

MNL

JANUARY 2008

(For Private Circulation)

PROGRAMME OF THE ACTING PROVINCIAL January

26 Jan - 01 Feb Curia, Dindigul
04 Feb Consult at Loyola College,
Chennai

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

☩ **Transfer:**

Fr. Casimir Raj Nicholas from Bhubaneswar to Loyola College, Chennai.

- ☩ All communities and all Jesuits living alone are earnestly recommended to celebrate the Eucharist on a day convenient to them before 19 January 2008. for the **success of the GC 35 and for the election of the New General.**

- ☩ **REGARDING GC 35:** After its first meeting (March 15-April 4, 2007), the Coetus Praevius reported that they had been working on 350 postulates received after the conclusion of the Province Congregations. The postulates were addressed either to the General Congregation or to Fr. General.

In the second meeting (November 21-30) the Coetus Praevius examined 51 additional postulates from individual Jesuits: 49 addressed to the General Congregation and 2 to Father General. In the last days 11 new postulates were received in the Curia, all of them addressed to the General Congregation.

The grand total of postulates at the beginning of December comes to 412.

- ☩ **Fr. Stephen Muthu** is appointed Member of the Advisory Committee of the Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS) committed to quality vocational training and placement. It has supported 500 vocational training projects throughout India.

- ☩ **Fr. Arockiasamy Antony** presented a paper on "An Extension of Ray Oriented Contractive Mappings due to Boyd and Wong" at an international mathematical conference on Functional Analysis and its applications, held in Nagercoil.

- ☩ **Basic Accounts & Financial Management Course** (open to all) at Jesu Bhavan, Mango, Jamshedpur – 831012 **From:** 25.03.2008 to 30.03.2008; **Fees:** Rs. 1200/-, **Contact: Fr. Gilbert Menezes (Cell: 94315-71126; email: gmenezes@jesuit.net)**

- ☩ The meeting of the **Jesuits in Science Forum of the South Asian Assistancy** will be held on 23rd and 24th February, 2008 at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore. All the Jesuits involved in science teaching and research are welcome. Kindly contact **Fr. S. Ignacimuthu.**

- ☩ **REMINDER:** All the Treasurers/Team Leaders are requested to forward the Annual Budget for 2008-2009 to the Coordinator of Province Finance Commission on or before February 15, 2008.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

FROM THE PROVINCES

FRANCE

In January of this year the local Superiors received a report from the Provincial regarding a possible restructuring of the present governance in the Province. Comments and suggestions from 35 communities, which represent 90% of the membership, were sent to the Office of the Provincial. Father General reacted with approval to the content of almost 70 pages of the report, and praised the wide participation of the Province in the process of discernment. He also suggested that 2012 rather than 2009 would be a realistic date to begin the implementation of the plan. A detailed report has appeared in the *Bulletin d'Information* of the French Province, no.381, October 2007.

ARGENTINA

In three years, in 2010, the Immaculate School in the city of Santa Fe will be 400 years old. The Province has started the celebration by remembering the modest beginning of today's magnificent school: in 1610 two Jesuits (one priest and one Brother) opened the doors of their residence to children and youngsters whom they taught and educated according to Ignatian pedagogy.

USA

Wisconsin

With a grant of US\$ 500,000 the University of Marquette launched this fall a Center for Peacemaking. The Center, directed by Fr. G. Simon Harak, a theology professor, will support research on the effectiveness of initiatives to prevent conflicts and to reconcile communities in the wake of violence. The Center has received a warm welcome on the part of more than 20 faculty members from various departments who are ready to participate in areas of research and teaching.

CALIFORNIA

Father Stephen Kelly, 58, is among those who were sentenced to five months in jail for attempting to deliver a letter opposing the teaching of torture as means of obtaining information from those in detention. This is the claim that brought them to attempt to deliver their letter to those in charge of Fort Hauchuca, the headquarters of the military intelligence in the U.S. Father Kelly and a Franciscan priest were arrested while kneeling on the driveway of the fort, praying and holding in their hands the letter of protest. They were charged with trespassing.

EUROPE

Before stepping down after seven years as President of the Conference of European Provincials, **Father Mark Rotsaert** has written for the NEWS JESUITS EUROPE what he expects from the forthcoming General Congregation regarding Europe. Among other things, he says that "there is a demand in the whole Society to strengthen the Conferences of Provincials, perhaps by giving more authority to the, Presidents". He recognizes, however, that the six Conferences actually in existence are so different that it is not easy to make proposals applicable to all.

Among other suggestions, Father Rotsaert manifests his personal opinion in favour of creating just one Europe Assistancy with one Assistant helped by two coadjutors to attend the more than 5,000 Jesuits in Europe. Such a change, he says, will necessarily imply to create new models of common structures.

JESUIT CHENNAI MISSION ASSEMBLY

(28 & 29 December 2007)

CELEBRATING OUR UNION AND ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

The Jesuit Chennai Mission Assembly began as the Jesuits of the Madurai Province and people from the Chennai Mission assembled in front of the statue of Loyola, at Loyola College. **Fr. A. Victor**, the first Chennai Mission Superior invoked the blessing of God through the intercession of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Thereafter the gathering moved in procession towards Christ the King Church in the campus, accompanied by Tamil traditional music and traditional folk dance.

The Eucharist was celebrated by the **Most Rev. A. M. Chinnapa**, the Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, with concelebrants. The theme of the Eucharist was *Christ the King*; *Christ the King*; Fr. A. Victor read out a letter from **Very Rev. Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach**, Superior General of the Society of Jesus greeting the Assembly.

The Archbishop exhorted us that the mission of the Jesuits should not only cater to educational, cultural, ecological and humane growth of a person but also to the gospel values to be implemented in order to establish the kingdom of God here on earth. He explained that Jesus claimed not equality with God, not equality with a human being, but equality with less than a human being. Jesus' attitude should be our attitude, an attitude of being a slave and a servant to others.

The first session marked our joining hands with the people representing all our mission stations through a cultural programme. Our understanding of the mission

was sharpened in the second session by our listening to the expectations of the people from the different mission stations in the afternoon.

In the evening during the third session, **Mr. Vijay Mahajan**, Chairman BASIX, stressed three things that Jesuits can do to empower the poor in Tamil Nadu. The topic of his talk was: Measuring Empowerment: Approaches to Rural Development. Citing personal experience, he narrated how to provide micro-credit and insurance services for crop cultivation and livestock rearing to small and marginal farmers and the landless. He suggested the following:

- ☛ Enhancing productivity in agriculture as well as in non-farm sector;
- ☛ Building skills among the youth for employment outside agriculture; and,
- ☛ Establishing institutions favouring the poor- SHGs, SHGs Federations, Producer Companies

After supper the Jesuits gathered together for an informal get-together with games, cultural presentations by the scholastics of Berchmans Illam, felicitations to the Jubilarians of the coming year, a two-minute visual documentary on Arrupe by **Fr. Jerry Rosario** and releasing of some books authored by Jesuits.

During the first session on the second day of the Assembly, **Fr Dr Prakash Louis SJ**, Director, Bihar Social Institute, Patna spoke on "Translating Ideas into Actions: Models and Practices". He made abundant use of statistical profile of the northern districts of Tamil Nadu. He also hinted at the probable responses from Jesuits regarding:

- ☛ Education, Employment and Empowerment

At the second session the participants had a group discussion on the following two questions:

1. What are the measures or actions you want to see in the three key areas: Education Employment and Empowerment?
2. What are the priorities in them?

Fr. Francis Peter chairing the third session collated all the points emerging from the group discussion and read out the draft statement. As the house felt that the draft needed some refinement, the final approval for the draft was kept in abeyance. At the end of the session the Mission Superior thanked and appreciated the gathering and exhorted them to march ahead towards new vistas courageously and confidently. **Fr. M. Devadoss**, Provincial also addressed the gathering, regarding the future plans for the Chennai Mission.

The two-day programme came to a close with a concelebrated Eucharist presided over by Fr Provincial

and Fr Mission Superior. , NaRt;pd; ghi j a;py; vOrr;rkp;F Nj houha; was the main theme of the Eucharist. The Assembly ended with high tea. Our hearty congratulations to all the organizers.

Documentation Committee

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

Fr. Xavier Rajan, the student counsellor, will conduct the second series of two-day retreats for the students. He invites suggestions to work out strategies to instill sustained interest in the retreatants.

We had the annual Eucharistic Procession on the eve of the Feast of Christ the King. **Fr. P. Susai** preached an impressive sermon in chaste Tamil.

Getting out of the Common Minimum Programme, the Loyola Management has worked out a Collective Maximum Programme in collaboration with the former students. Plans are chalked out to be implemented by 2025.

In appreciation and recognition of the initiatives of LIBA, the Hyundai Company has donated a car. Hyundai has come forward to support financially one student from the next academic year, besides initiating measures to help in the placement opportunities the intellectually deserving. In a similar vein, the fourth batch of the LIBA students (1982 Batch), now serving as top executives in several leading companies within and outside India, gathering at LIBA to relive their days, renewed their links by promises of placements to the present pupils. LIBA was rich by Rs. one lakh that evening owing to the offer of an alumnus. To him who has, more will be given says the LIBA financial controller, **Fr. Maria Augustine**.

Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy is designated by the Department of Biotechnology as the Regional Resources Agency for the academic year 2007-08, to promote awareness of natural resources among school children. **Dr. M. Selvanayagam**, LIFE Director coordinates the programme. *The DNA Club* functions in five schools in Salem, Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai and Kudankulam, reports **Fr. P. Francis Xavier**.

Fr. S. Xavier Alphonse Chairman, Autonomy Review Committee has recommended extension of the autonomy granted to his alma mater St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli.

Fr. Francis Peter delivered the **Fr. C. Leigh, Fr Lawrence Sundaram** and **Prof. S Banumurthy** Endowment Lecture on *Demystifying Effective Spoken English* at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirappalli.

Fr. Xavier Vedam and **Fr. Maria Joseph Mahalingam** attended the Annual National Sociological Congress at Bangalore. **Fr. A. G. Leonard**, Executive Chairman of the Association of the Economists of Tamil

Nadu conducted the 28th AET Conference at American College, Madurai on 22nd and 23rd December 2007. Around 400 scholars were present.

The Christmas celebrations took place at the Community College hostel and at LIBA. On December 31, 2007, there was a Benediction Service with Te Deum. **Fr. K. Amal**, the Rector, thanked the community members for their excellent participation in the various functions throughout the year including the Jesuit Chennai Assembly, just concluded. The Rector thanks the MNL readers for their prayers for the rapid recovery of the Jesuits. *Thanks to Br. Sathanandam, Minister, several sick become whole again.*

A.G. Leonard

DHYANA ASHRAM, CHENNAI

Fr. Jerry Rosario facilitated a political analysis-special retreat of the OMI Province of Jaffna with a charter of radical responses to the current context of Sri Lanka. He also had a couple of pastoral retreats and animation schedules for the lay people of the Diocese of Mannar.

He served as one of three resource persons along with **Ms. Medha Patkar** and **Fr Tom Kocherry** at an international conference on "Systemic Changes and Justice-Contacts" at the Ecumenical Christian Centre at Bangalore.

Fr. Jerry arranged a coverage in Jaya TV on the Birth Centenary of **Fr. Pedro Arrupe** on 14th November. It was telecast also on 17th Nov.

A.J. Thamburaj

SJIS, OOTY

A concelebrated High Mass presided over by our parish priest and a much-appreciated short and sweet cultural programme were the highlights in connection with the Birth Centenary celebration of **Fr. Pedro Arrupe** on 14th November. The success of our students at the NCVT exam brought cheer to our teachers. Scholastics from St. Joseph's College made their annual retreat and inspired our students.

M.F. Kennedy

RANIPET

A week-long series of programmes in sports and games, well-planned and neatly-executed, had a happy ending at the valedictory function presided over by **Fr. P. S. Arul** on 3rd November. **Sch. Suman** proved to be an able and systematic organizer at these programmes. The annual sports day, declared open by **Fr. Vedanayagam** on 19th November had **Fr. Britto**, a Capuchin from Arcot as the chief guest. **Sch. John Paul**, our JRS member organized the sports events in the refugee camps to mark the Birth Centenary of **Fr. Arrupe**.

Our students enthusiastically participated in a one-day seminar on 'FIRST AID' on 24th November conducted by a group of experts led by **Mr. Prakash**, Placement Officer for Jesuit Chennai Mission. A certificate issued to each of the successful participants is a passport to the job-market.

I. Vedanayagam

VIDYANIKETAN (JESUIT JUNIORATE), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

November was ecstatic for all the juniors because of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the Common Juniorate. On 25th November, we had two hours of multi-cultural programme, in which all the former staff members of the Juniorate were honoured by the Kerala Provincial, **Fr. Joye James. Fr. Devadoss**, the Madurai Provincial was honoured as the first Superior of the South Indian Common Juniorate. The origin and history of the Juniorate was brought out by **Frs. Panikulam, Jose Jacob** and **Anikuzhy**. The next day on 26th November, all the four South Indian Provincials concelebrated the festal Mass of St. John Berchmans. In the Governing Body Meeting they discussed the present condition of the Juniorate. Fr. Devadoss, our Provincial met the Madurai juniors as a group. We had a "Film Appreciation" course conducted by **Fr. George Sebastian** of Kerala Province at Thanmaya Media Centre at Kottayam for four days. It helped us to analyse and appreciate films critically. **Sch. Benedict Santosh** has won the first prize for short stories, a Jivan award. Now all the Juniors are busy preparing for the exams.

E. Dunston

DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

The birth of Christ brought joy to us and we had a gleeful Christmas celebration with exchange of gifts and smiles.

On the 9th and 11th of December, we had a spectacular multimedia presentation on the life of '**Don Pedro**', written by **Fr. Cyril Desbruslais**. The clergy and the laity of the neighbourhood were inspired by the presentation.

Kudos to **Sch. Antony Inigo** who bagged a prize in the National Essay competition for the West Zone, conducted on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Independence Day organized by the CBCI Commission for Justice, Peace and Development.

Sch. Vasanth presented a paper on the preparation of bio-pesticides in a conference conducted by the department of advanced zoology and bio-technology, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai. The paper was highly appreciated as one of the best papers. Hats off to Vasanth.

Sch. Leo Anand preached a triduum for the Novices and Sisters of Missionaries of Christ Jesus Congregation.

Sebastian C.

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

On 3 December 2007, we had a concelebrated High Mass on the Feast of St. Francis Xavier. **Fr. R. Dhanaraj** preached the homily and expounded the evangelical testimony of St. Francis Xavier and his tireless apostolic work. After the Mass, **Fr. Arul Sivan** released VERVE, a magazine produced by the novices; **Fr. Mampra** received the first copy. On 20 December, the St. Mary's community and the Province curia joined us for the Christmas exhortation given by **Fr. Jeyabalan**. He was heard with rapt attention and was very much appreciated. He spoke on ecology based on a parable from the Bible and encouraged us to be eco-friendly. On 21 December, we celebrated Christmas Tree. The chief guest, **Fr. Arockiasamy** of Vidyajyoti, Delhi, in his Christmas message eloquently brought out the significance of Christmas. The novices entertained the community at Beschi on 21 December and later, on 26th December the Sisters and students at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul. We are grateful to **Fr. S. S. Robin** for helping us to sing English hymns. The CIS Sisters had their ashram experience in Jyothivanam Ashram, Kulithalai from 1 to 8 December.

M. Christu Raja

ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL

Our senior hockey team won the first place in the State level government competitions and added one more feather to the cap of St. Mary's. Our super-senior ball badminton team got the fourth place in the same meet. The other teams which qualified for the State level games were super-senior hockey, senior volleyball, super-senior and senior beach volleyball, boxing and swimming.

S.M. Kennedy

ST. MARY'S, MADURAI

The Christmas festive season began with the ecumenical carol service which attracted not only the pastors, leaders of different denominations but also the faithful. The CSI **Archbishop Christopher Asir** presided over the function and gave a fitting message covering the political scenario in and around India. The neighbouring Catholic schools also conducted special carol service. **Fr. Stephen**, the Superior, visited all the houses in the parish making happy the non-Christian brethren especially the children. **Frs. Ignatius Britto** and **Joseph Xavier** organized special carol services. The hostel students exchanged Christmas gifts with one another expressing oneness and brotherhood.

Beginning with the midnight Mass thousands of people visited the crib till late in the evening. The Asst. Parish Priest guided the youth choir in the morning and the much appreciated cultural multimedia show for nearly

two hours in the evening. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul found joy in feeding the poor on that day. All the dailies including "The Hindu" gave a good coverage on the meaningful crib and the whole day function including the Christmas message given by **Fr. Felix Joseph**. He was also invited by the local VAIGAI T.V to give a live telecast message on Christmas and a cultural programme by St. Mary's Primary School children.

Felix Joseph

LOYOLA ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS (LATI)

Fr. Pavulraj, the Novice Master inspired our students of Loyola Hostel by sharing his experience on God's love in preparation for Christmas celebration. **The Most Rev. Peter Fernando** Archbishop of Madurai visited LATI on 17th December. Students of LATI welcomed and greeted the Archbishop. **Fr. Jeyapathy** explained the activities and development of LATI. The Archbishop was very much impressed by our service to the archdiocese. He requested the Jesuits to continue to help the parish; in particular he requested our service in the formation of the youth of Gnanaoliuvpuram parish. **Schs. Packiam, Berchmans** and **Br. Ignacy** did an excellent job of organizing the event. It is to be noted that **ICAN Centre** of LATI conducted a two-day workshop for the parish youth which was very much appreciated by the youth and the parish priest. **Fr. Lourduraj** has gladly accepted to help the parish by hearing confessions frequently and celebrating Mass occasionally in the parish.

Our Christmas celebration was well organized by the Staff and coordinated by **Sch. Maria Packiam** on 21st December. **Fr. G. Ambrose** was the chief guest for the function. He delivered the Christmas message which touched the young minds of LATI.

Fr. G. Packiaraj went to Madhya Pradesh to preach a retreat and animate the Servite Sisters. He also had a very interesting and exciting experience in Palayamkottai in giving a refresher course to a group of sixty CIC Sisters who were senior citizens. He was able to share his own experience of trying to grow old gracefully.

Both the teaching and non-teaching staff of Madurai Community College (MCC) went on a picnic to Kanyakumari on 8th December. All of them expressed their joy of sharing their friendship which strengthened the mutual bond. Thanks to **Fr. Maria Louis**, the assistant director of MCC and to **Fr. P.S. Arul** for making the necessary arrangements.

For the first time, two students from Belgium came to MCC on an exchange programme. Exposure and interactive sessions were organized. Congrats to **Fr. Stephen J. Muthu** for initiating this venture which added strength to LATI mission.

Maria Packiam

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The Parent – Teacher meeting for the first year undergraduate students of was held on 1st December 2007. After the speeches made by Fr. Rector, Fr. Secretary and Fr. Principal, all the parents met the Head and the other staff members connected with their wards and collected the first semester mark sheets. On the same day, the Department of Tamil organized an international seminar on “mayfj; j kpoH tho:TK> , yf:fjaKk”.

Six NCC cadets and 3 staff members from Singapore were here from 4th to 12th December as part of their ‘Service Learning Project’ to serve in the village adopted by THE SHEPHERD the extension department of St. Joseph’s. The cadets stayed at Uppukachipati village and were involved in the construction of a pre-school centre besides interacting with the locals. According to the staff officer, **Captain Leong John Woon** the aim of the visit of the cadets was to enable the cadets to serve, learn and share their experiences with their Indian counterparts

The annual convocation of the College was held on 8th December, 2007. **Mr. K. Ponmudy**, Minister for Higher Education, Govt. of Tamil Nadu delivered the convocation address and distributed the degrees. In his address, he pointed out that higher education should spur independent thinking among students and added that knowledge was best acquired through one’s mother tongue though English was required as a communication medium. This should be followed uniformly in all institutions of higher learning. The Minister presented degrees to 1066 students, including 420 postgraduates and presented medals to the rank holders.

‘INDEP’, a three-day inter departmental cultural fiesta began with high-watt music on 13th December and ended on 15th December. The sheer variety of instruments on the stage for ‘instrophony’ an instrumental music event on the last day was astounding. From Carnatic to Western, the music took a melodic contour through a host of instruments including veena, violin, keyboard, drum, flute and tabula. Add up, classical vocal, clay modelling, poetry in English and Tamil. Owing to inclement weather, the College was forced to advance the beginning of Christmas vacation to 19th December from 22nd December. Classes will begin on 3^d January 2008.

Louis Xavier

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

ICRDCE organized the “Industrial Collaborators Community College Convention” on 7th and 8th of December 2007 in Madurai in collaboration with MADITSSIA. The interactions were very fruitful. There were 200 participants and 35 presentations on the skills required for various trades. ICRDCE released its first Works-Skills book “Health is Wealth”.

The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Government has taken a policy decision regarding the establishment and monitoring of Community Colleges. As the first phase of the project, 13 Community Colleges will be set up in 2008-2009. ICRDCE has been appointed as the official consultant on this project, “Inclusive Education for National Development”. **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** introduced the concept of Community College in Nepal with the help of the Jesuits of Nepal Region at St. Xavier’s College, Kathmandu.

The Community College movement has to its credit the unique distinction of obtaining 53 University ranks in the 9 skills (trades) from 27 Community Colleges in the Tamil Nadu Open University examinations conducted by the University.

Xavier Alphonse

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

The tertians organized Balamela on the 24th of November in our campus, to bring out their multifarious talents and hidden potentials.

Members of the Kodaikanal CRI went to ‘Malaisaral’ at Pannaikadu under the guidance of **Fr. Edward Jeganathan** to celebrate Christmas with the tribal students.

The PEAK team arranged a workshop on Leadership for 57 youths of Ambedkar Youth Movement in Kodai hill villages from the 10th to 13th of December, at Vallam.

Kodai Grihini celebrated in a grand manner from the 13th to 15th of December the 20th anniversary of its foundation with 300 alumnae and many friends of Grihini from abroad and around Kodaikanal. The contribution of Jesuits to Grihini’s growth was well appreciated by one and all.

Fr.D. Jeyaraj preached a retreat for a group of Sisters from December 15 to 22 at Thozhamai Illam. Jesuits of Kodai gathered at SHC and celebrated Christmas on the 23rd December. **Fr. Arockiam** preached a retreat to the Servite Sisters during Christmas holidays at Nochiodaipatty.

After many years, the museum got renovated through the expertise of **Mr. Arockiasamy**, with thirty years of service in the Madras Museum. In order to welcome the retreatants, the SHC has renovated the entire east wing of the philosophers’ quarters.

A. Santiago

THOZHAMA ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

Our inter-faith dialogue group, Kanyakumari pal samaya sangamam, celebrated its 100th meeting on 9th December in Thozhamai Illam. **Rev Fr. Soosai**, the Episcopal Vicar of Kottar Diocese, was the chief guest.

The topic we chose for this meeting was fraternal love (kclj Neak). **Fr. Gabriel Lawrence**, narrated parables like that of the good Samaritan and spoke on fraternal love in Christianity. There were also talks on fraternal love as found in the scriptures of Hindus, Muslims and Ayya Vazhi which originated at Samithopu, near Kanyakumari, as a liberation movement from caste oppression.

Fr. Maria Jeyaraj participated in the 12th IARF Conference (International Association for Religious Freedom) from 14th to 16th December and conducted bhajans and inter-faith prayer service. Over 200 persons from India and abroad took part in this Conference.

Frs. Gabriel Lawrence, Louis and **Nedungatt** preached eight-day retreats for Sisters in different places and Fr. Nedungatt is now engaged in preaching a 30-day retreat to a group of JMJ Sisters in Hyderabad.

C. Valiaveetil

GANSOVILLE, SIVAGANGAI

On 2 Dec. 75 women from 9 villages participated in a one-day training programme at the PALMERA house. Commemorating the death anniversary of **Dr. Ambedkar**, different resource persons spoke highlighting the atrocities done to Dalit women.

In a 5-day study camp 50 students of the VIII & IX stds. from our Evening Study Centres were helped to learn the basics in all the subjects. Two volunteers each from De Britto Hr. Sec. School and Arulanandar Hr. Sec. School were of great support for the camp. The students were also introduced to the use of computers.

The issues related to the roads leading to the hamlets of our Study Centres at Andavoorani and Uruvatti were dealt with victoriously by the youth and the parents of the children.

Masillamani

SUPAM

We, the newly ordained priests, of SUPAM offer our sincere thanks to all in St. Joseph's community, Tiruchi for making our ordination memorable.

Following our ordination **Fr. Jerry** directed the pastoral sharing among us: the ventures and challenges, which enriched us as revealed in the innovative programmes and approaches launched in our different SUPAM stations. **Fr. John Paul's** (PP, Vazhapadi) sharing highlighted the challenges posed to the pastors in Salem diocese. **Frs Edwin** and **Louie** conducted a two-day workshop on the challenges to priesthood in the contemporary milieu for 35 priests of the Marthandam Syro-Malankara Diocese.

Edwin

AICUF

At the Ambedkariam Cultural fest – 2007 there were about 250 participants from 30 colleges all over Tamil Nadu and the celebration went on for three days from Dec 7th to 9th at St. Joseph's College. At the outset **Fr. Arul Ravi** in his keynote address, explained the dynamics of the Ambedkariam festival and the need of this fest. He said that Ambedkariam is a weapon for liberation and a celebration of those who want to be liberated and uplifted. **Fr. Packianathan**, the secretary TNBC SC, ST and BC Commission very boldly proclaimed that Dalit arts are weapons for liberation, and they have to be learnt with proper grammar. **Fr. Rajarethinam**, the Principal of St. Joseph's College, in his felicitation, challenged the students to read as many books as possible in their college life to become intellectuals like Dr.B.R. Ambedkar.

Prof. Motcham spoke about Dalit arts and **Dr.K. Chinnappan** shared his view on Dalit theatre which is the weapon for the Dalit emancipation and empowerment. In the evening, there was a dance competition. **Dr. Selvakumar** in his speech explained that the Dalit literature plays a vital role to bring awareness among the Dalits and the marginalised. This was followed by the presentation of papers by many students on the issues concerning the target people, which invited lots of appreciation and applause for their wonderful presentation.

On the evening of thesecond day, the students had a demonstration on the streets demanding the implementation by the Central Government of the Ranganath Misra Commission's recommendations and inclusion of the Dalit Christians in the SC list; the Rector **Fr. Lazar** shared his solidarity with the students. On the final day the students staged street plays on various social issues. **Mr. Nallakannu**(CPI), in the valedictory function delivered a powerful speech on Dr.B.R.Ambedkar, and **Ms. Aranga Maliha**, AICUF national advisor **Fr.Henry Jerome** and National Dalit animator **Dr. Selvanathan** appreciated the students.

From December 14th to 16th there was media education camp for the students of the Kovai Region. About 35 students participated in the camp and went away with the conviction that they would look at the media from a different perspective.

From December 21st to 23rd there was the Chennai regional camp at Vikravandi. About 40 students participated and got clarity regarding AICUF movement and its mission. The students were also taken to Melakondai for a field exposure.

Arul Ravi

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

Thanks to the initiative of **Fr.K.A.Augustine** and the whole hearted support, moral and financial by **Fr. PS.Arul**, an Ecumenical Carol service was organised for the first time at Carmel campus on 15th Dec. His excellency, Peter Remigius, the Bishop of Kottar graced the occasion.

Fr.Augustine, as the Director of Carmel Alumni Association, has embarked upon a lot of new initiatives. The Carmel old boys of 1980 to 85 had an informal gathering to renew their contacts and friendships on 27th Dec. Nearly 54 students turned up and it was a fruitful meeting. On 29th Dec., a dawn to dusk foot ball tournament for District foot ball clubs was conducted in honour of **Fr.Arrupe** centenary year under the auspices of the Carmel Alumni Association.

The Jesuit community and the school staff had a Christmas get together on 20th Dec. **Rev.Dr. Hilarius** the correspondent of St.Xavier's Catholic College of Engineering delivered the Christmas message.

To relieve **Fr. Stany**, the Minister, to concentrate on his doctoral studies, **Fr.Sebastian Anand** has taken up the charge of running the house mess assisted by **Fr.Francis Jeyapathy Br. Paul Chinnappan** is working on a "Villupattu" on the life of martyr Devasahayam and it may see the light of the day soon.

Prayers are solicited for the speedy recovery of **Fr.S.M.Arockiam** who is treated for ear infection, presently at Chennai.

Sebastian Anand

KALANKARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

Nagai Jesuit team organized a two-day workshop on personality development for all the staff members. With the help of **Fr. Eugene** the staff members were able to realize their potentials and remove the psychological blocks which hindered their growth. This workshop, we hope, would definitely help strengthen good relationship among our staff members and carry out their assigned work very effectively and efficiently.

For the first time we gathered all the teachers (around 30 of them) of Evening Study Centres for a one-day orientation-cum-sharing of their experience with the children. **Fr.Paul Mike** briefly shared with them about the Jesuit team which had initiated different types of work in Nagapattinam. **Fr.A.Irudayaraj** and **Sch. Andrew** outlined the objectives of Evening Study Centres and responded to the questions posed by the teachers.

St. Joseph's Community College conducted a Parents-Teachers meeting for the present batch of students. It was a lively interaction between teachers and students leading to effective formation of students for a better job and a better life. It also organized a function to distribute Tamil Nadu Open University (TNOU) certificates to the first batch (2005-2006) of students. **Fr. Xavier Alphose**, Director, ICRDCE gave an inspiring speech which threw

open the wider scope for employment through community colleges in India. **Mr.V.Marimuthu** (MLA) and **Fr.A.Xavier**, VF of Nagapattinam were the chief guests who participated in the meeting and gave away the certificates to the students.

One of the students, Ganesamoorthy of A/C Mechanic trade got second rank in the TNOU exam conducted for the academic year 2006-2007.

Fr. A. Irudayaraj conducted a one-day seminar on "Women and Media" for a group of 30 AICUF students at Salem.

A. Irudayaraj

FR. ILANKO WRITES:

Here I am doing my level best with my limited knowledge of Spanish. Finished 3 months of Spanish course (two and a half hours per week). Climate and food are good. Two days ago I had the first experience of snowfall here. Today I attended the Province (Castilla) Xmas celebration in Villagarcia de Campos; formerly it was a Jesuit novitiate, started in 1575. Here the relics of many Jesuits are kept. Highly inspiring! After the Mass, the status of the Society during the time of the present General was presented. I had an enriching experience during my Xmas holidays visiting Salamanca and Avila. Please continue to pray for me.

NEW RELEASES

- 📖 **Basic Bio-informatics** Fr. S. Ignacimuthu SJ translated into Russian and published in Russia.
- 📖 **Bio-technology: An Introduction** Fr. S. Ignacimuthu, Narosa Publishing House, New Delhi. pp 362.
- 📖 **Genesis Myth of Manifold Meanings** by Ignatius Jesudasan, Global Vision Publishing House, New Delhi, pp. 163, Rs. 500/-
- 📖 **Through the Prism** (Literary – Critical Scripture-Reading) by Ignatius Jesudasan, ISPCK, Delhi pp. 156, Rs. 125.
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- 📖 mrrrk̄p̄d̄w̄p̄ mrrrk̄p̄d̄w̄p̄...Foel j fS ffhd gyrka gghj j i d> a.r. ahF> i t̄fi w> j̄z̄ Lff̄y> gf: 24 &. 8/-

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

- Br. Mathew Parackal**, (KER) 7 1/46 on 04. Dec. at Trivandrum
- Fr. Mathew Lewis**, (KAR) 90/65 on 01 Jan. at Bangalore
- Mr. S. Alex** (72), cousin of Fr. Fernandes on 12 Dec. at Valliavilai

