

JUNE 2007

(For Private Circulation)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

June

08	Alangulam: Visitation: Karisal Team
09-10	Madurai: Visitation: DACA
11-12	Madurai: Visitation: IDEAS
13	Puducherry
14	Vellore
15	Chennai : Installation of Chennai Mission Superior & inauguration of the Mission Office
21	Dindigul: Beschi Illam: First Vows
23	Dindigul: Beschi: R & R
24	Dindigul: Consult
26	Dindigul: Beschi: IHJ GBM – 10.00 AM
27-28	Oriyur: Visitation
29-30	Devakottai: Visitation: De Britto Hr. Sec. School

July

01	Sekkekudi: Visitation: Fr. Soosai Manickam
03-04	Pastoral GBM, Notchiodaipatti
09-10	Madurai: Visitation: L.T.I.
11-14	Karumathur: Visitation: Arul Anandar College

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☞ The **POSA** has appointed:
Fr. Joseph Xavier V., Superior of ISI, Bangalore
- ☞ **Fr. Provincial** has appointed:
Fr. James Rodrigues – Superior of Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- Fr. Dunstan Vinny Joseph** – Superior of St. Mary's Hr. Sec. School, Dindigul. He will take charge at the

end of December 2007 and, during the intervening period, **Fr. S.M. John Kennedy** will be the Acting Superior.

☞ **Transfers:**

Fr. A. Joseph Xavier, from ISI, Delhi to ISI, Bangalore

Br. Titus Gopalakrishnan from Xaveriana, Thoothukudi to Madurai, LTI, Minister

Sch. Irudaya Valanarasu I. from KARISAL to Arul Kadal, Chennai

Sch. Santiago Sebastian from Arul Kadal to PEAK, Shembaganur

Sch. Lawrence M.M. from PEAK, Shembaganur to KARISAL

Sch. Sahayaraj Vijayan from DNC, Pune to VMI, Vilangudi

☞ **Appointments by:**

Provincial AOR: Fr. Maria Wenisch S. to do his Ph.D either in Chennai or Tiruchi. His mobile number is 99416-50623.

The Regional Superior of Guyana: Sch. Justin Prabhu to do Theology at Heythrop College, England.

☞ **RMT (Resource Mobilisation Team)** will meet on 7 July 2007, in St. Mary's, Dindigul to scrutinize the projects. Those interested are requested to send their appeals on or before 30 June 2007 to the following address: **Fr.S. Mariadoss**, Province Procurator & Convenor – RMT, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi – 620 002.

☞ **Fr. Patrick Ravichandran** is in the Province on home leave for the next three months

☞ **RETREAT OFFERED at ISHVANI KENDRA**, from 07 to 13, October 2007, by **Fr. Jerry Rosario, SJ.** Contact: The Programme

Coordinator, Ishvani Kendra, Sainikwadi, Wadagaonsneri, Pune - 411 014. Tel: 020-27033507 & 27033820; Email: ishvani@dataone.in

☞ **Appeal from JRS Nepal**

JRS Nepal is urgently in need of an Assistant Director for its education programme. It runs 33 primary schools and 9 high schools with 32,000 students and 1,110 teachers. The programme is called Bhutanese Refugee Education Programme. Retired Jesuit teachers and Headmasters will find this work soul satisfying, enriching and energizing. Please contact the Socius or the Provincial immediately. JRS Nepal needs your services.

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

☞ **TOWARDS THE GENERAL CONGREGATION 35 - (12 & 13) JANUARY 2008:**

As of May 17, 80 Provinces or Regions and 9 groups had sent 358 postulates, of which 258 were addressed to the General Congregation and 100 to Father General. Six Provinces did not send any postulate.

When the *Coetus Praevius* met in April of this year, the 350 postulates that had been received until then were divided into three groups: postulates to be sent to the General Congregation, to Father General or to be rejected. As a result 117 postulates were referred to Father General, 31 were rejected and the rest constituted the main object of the study and analysis on the part of the *Coetus*. The deadline to send postulates to the General Congregation is January 7, 2008 the very day the Congregation begins.

The *Coetus Praevius* classified the postulates into 11 themes or groups and prepared a *Relatio Praevia* - a preliminary report - for each group. The material sent to the Electors comprises a summary of these themes, followed by a detailed presentation of each theme. The detailed presentation includes the reasons for and against, the postulates that fall within that theme, an analysis of the theme, an assessment of its importance and, finally, recommendations on how the Congregation could deal with the topic.

The *Coetus Praevius* has proposed that these 11 themes could be divided under two heads: those on which the General Congregation may wish to produce a decree or document, and those that could be discussed by the General Congregation with a view to giving Father General and the ordinary government

a mandate and some recommendations on how to follow them up.

Possible Decree Themes: *Mission, Identity, Governance, Obedience* and *Laity*.

Possible Ordinary Government Themes: *Community Life, Formation, Vocation Promotion, Youth* and *The Jesuit Refugee Service*.

There is an additional grouping of postulates that proposed renewal in various apostolates of the Society. These postulates have been listed together for convenience but no specific proposal is made by the *Coetus Praevius* about them.

The 69 pages report was sent to the Electors in May.

☞ **Please note the following changes:**

Fr. Williams Christopher has a new address & phone no: Santhi Sadhana Educational Complex, R.V. Nagar - 531 133, Visakhapatnam Dt. ANDHRA; Ph: 08937-238834

ICRDCE new office address: Director ICRDCE, New No: 30, Veerasamy Street, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008, INDIA; Ph: 91-44-28191206; Fax: 91-44-28192696, Email: mcrdce@vsnl.com

REMINDERS: All superiors are asked to organize an orientation programme for their communities before the middle of June. A report on it may be kindly sent to the Provincial by 30th June.

Schools and Colleges are reminded to send **two copies of their calendar**.

Please send the **Status Domus** by the third week of June, to speed up the work on the Catalogue. You need not wait for the student strength particulars to arrive. You can send them a little later. "For each member of the community, only his **principal occupations** should be listed and his community charges (such as consultor, admonitor, etc.). [PQ. 257]. For the **birthday list** we would like to have your real date of birth. Ministers are requested to collect and send them separately.

All publishers / writers of books are reminded to send three copies of their products to the Provincial.

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

The 1st year novices went for their Ashram Experiment to Jyotivanam Ashram, Kulitalai on 1st May. They received rich input on Indian Spirituality and an introduction to the vast treasury of Yoga from **Sr. Stephanie** and **Br. John Martin**. The II year novices left for their Home Visit on the same day. All the novices returned to Beschi on 15 May. From 16 to 30 May the community enjoyed its major holidays. As part of the holidays community members went for a picnic to Kodaikanal on 25 May. **Fr. Arul Sivan** animated the general chapter of the Presentation Sisters, Coimbatore.

V. Santhosh

DASTEC / GANSOVILLE

The II-phase of KALVIYUM KALAIYUM, the summer camp was organized in 4 zones viz. Kayavayal, Therasapoor, Uruvatti & Nallangudi. On the whole, 175 students benefited from it. Five Scholastics, 4 Aicufers, 14 local animators & 3 Grihini students were the staff. Simultaneously, the cultural troupe was moving around, performing their street plays & folk dances in 10 villages. RIGHT TO INFORMATION was the salient feature of this summer programme. Hats off to **Br. P. Arockiasamy** & **Mr. Stephen**, the organizers of the educational team & the cultural troupe respectively. Another remarkable feature was the computer course for 18 higher secondary students at DASTEC, ably conducted by **Sch. Stephen Selvanathan**.

The Headmasters of SXHSS, Palayamkottai & St. Arulanandar HSS, Oriyur were here as retreatants, gracing the Gansoville farm.

Masillamani

MANDAPAM CAMP

We the JRS Volunteers went on a tour to be present for the blessing of the recently renovated parish church at Mandapam camp. The renovated Sahaya Matha Church at Mandapam Camp stands as a witness to the efficiency of **Fr. A. Augustine**. The Bishop of Sivagangai, praised him for the single handed achievement of finding resources to rebuild the church and of having successfully managed to get permission from the Government to put up a new structure in that transit camp for the Refugees. Kudos to Fr. A. Augustine.

S. Singarayan

ST MARY'S, MADURAI

Fr. P. Masillamani was given a warm send off by the parish council members and the parish. A good number of the council members accompanied him to Rayapuram. **Fr. I. Arul** and **Br. Arulanandam** put up a grand show of welcome to the new parish priest. The climax of the vacation bible school was the Bible Exhibition and the Cultural Festival by the ninety participants of the holiday programme. Under the dynamic leadership of **Fr. Xavier Antony** the LASAC annual feature brought students from Chennai to K. Kumari who displayed their histrionic talents and vibrant zeal in forming men for others.

The month of Mary helped the devotees to pray the Rosary with the scripture themes, going round the church campus every day carrying the statue of Blessed Mother. As a sign of caring and sharing, note books for the new academic year in plenty were given as offering and distributed, besides sweets and eatables every day. The finale of the Marian month was the grand family dinner for the parishioners with the hearty cooperation of the youth and Bible League members.

Frs. Stephen Lourdu Pragasam and **Joseph Xavier** were given a warm welcome by the parishioners after a meaningful Sunday liturgy conducted by the new comers.

Felix Joseph

LTI MADURAI

Our Loyola Academic and Technical Institutions (LATI) had the pleasure of organizing a very big seminar on Constantine Beschi, with the collaboration of the local Beschi Association. The Three-day evening seminar was a well appreciated occasion to make Beschi's contribution known to the public. **Prof. Nirmala**, the Chief Guest of the Seminar lauded the efforts of the Jesuits to make Beschi's contribution to Tamil literature known to the public at large. **Fr. Ignatius Britto**, the President of the Beschi Association, **Fr. V. M. Gnanapragasam**, the brain behind the whole show and **Br. Ignacy** our Principal addressed the well-attended gathering. A good number of local Catholics, religious and students, counting more than two hundred, attended the seminar. The publicity the seminar received from the press is an evidence of the serious efforts made by the organizers under the leadership of our Superior **Fr. Stephen Muthu**.

At the intervention of the LATI Jesuit community, the Madurai Corporation is now maintaining the cleanliness of the area where the statues of Beschi and Robert De Nobili had been installed during the World Tamil Conference held

in 1982. LATI is entertaining a legitimate ambition to replace the two present statues with life-size statues. We look forward to getting the contributions, good will and ideas of our friends and well wishers in this connection!

Sch. Rijo Joy Thuluvath, from Schoenstatt Congregation, is the Assistant Director of our hostel and he also teaches English to the students of LITI and MCC.

G. Packiaraj

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

ICRDCE hosted a visit of the 19 Presidents, Vice-Presidents and faculty members of U.S. Community Colleges on the 15th of March 2007. They were given first hand knowledge of the recent developments of the Indian Community College system.

Fr. Xavier Alphonse was invited by His Excellency the Governor of Haryana **Dr. A.R. Kidwai** to be a member of the expert committee to establish Community Colleges in Haryana at the Haryana Bhavan on the 2nd of April, 2007. Two members of the Department of Education of Haryana will be visiting Community Colleges at Chennai on the 16th and 17th of June 2007. The Director of ICRDCE was a member of the International Panel at the 87th annual Convention of Association of American Community Colleges held at Tampa, Florida. He made his presentation on the Indian Community College system on the 15th of April 2007. He also visited the North Virginia Community College, Washington D.C and Montgomery Community College, Maryland on the 5th of May, 2007. As the fruit of the participation at the annual convention of AACCC and the visit to the Community Colleges, ICRDCE, North Virginia Community College and Lane Community College will be making a joint proposal for a foundation or a U.S. funding agency for collaboration between India and U.S.A.

ICRDCE and the Community Colleges have been trying their best for recognition of the Community college system for the last ten years. The UGC set up a Review Committee on the concept and implementation of the system and the report was submitted to the UGC on the 2nd of April 2007. Based on the report, **Prof. Thorat**, Chairman, UGC held a detailed discussion on the report with Fr. Xavier Alphonse on the 25th of May 2007, and he has been asked to make a detailed presentation at the next meeting of the UGC Commission on the system so that a report would go to the Honorable Minister of Human Resource Development, New Delhi for further discussion and decision. The Director of ICRDCE also made a presentation at the

Triennial Conference of the Xavier Board of Education at Bangalore on the 22nd of May 2007. He also addressed the **Kerala Jesuit Province Assembly** on the 15th of May 2007 on the Community College System. The Province has decided to start two Community Colleges in the next academic year.

The recognition of the Community College as an alternative system for the school dropouts and for all those who cannot go in for further education, and the possibility of an entirely new course to continue their higher education were announced by **Dr. Ponnudi**, the Honourable Minister for Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu in the legislative assembly: announcement number 21 on the 4th of May 2007. This is a landmark announcement in the history of the Community College Movement in India.

Xavier Alphonse

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

Carmel Jesuit Community was very sorry to lose two devoted and dynamic members **Fr. Francis Sales** and **Fr.X. Amaladoss**. Well our loss is the gain of Kuppayanallur and Palayamkottai B.Ed. College. The community gratefully bade them farewell on 2nd and 25th May. We wish both of them the best in their new assignments.

The Jesuit Tsunami Services at Carmel is wound up and has handed over its quarters and office to the Jesuit Ministry to the Alcohol and Drug Dependent under the direction of **Fr.F. Jayapathy**.

S.M. Arockiam

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

Sacred Heart College was filled with the sweet odour of prayer by a number of retreats held from the last week of March till the end of May. The theologians of Papal Seminary had a month long retreat in April guided by **Fr. Bento** from Gujarat Province. Simultaneously, another month long retreat was preached by **Fr. S.M. Selvaraj** of our Province to the theologians of Sacred Heart Seminary. The Jesuits of Madurai Province made their annual retreat with the help of **Fr. Paul Coutinho** of Bombay Province in May followed by the Formation Meet and retreat of our Scholastics.

The visitation of Fr. Provincial brought showers of grace to our community in May. It was very kind of Fr. Provincial that he made his visitation a long and relaxed one.

While a prayerful send off was given to **Frs. M.J. Victor** and **M. Arulanandam** with thanks for their generous services at SHC, we welcomed **Fr. Kulandai**, our new minister and procurator with

best wishes for all success in his new undertakings. The community also extended a warm welcome to the summer Tertians.

The province archives attracts everyone with its beauty as it is skillfully renovated and ready for action. A sincere appreciation goes to **Frs. Anto** and **Edward** for their strenuous effort in shaping the Archives for use.

The PEAK team organized summer camps for the tribal and the dalit students in and around Kodai hills at three places. Nearly 300 students benefited from these camps. Apart from the usual educational camp, the PEAK team with all its creativity formed a group of two scholastics and one youth solely for motivating the dalit students to pursue higher education. It was well executed at Poondi, Poombarai, Mannavanur and Kavunji. On the 8th of May a one-day seminar was organised for the youth at Kavunji. The long awaited dream of the PEAK Team came closer to its realization as the senior boys and girls who were educated and supported for higher education by PEAK were able to be teachers for the summer camps held at various places.

On May 14 and 15, the Annual day of Ambedker Makkal Iyakkam was celebrated on a grand scale at Kukkal and Palamputhur respectively. **Fr. Eugene**, our Social Action Coordinator was the chief guest. He highly appreciated the leadership of the youth and the volunteering spirit of women in both places. He also made the Arunthathier community aware that they need to pay more attention to the education of their children. Though the Annual day celebration of Ambedker Makkal Iyakkam was a maiden attempt to be organized at these two villages, the cooperation of the youth and the participation of the school going students made it very memorable.

The PEAK Team along with the community bade farewell to Sch. Ravi after his one year of service in the uplift of the tribals and the dalits and his youthful presence in the community.

Innacimuthu

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The month of May being the summer vacation was mostly uneventful. The staff, students and a good number of Jesuits were out.

But there were however some signs of activity on the campus owing to the special coaching classes conducted for the benefit of students. The coaching camp for improving the English language skills of the Dalit students came to a grand finale with a valedictory function in which the students displayed their cultural talents and their various levels of

proficiency in English. The English Language lab had its usual summer rush. 123 students attended the Spoken English course in various batches through out the day. Similarly courses in "Effective Communication in English" and "basic computer skills" conducted by the placement cell of the college had quite a few takers.

During the month of May our energetic pastor of Mullaikudy, **Fr. Thomas Visuvasam**, was kept more busy than usual. Each of his substations celebrated its own festival of our Lady (under different titles) during May, with flag hoisting, novena devotions and a solemn car procession with fireworks at the end. The Jesuits of the community gave him a helping hand as and when possible.

The May devotions in the college parish church came to a close with the statue of our Lady being taken in a solemn procession around our college campus accompanied by the recitation of the rosary and hymns in honour of Our Lady.

Louis Xavier

THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

Fr. Gabriel Lawrence joined the community on 20th May. He is the new Team Leader and Director. **Fr. Joseph Nedungatt** continues to be the Administrator and Procurator.

Fr. Ananda Nathan who is transferred from Kanyakumari to St. Peter's Hr. Sec. School, Viragalur as the Headmaster was given a farewell lunch. The neighbouring religious communities were invited for the occasion. Two brothers belonging to the Missionaries of Charity, **Brs. Stephen** and **Jeyaraj** who are also being transferred from Kanyakumari participated in the farewell lunch.

Fr. Maria Jeyaraj was conducting the summer music course organized by **Fr. Chelladurai** at Satya Nilayam, Chennai, for a fortnight.

Christanand C. Valiaveetil

FR. FRANCIS JAYAPATHY

Invited by **Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter Fernando**, President, Tamil Nadu Catholic Bishops' Council, **Fr. Francis Jayapathy** is planning and organising a two-day consultation on Church's Ministry to the Alcohol and the Drug Dependent.

The consultation will be held on 26th and 27th June, 2007 at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. It aims at:

Pooling experiences and expertise

Establishing a Regional Healing Center

Addressing vital areas such as : Intervention,

After care Support, Recent developments in Therapies and most importantly will strive to evolve a draft Pastoral Plan to be presented at the next

TNBC Annual Meeting at Thoothukudi. So far thirty five participants have registered.

The Community based treatment camp is in its third week. 23 alcoholics are inpatients, and their wives participate in the programme as outpatients. There is a perceptible uplift in the patients and hopes of recovery. The patients will be followed for a year on a weekly basis to support their recovery plans. There are a number of points we learn as well as moments of great inner satisfaction. Similar camps are envisaged in other places at other times.

Francis Jayapathy

AICUF

Some of our students served as volunteers in the summer coaching camp organized by Gansoville and DASTEC at Devakottai from 30th April to 15th May. Two members attended the National level Cadre-building programme at AICUF house, Chennai from 15th to 30th May.

Our students undertook a cultural campaign on Right to Information Act in the villages of Nagai District from 9th May to 19th May. This is a joint venture of SAPI, JTS-Nagai, IDEAS and AICUF and **Fr. Arul Ravi** co-ordinated the programme.

From 21st to 26th May, National Dalit Commission co-ordinator **Fr. Maria Singarayar** conducted the Seventh National Dalit Exposure Camp at ASHADEEP, Vallabh Vidhyanagar, Gujarat, with the theme "To Know to Change... To Fight to Form an Egalitarian Society".

Singam

JESUIT TSUNAMI SERVICE- CHENNAI ZONE

Summer Educational camp 2007 was conducted at St. Joseph's School in Pazaverkadu for the 10th standard students for 14 days from 30th April to 13th May. There were 145 students who benefited from this camp. At the end of the summer camp there was a grand inauguration of the new building and winding up of the Jesuit Tsunami Service at Pazaverkadu. The new extension building was inaugurated on 13th May 2007. The building was opened by **Fr.B. Jeyaraj**, Rector Loyola College and blessed by **Fr.Louis**, Coordinator, JTS. Chennai Zone. On this occasion the report of the Jesuit Tsunami Service -2005-07 was released and the first copy of the report was received by **Sr. Rose FSJ. Sisters of FSJ**, staff, students of St. Joseph's school and local people were present on this occasion. The tireless efforts and consistent roles of **Schs. Poondy Rajan** and **Thanga Durai** and **Sr.Thecla FSJ** were recognized and appreciated by all. The two years of Education programme in Pazaverkadu has played a vital role in rebuilding the community that

experienced the trauma of Tsunami. It was not merely imparting education or caring for the sick but it was an opportunity to incarnate into their real life situation that made a difference in our service.

Poondy Rajan

JESUIT TSUNAMI SERVICE, NAGAPATTINAM

Nagai Jesuit Team which had been working under the banner SAPI (South Asian People's Initiative) changed its banner into KALANGARAI meaning beacon of light. The new name was proposed during the women's day celebrations and got the approval of the leaders & widows gathered in hundreds. On the same occasion a movement specifically for widows, indeed an innovative venture was launched under the name "tj i tg; ngz ;fs; th;Thpi k , af;fk;" (Movement for the livelihood rights of widows).

The Jesuit Team sat for an annual evaluation and meeting with staff members. It was an enlightening experience, making the group realize its strengths and weaknesses. After the meeting, the whole group went on a picnic to Ooty which helped it to come away from its routine work, know each other better and strengthen its bond and team spirit. Thanks to the hospitality extended by our Jesuit brethren in Ooty.

An 80 year old sister named **Sr. Lily Louis** belonging to ICM congregation has joined the team along with a physically challenged lady brought from an old age home, to impart embroidery training to the girls of Maragatham colony. The sister's simplicity and enthusiasm are very inspiring to the Jesuit team. Well, neither age nor physical handicap can be a bar for any dedicated service.

A study was done from April 25th to May 3rd by **Prof. Karen Kayser**, Boston School of Social work, USA on the widow's empowerment program initiated by the team. Five girl students from Madras School of Social work helped Prof. Karen in collecting data from 100 selected widows. Logistics of the study was done by **Paul Michael**. The report of the study is awaited.

Summer study camps for school going children were organized from 3rd to 13th May in two different places i.e. Vailankanni and Poraiyar. The total number of participants in both the camps were 550. The team thanks all our scholastics, sisters, AICUF volunteers and our own staff members who tirelessly worked for the success of the camps.

A cultural troupe consisting of AICUF students led by **Fr. Arul Ravi** stayed with the team from 12th to 18th May and staged street theatre performances on RTI Act (Right to Information Act) in more than

fifteen villages. Indeed, the performance was quite informative and thought-provoking. People responded well and got enlightened by the Act.

The second batch of community college students has just completed two months of placement training. They are now getting ready for the TNOU exam. The admission process for the third batch of students for the current academic year is already underway.

The team bids farewell gratefully to **Sch. Baskar** who moves to the next stage of formation after two years of service, and welcomes **Sch. Andrew**, our new regent.

A. Irudayaraj

VOCATION CAMP-MAY 2007

The five-day vocation camp for the 10th Std students was conducted at IDEAS, Madurai from 14th April to 19th April, 2007. **Fr. Jabamalai Raja**, the Superior, **Fr. Aloysius**, **Fr. Stephen Martin** and **Fr. Eugene Muthu** were present for the inauguration and inspired the whole camp with their sharing on Social Apostolate. The spirit filled songs and talks and a moving Mass by **Fr.X. Savarimuthu** during one day recollection and reconciliation helped the boys discern well.

Totally 34 students came for the camp and 17 were selected for Apostolic Home, 5 for Inigo Illam and 6 for Wensch Boarding. Some were recommended to come after their +2 studies. IDEAS was very ideal for the 10th camp as it was very compact. We are very grateful to the IDEAS community for its generosity, hospitality and affable co-operation.

This year the vocation camp for the 12th Std students was held at St. Mary's Hostel, Dindigul for 20 days from 20th April to 10th May. **Fr. Anbarasu**, the Vocation Promotor, has done a commendable job this year too. There were aspirants from most dioceses. **Fr.A. Wilson** and **Fr. Vincent Amalraj**, highlighted our tradition and our way of proceeding to the future Jesuits at the inauguration. The place was very conducive as there were not only eminent Jesuits from different realms available, but also nuns and lay persons. **Frs. Provincial**, the **PCF**, **Sivan**, **Pavulraj**, **A. Victor**, **Ilanko**, **Brs. Benjamin** and **Kulandairaj** were part of the long list of Jesuits who motivated and deepened the campers' vocation. A two-day Retreat was guided by **Fr. Rayappan**. The parishioners of St. Joseph's Cathedral witnessed a day long colourful exhibition on "The History and the Milestones of the Society of Jesus" and a spectacular cultural programme for about two hours on 6th May. Hats off to Fr. Anbarasu, the visionary

of the above-mentioned events! Initially there were 57 students for the +2 camp and 52 were there till the end. 26 were selected for Madurai Province and some were recommended for other provinces and other men's Congregations. **Schs. Jesu, Clement, Sahayaraj** and **Victor Roch** were always available and accompanied the young ones with love, care and dedication. Apart from regular Mass and the Lives of Saints the guided meditation by the Scholastics was also helpful to the aspirants. **Schs. Arockiaya Samy Ishak** and **Francis Xavier** helped initiating and set the tone of the camps. The vim, vigour and vitality of the aspirants and their vocation history did deepen our vocation.

Victor Roch

JRS / TAMIL NADU SUMMER CAMP

This summer the Jesuit Refugee Service Tamil Nadu conducted Coaching – Classes for 9th to 12th Std students in Refugee camps in Tamil Nadu.

It's amazing that JRS could reach out to 2030 students!. It did because of its fine network. JRS has its own staff: 31 Coordinators and field workers and 280 teachers in tuition centres. Women Religious from different Congregations volunteered enthusiastically. Our own scholastics, 8 of them, actively involved themselves in facilitating these coaching classes.

Though the Government forbade us to take the students out of the camps for these coaching classes, the Special Commissioner permitted the JRS to conduct coaching classes within the camps themselves.

Though this is less convenient for us than residential centres where we can conveniently gather the students and maintain discipline, JRS accepted the challenge. Immediately **Fr. Premkumar** (JRS/TN Director) went ahead planning for the classes inside the camps. He visited the camps braving the sweltering heat of the summer and fixed 29 locations in 17 Districts. Competent teachers were arranged to teach the main subjects in school curriculum. Finding accommodation for classes was still more difficult. Yet as all volunteers later said in our evaluation, Prem's meticulous planning and execution brought success to our summer camps.

JUBILARIANS' DAY 2007

Beschi Illam wore a festive look on May 30. Nearly 300 of our men, both young and old, filled the house with their cheerful mutual greetings and out bursting of laughter. The entire atmosphere of Beschi was filled with joy and enthusiasm. Amid this busy and gala morning 17 jubilant stars, looking bright and brilliant, were moving around the house, with tranquillity in their

hearts and smiles on their faces. Yes they were our eminent Jubilarians and it was the Jubilarians' day.

We have 18 Jubilarians this year. **Frs. Arokiasamy Soosai, Casimir Raj Nicholas, Ignatius Sebastian, Irudayaraj Maria Susai, James Bharataputra Sebastian, Jesudasan Ignatius, Jeyaraj Donatus, Savarimuthu S. Packiam, Selvaraj Edward S.M., Viaguladasan Manickam, Xavier Rajan** and **Brs. Santhanam Alangaram, Selvaraj Sebastian** and **Xavier Maria** who have finished 50 years in the Society; and **Frs. Amalraj Selvaraj and Dhavamony Mariasusai** who have finished 60 years in the Society; and **Frs. Santiago Arul P. and Theruvil M. Mathai** who have lived 50 years in the Priesthood. All these 18 Jubilarians were cordially invited to Beschi for a Province level Jubilee celebration. Except **Fr. Dhavamony Mariasusai** who was ill, all the other 17 jubilant stars responded positively to the invitation and honoured the family celebration with their graceful presence.

The vested Jubilarians with roses on their cassocks and sandal paste on their foreheads lined up at the right corridor of the chapel at 10.00 am and the procession began for the Holy Eucharist. The Jubilarians were given the traditional **Kumba Aarathi** welcome at the altar. **Fr. Provincial** was the main celebrant and about 30 other Jesuits joined the Jubilarians for the concelebration. **Fr. S.P. Savarimuthu** gave an apt introduction and prepared the gathering for the Mass. **Brs. Xavier Maria** and **Selvaraj Sebastian** generously came forward for the readings. The beautiful flow of a poetic homily by **Fr. Viaguladasan** inspired all and carried them with him as he expressed his gratitude to God and Mother Mary on this memorable day. The enchanting hymns sung by the novices helped everyone for a meaningful participation of the Eucharist.

After the Mass the whole gathering went to the refectory which was arranged like an auditorium, for the felicitation function. The hall was packed with our

curious men. **Fr. A. Arulanandam**, the Socius welcomed the Jubilarians in a novel way. It was in the form of a quiz. As he mentioned a significant quality of each Jubilarian, the audience were sharp enough to identify the name of that Jubilarian. After the welcome the Jubilarians were honoured each with a shawl. Fr. Provincial in his felicitation speech, remembered the voluminous services of the Jubilarians in their respective ministries. He also recalled their pioneering spirit and zeal in their apostolate. He was proud to mention that even at the age of 70 and 80 they still work and they are in great demand. In his inspiring talk, **Fr. Britto Bonaventure** highlighted the remarkable contribution of each Jubilarian in his respective apostolate and also remembered his edifying community life. The novices cheered both the Jubilarians and the audience with their melodious felicitation song and a **Kadhambam** dance. On behalf of the Jubilarians **Fr. Donatus Jeyaraj** thanked all who arranged this celebration. He also noted that more than the Jubilarians' faithfulness to God, it was God who had been so faithful to them all through these years. **Fr. Bharataputra** thanked the Lord by singing a beautiful hymn and put the audience in a **Bhakti** mood. **Fr. Britto Peter**, the PCF gave the vote of thanks and the programme came to an end. Hats off to **Fr. Pavulraj**, the Novice Master, who meticulously planned the felicitation program and played the role of M.C. with his humour.

The sumptuous dinner that followed the function brought happiness to everyone and knit them all as one family. Hearty appreciations and sincere thanks to Beschi Community, especially to **Fr. Arul Sivan**, the Superior and **Br. Savarimuthu**, the minister for their advanced planning and sincere efforts that made the Jubilarians' day a memorable one.

Mathew Cyril

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- **"Whisper with fire"**, 2nd edition by **Fr. Jerry Rosario**, Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul, pp. 84, Rs. 30/-

