unorganized youths from many villages in Kodai hills. The enthusiasm of the youths was immensely galvanizing the organizers.

Philomin Raj

JRS, TAMIL NADU

On 11 December, the 18th batch of Mullaikudi Grihini students completed their 6-month course. **Fr.P. Susai**, Rector of St. Joseph College, presided over the valedictory function and gave away prizes and certificates to 28 of our Grihini students for their 6-month fruitful and self-employable training.

Five of our staff took part in creative writing workshop which was organized by IDEAS from 4th to 10th January to learn the art of becoming a writer, poet, novelist, publisher, etc.

The 19th batch of Mullaikudi Grihini students had their 3-day orientation from 5 to 7th January, given by **Schs. Berchmans** and **John Michael** and followed by the inaugural function held on 9th. The guests of honour were Fr. Devaraj, Director of TMSSS Tiruchi, **Fr. Prem Kumar**, **Fr. Felix Joseph** and Seva Missionary Sisters.

JRS team had its monthly meet at Beschi Illam from 25 to 28th January. **Ms. Francisca**, the programme finance officer from JRS international office Rome was present during the meeting. **Fr. Jayapathy** and his team conducted a 2-day workshop on alcoholism for 32 members of JRS staff, which was an eye-opener for all of us.

John Michael

NEW RELEASES

'**The Rights of the Marginalized**' by Fr. Francis P Xavier, DHRC, Chengalpattu, Dec 2009.

'**வன்கொடுமைகளை வேறுக்க**' (a hand book with pictures on SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989), by Jebamalai Raja, Muhil Publication (IDEAS), pp.92, Rs.25.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Jean-Yves Calvez (France), 83, died on January 11, 2010. He was General Assistant from 1971 till 1983. All Jesuits are expected to offer a Mass for him.

Nallamuthu, 85, father of Fr. Ignatius Britto on 28 January
Mary, 58, sister-in-law of Br.M.L. John Bosco on 30 January

A priest is...

A priest is a lover of God,
a priest is a lover of men,
a priest is a holy man,
because he walks before the face of the All-Holy.
A priest understands all things,
a priest forgives all things,
a priest encompasses all things.
The heart of a priest is pierced, like Christ's,
with the lance of love.
The heart of a priest is open, like Christ's,
for the whole world to walk through.
The heart of a priest is a vessel of compassion,
the heart of a priest is a chalice of love,
the heart of a priest is the trysting place
of human and divine love.
A priest is a man whose goal is to be another Christ,
a priest is a man who lives to serve.
A priest is a man who has crucified himself
so that he too may be lifted up
and draw all things to Christ.
A priest is a man in love with God.
A priest is the gift of God to man
of man to God.
A priest is the strength of the Word made flesh,
a priest is the naked sword of God's justice,
a priest is the hand of God's mercy,
a priest is the reflection of God's love.
Nothing can be greater in this world than a priest,
nothing but God himself.

Catherine de Hueck Doherty