

# MARCH 2007

(For Private Circulation)

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### March

07	Dindigul : Resource Mobilization Team
10	Bangalore: ISI GBM
11	Chennai: Visitation: Dhyana Ashram
11 PM to 17	Chennai: JSCA Meeting: Dhyana Ashram
18	Chennai: Visitation: Dhyana Ashram (ctd)
19-21	Chennai : Visitation : Arut Kadal
24	Notchiodaipatti: ELT Meeting (Secondary Education Commission)
24 PM-25	Notchiodaipatti: Superiors', Coordinators', Consultors' Meeting (ELT & Chennai Mission)
26	Dindigul: Gansoville Taskforce meeting
31 to April 1:	Dindigul: Brothers' GBM, Christunagar
15	Madurai: St. Mary's HS, JAAT meeting
16	Madurai: IDEAS, Gansoville GBM

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✿ To a question submitted to the Holy Father regarding the mandate to elect *ad vitam* the General Superior of the Society. The Holy Father determined that while maintaining the right of the General to present his resignation to a General Congregation for special reasons and, after having informed the Holy Father of his intention, the election *ad vitam* be kept. Father General concluded that the answer of Benedict XVI confirms the current practice of the Society.
- ✿ **XXXIV SUMMER SCHOOL OF CARNATIC MUSIC, MAY 2007** at Satya Nilayam, Chennai. For registration contact **Fr. P.T. Chelladurai**.

- ✿ **ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, Karumathur** is offering M.Sc. Applied Psychology Course open to any graduate. Its duration is four semesters. Seminarians, Priests and Sisters will find it very useful, as the course has as its objective: to train and form pastoral, health care, school and college counsellors, formators, animators and community leaders. The candidates will be trained in field and practical experience. The faculty has efficient and competent staff. Personal care will be given to the students throughout the course. Hostel facilities are available for both men and women. The tuition fees and other expenses are considerably low since AAC is a rural college. Please send in your application for admission before the end of March, 2007.

### ✿ Please note the following changes

The Office of Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (**ICRDCE**) will be functioning at the following address.

Director, Indian Centre for Research and Development of Community Education (ICRDCE), 30, Veerasamy Street, Egmore, Chennai – 600008, INDIA Tel: 91-44-28192874 / 28191206 / Fax: 91-44-28192696, Email: mcrdce@vsnl.com

- ✿ Basic Accounts Course (open to all) organised by COJET
  1. Apr 19-24 at Indian Social Institute, Delhi  
Course Fee: Rs.1750 (all inclusive)  
Contact: Fr. A. Antony, SJ Tel: 011.2469713  
Cell: 9968031214 Email: antony@gmail.com
  2. May 07-12 at Jesu Bhavan, Jamshedpur
  3. May 13-18 at Jesu Bhavan, Jamshedpur  
Course fee: Rs.1100 [all inclusive]  
Contact: Fr. Alex Mascarenhas SJ,  
Tel: 0657.2222933 Mob.9334611333  
Email: jsr\_jjprov@sancharnet.in

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 Status I
**UG STUDIES**

	From	To	
Antony Anand S.	Thiruvananthapuram	AAC, Karumathur	B.A. Hist
Berchmans Kasparaj	Thiruvananthapuram	LTI, Madurai	Polytechnic
Francis Xavier A.	Thiruvananthapuram	Berchmans Illam	B.A. Socio.
Maria Annaraj K.	Thiruvananthapuram	Berchmans Illam	B.Sc. Phy
Maria Viyahappan Gladwin A.	Thiruvananthapuram	SJC (Clive's), Tiruchi	B.A. Lit
Michael Panimaya Raj T	Thiruvananthapuram	AAC, Karumathur	B.Sc. Phy
Parthasarathi Narayanaswamy	Thiruvananthapuram	Berchmans Illam	B.Com.
Rajasekaran Arockia Irudayaraj	Thiruvananthapuram	Berchmans Illam	B.Sc. Chem
Vedha Stalin Joseph	Thiruvananthapuram	SXC, Palayamkottai	B.Sc. Maths
Velankanni Arockiasamy S.	Thiruvananthapuram	SXC, Palayamkottai	B.A. Lit.

**PG / SPECIAL STUDIES**

Anbarasan Antonysamy	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	SJC, Tiruchi	M.Sc. Phy
Antony Robinson	Kohima	LC, Chennai	M.Sc. Phy
Jesu Nesa Raju	De Britto, Devakottai	LC, Chennai	M.Sc. Chem
Jeyabaskaran Savariraj	JTS, Nagapattinam	LC, Chennai	M.S.W.
Lawrence Benedict V	SJIS, Udhagamandalam	SXC, Palay.	M.Com
Maria Gohil Doss G.	Berchmans, Chennai	SJC (Clive's), Tiruchi	M.Sc. Chem

**PHILOSOPHY**

John Michael V.	AAC, Karumathur	Satya Nilayam, Chennai
Antony Sebasthiraj A.	Berchmans, Chennai	Satya Nilayam, Chennai
Antony Markus	Loyola, Chennai	DNC, Pune
Berchmans Maria Joseph	Loyola, Chennai	DNC, Pune
Michael Pugazhendhi A.	AAC, Karumathur	DNC, Pune
Poondy Rajan Y.	Loyola Chennai	DNC, Pune
Sahayaraj Vijayan	Berchmans, Chennai	DNC, Pune
Sebastian Crossian	Loyola, Chennai	DNC, Pune
Vasanth Kumar L.	SXC, Palayamkottai	DNC, Pune
Viji Bose	SJC, Tiruchi	DNC, Pune

**REGENCY**

Andrew Michael	De Britto, Devakottai	Nagapattinam
Gnanaraj Arul Francis	DNC, Pune	Kuppayanallur
James Antonysamy	DNC, Pune	Oriyur
Jeyaseelan Saminathan	SN, Chennai	Afghanistan
John Paul K	DNC, Pune	JRS, Ranipet
Lawrence M. M	DNC, Pune	PEAK, Shambaganur
Manicka Jothi A	DNC, Pune	Vallam
Maria Felix Kennedy M	DNC, Pune	Udhagamandalam
Maria Packiam	LC, Chennai	L.T.I. Madurai
Packiaraj Soosai	DNC, Pune	DACA, Maduai
Philip Kumar G	DNC, Pune	Kohima
Ravikumar Sacariyas	PEAK, Shembaganur	Devakottai
Sebastian Thangadurai	Loyola, Chennai	Kuppayanallur
Stephen Danielnathan	DNC, Pune	LASAC

**THEOLOGY**

Arockia Dass	Vallam	Arutkadal, Chennai
Innaci John V	Hong Kong	Arutkadal, Chennai
Joseph Ignaci G	LASAC	Arutkadal, Chennai
Maria Irudaya Selva Rajesh	C & C	Arutkadal, Chennai
Paul Benedict	Kuppayanallur	Arutkadal, Chennai

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## NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

### VIDYANIKETAN (JESUIT JUNIORATE), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The academy day was celebrated grandly on the 10th of this month with the theme "Sacrifice for Peace". It was a great opportunity for all the juniors to exhibit their talents. The ecological tour of Kodaikanal from 15th to 17th February was very helpful for us to become aware of the urgent need to protect our environment. We also took some practical and concrete resolutions to be eco-friendly. Thanks to **Fr. John Britto** of Madurai Province who was very generous in giving us this valuable course on ecology.

We also visited some of the important places of Madurai and Dindigul. We are grateful to the communities of St. Mary's, Madurai and Beschi College, Dindigul who were very hospitable to us.

Now, we have pulled up our socks and stuck to our chairs in serious study for the ADF Exam, which is on the 17th of March.

*Velankanni*

### DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE

To salute our nation on the special occasion of the Republic Day, we had a Solemn High Mass for all the campus house members, concelebrated by **Fr. Job Kozhathadam**, the President of JDV. **Fr. Arockiadoss Peter**, the Dean of Theology, preached an inspiring and enchanting homily on "Abide in Me" which enkindled the spirit of patriotism.

**Fr. Ted Bowling**, hoisted the flag on Republic Day and delivered a challenging and provocative message: "Be alert to the Alarming World and Beaware of Human Rights in our Constitution".

On 31st Jan. the MDU scholastics, screened a power point presentation on our cultural heritage and our mission as part of the Cultural Presentation of different Provinces, with rapturous and a thunderous applause of approval.

On 1st Feb. The Tamil cultural Mass was concelebrated by **Fr. Arul Jeevan**, the Librarian of JDV, and **Fr. Arockiadoss Peter** preached a soul-stirring and thought-provoking homily on "Merging to Emerge" which exhibited the different apostolates and pioneering spirit of Jesuits of Madurai Province.

On 3rd Feb. we had diaconate ordination for the theologians, presided over by the Bishop of Pune, the **Most Rev. Valerian D'Souza**.

The misseionaries of Afganistan **Fr. Stanislus Fernandez**, ex- provincial of Pune and **Bro. Noel**, enlightened the budding and energetic scholastics of DNC on their pioneering mission in Afghanistan. **Fr. Arockiadoss Peter** participated in the RTC evaluation at Vidyajyoti, Delhi as a special invitee from JDV.

The incredible, tremendous improvement of JDV library flabbergasted the foreign benefactors who visited JDV. It eventually made them envisage some action plan that was proposed by **Fr. Arul Jeevan** to update and embellish the library with modern equipments and the

latest technology in the ensuing year. Kudos to **Fr. Arul Jeevan** for his strenuous and arduous efforts.

On 27th Feb. the valedictory function was graced and chaired by the President of JDV. We bid farewell to the outgoing students of JDV with our nostalgic moments of adieu. Now the campus is agog with intellectual activities and studious silence since scholastics are busy with the preparation for their final semester exams.

*Antony Inigo*

### ARUT KADAL, CHENNAI

Lonergan Seminar for youth of Chengalpattu and Chennai on the theme "m̄d;d̄p̄a K̄j ȳḷ" (Foreign Investment) was organized under the leadership of **Sch. Michael John** on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. About 400 youths benefited from it. The visit of **Fr. Britto Peter**, the PCF, was a time of grace to all of us. He unveiled a bust of St. Ignatius in remembrance of the Triple Jubilee Celebration. **Fr. Pavulraj**, the Novice Master, gave us a recollection talk on "Community Building" on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Fr. Alangaram** was invited by Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram to be a member of the jury for a doctoral defense. The staff and the student representative **Baskar Antony** went to Delhi to attend the plenary academic council.

*Dominic*

### BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

The I and II year novices returned on 25 February after completing their work and hospital experiences respectively. We sincerely thank the Karumathur Jesuit community and the Sisters in charge of the Chetpet, Kumbakonam and Tuticorin Hansenariums for their hospitality and support to the novices. Indeed it was a rich experience for all the novices and they became aware of the necessity to take up work with and for the people living with HIV/AIDS. **Fr. Novice Master** gave a seminar for Jesuit Brothers on 'Constitutions, Discernment and Autobiography' in Secunderabad. He also gave a course on "Discernment of Spirits and Discernment of God's will".

Twelve Sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus have come to CIS for a month-long preparation before their final commitment. The renovation work in Beschi is completed and we are ready to welcome guests once again.

*V. Santosh*

### DHYANA ASHRAM, CHENNAI

A seminar cum workshop on the Spirituality of Robert de Nobili was organized by **Fr S.M. Selvaraj** in D.A. Learned papers were read by **Frs. Puthiadam, Anand Amaladoss, S. Arockiasamy** and **Leonard Fernando**. Fruitful discussions were held by the participants.

A seminar on the 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation of the Spiritual Exercises was organized on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February by **Fr Thamburaj** for retreat preachers. **Fr Pavulraj** the Novice Master was the resource person. New avenues were discovered how to give the Exercises in daily life. **Ms Michelle** who was a beneficiary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annotation shared her experiences especially how to make discernment in life.

**Fr Thamburaj** preached a parish mission in Muscat (Oman) on Sacraments and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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He also addressed The 13<sup>th</sup> National Charismatic Convention on the theme: "I have sinned", held in Muringoor, Kerala.

Three one-month retreats were preached separately by **Frs. S.M. Selvaraj, James Rodrigues** and **A. Victor**. A national special retreat on Mission was preached by **Fr Jerry** at NBCLC, Bangalore. There were 90 priests (Jesuits included) and religious.

**Fr. Varaprasadam** had a pleasant stay with us sharing his missionary experiences.

### CHENNAI MISSION: LOYOLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RANIPET

We had a one-day seminar on AIDS awareness for our boys and girls. The 4<sup>th</sup> College Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 19 February. It was presided over by **Fr. Boniface Jeyaraj**, Rector of Loyola College. The Chairman of Ranipet Municipality **Mr. Krishnamoorthy** was our invited guest of honour. The variety entertainment got up by our students was very much appreciated by the audience. Among the items, a documentary film on the different activities of the College, creatively prepared by **Sch. Suman** was shown. Congratulations.

*I. Vedanayagam*

### DASTEC, GANSOVILLE

Fifteen Dalit girls (X & XII std.) have camped at DASTEC to intensify their preparation for their forthcoming exams.

The Grihini students of DASTEC attended two 5-day training programmes on social analysis & legal awareness at IDEAS, Madurai.

A mini computer lab has been made accessible to them in the centre, thanks to the generosity of **Fr.M.A. Ignacy**, the HM of Oriyur.

An effort has been made to create a herbal garden in DASTEC, by planting some medicinal plants thanks to **Fr.G. Ambrose**.

The leaders and cadres of the movement are in full swing, in their continual involvement in the issues and struggles of the Dalits in and around Devakottai.

The teachers of the evening study centres have become more enthusiastic in their mission, after the one day- training on teaching skills and methods by **Mr. Maran** from Nagai (Every Child Project) and the input session by **Mr. Venugopal** from Paramanivayal.

Sixty-seven children of the evening study centres were privileged to make a tour to Madurai and Vaigai dam, the first ever for most of them. But for the generous hospitality, extended by our SJ communities of IDEAS, LTI, St. Mary's (Mdu.) & AAC (Karumathur), the tour could not have been thought of. A big thanks to all of them.

One more evening study centre has been started in the Ambedkar Street of Iravuseri.

The mid-February brought in an atmosphere of warmth and geniality, into the Gansoville farm, thanks to our GBM held here and the visits of our Supamites, our southern regents, CIC tourists, etc.

*Masillamani*

### ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL

**Fr. K.S. Aockiasamy**, secretary, Bible Commission of the Dindigul diocese, was the chief guest at the Catechism Annual Day celebrations on 27th. He lauded our efforts in distributing copies of the Bible to all the Catholic students of our school at a subsidized rate. Regular classes were conducted on the Bible during the catechism classes throughout this year. This has brought very good familiarity of the students with the Bible. Special competitions were held on the Bible and biblical themes.

Our staff went on a pilgrimage to Kavarayapuram (Shrine of Child Jesus) and most of them covered the distance on foot, as part of the Lenten devotion.

Our elementary school had the annual day on 1st March. The variety entertainment programme brought out the multifarious talents of the kids of the school.

*S.M. Kennedy*

### ST MARY'S, MADURAI

Our Lady of Lourdes Festival was celebrated with candlelight procession. **Fr. Stephen Kulandai** the Rector was the main celebrant. The parishioners and the students took part in large numbers in front of the newly-built grotto on the stage of the school. **Fr. Ignatius Britto** the architect of the structure took efforts to make it a grand show.

The community and the hostellers had a pilgrimage on foot to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, K. Pudur and participated in the Mass; **Fr. S. Bastin** preached a meaningful homily.

Children took out a procession on the Holy Childhood Day, raising slogans, proclaiming loyalty to Child Jesus. Two days' charismatic convention was held when **Fr. Devaraj** with his powerful message explained the need for conversion, reconciliation and surrender to Lord Jesus.

A special prayer service and Mass were held to implore God's blessings on the examination-going students. The parents and the faithful raised their hands over them and prayed for the outpouring of the Spirit.

*Felix Joseph*

### CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

What a happy meeting it was for the Carmel Jesuits with the Bishop the **Most Rev. Leon Tharmaraj** on the New Year Day in his room! Who could have guessed then, that it was our last meeting? On the 16th January, we paid our tearful homage to his mortal remains in the Bishop's house. He was an ardent friend and supporter of the Carmel Jesuits for the past thirteen years. To bid farewell to that great soul, with heavy hearts, we joined the funeral procession from the Bishop's house to the Cathedral for the burial. The Carmel Jesuits miss him very badly. On the 5th January, the 1st Friday of the year, Carmel school Jesuits, staff and students assembled at the school quadrangle and offered the Family Mass, invoking the blessings of God. Our Superior **Fr.P.S. Arul** preached a meaningful homily.

After attending the extended consult of the Province and a private official meeting with the Provincial, our Superior, shared his points with the community on the

11th January. It was an enthusing sharing wherein all members contributed their share to make the service-life more effective.

The Jesuit-tsunami-team at Carmel conducted many seminars and training camps in January and February to 2500 tsunami-affected students with the help of competent lawyers and animators.

On the 14th January, an important step was taken towards the canonization of martyr Devasahayam, when thousands of devotees, Priests, Sisters and laity made a pilgrimage to Mt. Devasahayam, the place of martyrdom. Earlier, the celebrations started at Nattalam, the birthplace of the martyr, with the blessing of a new church. Br. Chinnappan's contribution in these events was great.

The **Most Rev. Edward Francis**, emeritus Bishop of Sivagangai, who had come to Nagercoil on the 5th of February, paid a visit to the Carmel Jesuits. He was happy to meet Fr.P.S.Arul, the Superior, who had been the P.P. and V.F of Ramanathapuram under him. He was also glad to see **Fr.S.M. Arockiam** whom he had asked to serve as the P.P of Maranthai-Savariarpatnam in 1992-93. The Bishop felt much pleased to meet and talk to Jesuits at Carmel.

*S.M. Arockiam.*

## ST ARULANANDAR, ORIYUR

The 314th Anniversary of the martyrdom of our Beloved Patron St. John De Britto was celebrated in a fitting and solemn manner. For the first time, the neighbouring parishes, some of the institutions the parish associations, etc made their massive contribution which proved to be a ray of hope in our effort to popularize this Shrine and make it a Basilica. The coming of the "MODELS" group from Dindigul was very handy for the renewal of the parish once again in preparation for the feast. Another characteristic feature of the feast was "samapanthi"(rkgej p).

The Jubilee celebration of our First Fathers was combined with this feast. The main celebrant **Fr. K.S. Arockiasamy**, Vicar General of Dindigul Diocese, paid glowing tribute to Jesuits. The celebration was concluded with a Sound and Light programme on the Jubilarian Saints. A quiz programme was conducted for the students on the Jubilarian Saints by **Fr. Jerome. Fr. Moollel** framed the questions and the answers. Students from 10 schools participated in the quiz programme. To our surprise, students from Government schools too took part in the quiz and won prizes.

Arulanandaiyar Primary School celebrated its 99th Sports Day and Annual Day with grandeur and gaiety. **Mr.M.X.B. Stanly**, the D.S.P of Thiruvadanai presided over the Sports Day. **Sr.E.M. Rosary**, FIHM, Principal of Idhaya College, Sarakanei, chaired the School Day function. The Sound and Light by the kids "kyul Lk; khz tHfS" (let the students blossom) won the applause of one and all.

A one-day retreat was arranged for the Catholic students of our school by the campus minister **Fr. Marivalan**. The "MODELS" group, Dindigul, guided this retreat. This has enhanced the spiritual formation of our students. **Miss. Ranjitha** brought laurels to our school by getting gold and bronze medals in triple and long jump respectively at the State level BDS (Bharathiyar Day

Sports) competition which was held at Tiruchi. The SDAT(Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu) rewarded her with a sum of Rs.600.

*Andrew Michael*

## ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the Feast of St. Arulanadar with a Solemn High Mass. **Fr. Britto Amalanathan** who teaches in the Department of Philosophy preached a very inspiring sermon, highlighting the life of St.Arulanandar and the struggles he faced to proclaim the good news. It was a meaningful celebration for us all and we had breakfast with the hostellers.

On the 19<sup>th</sup>, we had a get-together of Madurai zone Jesuits in our residence. Jesuits from all the communities came and made the occasion a memorable one. The representatives of communities shared the important issues and happenings that had taken place in their communities. The evening was concluded by a 30-minute Lenten reflection on "Self-Forgiveness" by **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj**.

On the 21<sup>st</sup>, the foundation stone was laid for an additional classroom by **Mr.N.S.V. Chittan**, B.A, M.P of Dindigul. The expense for the building is given from the Dindigul constituency developmental fund-2007.

Our girls' hostel was blessed by **Fr. Arulanandam**, the Socius, and inaugurated by **Br. Kulandairaj**, the treasurer. The inmates of the hostel made the guests happy by their cultural programme.

The 28<sup>th</sup> convocation of our college was held on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The honourable **Mr. Justice P. Jyothimani**, Judge, Madras High Court was the chief guest. He delivered the convocation address and distributed the prizes.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Michael Jeyaraj took a contact class on "Theoretical Criminology" to the PG students of the Madurai Kamaraj University. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, he participated in the inauguration of the GYM and Physiotherapy Centre at Muhil near Thirumangalam.

**Fr. Vincent Sekhar** addressed a gathering of students of various colleges at TTS, Arasaradi, Madurai on "Religious Pluralism" and presented a paper on "Religions and Societal Transformation" at the Madurai Kamaraj University conference. It was very much appreciated by all.

**Fr. Lourdusamy** of the Department of Christianity conducted a two-day seminar on "Christianity and Social Change" at the Madurai Kamaraj University. Students from several colleges participated in the seminar. **Fr. Roosevelt** has been appointed as the Estate Officer of the college. Under his guidance, our college office is getting a new look.

The first year novices of our Province have very successfully finished their month-long work experience at our Kannanur farm. Now our farm has got a new contour as a fruit of their hard work under the scorching Sun. Thanks a lot to each one of them and to their formators.

The department of Tamil with "the Ignacimuthu-Sebasthiammal Trust" conducted a one-day seminar on "The Challenges faced by Women Today". All the girl students of our college took an active part in the seminar and benefited a lot. Similarly, the department of

Mathematics organized the "MATAAC-2006 and 07" on "The Application of Mathematics in Information Technology". Students came from nearly 10 colleges students came and participated in the competitions conducted.

On 11<sup>th</sup>, **Dr. Ramkumar**, M.B.B.S, delivered a talk on "Health, Hygiene and Sex Education" to our hostel students. It was highly relevant and valuable.

*M. Selvam*

## LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

On 10<sup>th</sup> of February the eve of the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, we had a candlelight procession in which people with great devotion to Mother Mary participated in large numbers. **Fr. Amalanathan**, the Rector of Satya Nilayam, preached an inspiring homily.

Celebration and display of "Published books and articles by Loyola Jesuit writers in 2006" was a time for the young minds (scholastics) to be imbued with a desire for achieving greater things. It was, indubitably, a family celebration in which everyone was applauded for his God-given talents.

In the last week of February, we had the college sports day. The talents exhibited during the events made people say "Winning gold medals in Olympics is not far away". Loyola, the host of **Fr. Murphy** football tournament, lifted the cup once again and were named champions.

On account of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the non-teaching staff association the campus wore a festive look on 17<sup>th</sup> of February and **Thiru. Arcot Veerasamy**, the Minister for Electricity of Tamil Nadu shared the joys by his presence.

Departments of Economics, Zoology and Commerce (self-supporting and evening) organized national and international seminars in their respective areas. People from all over India and abroad participated and presented papers. Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy (LIFE) hosted a workshop cum training on environmental science for school teachers and students for two days. Loyola Institute of Vocational Education (LIVE) organized a symposium on education and employability on 21<sup>st</sup> of February to which resource persons from various fields were invited to give lectures. The inauguration of Loyola SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) was presided over by **Mr.R.Christodass Gandhi**, secretary to the government, social reforms department. The presence of **Padmashree Dr.Nalli Kuppasamy Chetti** added joy to the occasion. Hats off to **Sch. Ignacy**, the student president of Loyola SIFE team for his able leadership.

**Fr. Ignacimuthu** delivered an endowment lecture at Nirmala College, Muvattupuzha, Kerala. He also inaugurated a national seminar on biotechnology at Nirmala College, Coimbatore. **Fr Michael Amaladoss** addressed the CRI meeting of priests in Kochin on Fundamentalism. He also spoke on 'Integration in Religious Studies' at the Plenary Academic Council of Vidyajyoti Delhi held from 19<sup>th</sup> February.

**Fr Joe Arun** was at Vidyajyoti Delhi in mid-February for a week to teach the students of theology a course on

Symbols in Religions. His book, **Constructing Dalit Identity** is a section of his PhD thesis at Oxford University.

*S.A. Arockiasamy*

## ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The month of February witnessed a number of seminars and conferences. Our library director, **Fr.G. Joseph Antony Samy** organized a seminar on 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, on 'Radio Frequency Identifier' (RFID) Technology and Library Management. The seminar focused on the need to digitize libraries and introduce RFID for easy access to books. The valedictory function of the centenary celebrations of the Chemistry Department was held on 10<sup>th</sup> February. On important aspect of the function was the lively interaction with the alumni of the college who wanted to give back something to their Alma Mater from which they had received much. The Tamil Peravai and Dr. Rajamanikkanar centre for Historical Research organized on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb a colloquium to mark the centenary celebrations of the Tamil scholar; various speakers pointed out that the numerous books on Tamil History by Dr. Rajamanikkanar are valuable guides for researchers and language lovers for their simplicity and succinct facts on various historical happenings in the State.

The SHEPHERD Department of the college as part of its national environmental awareness campaign conducted a number of programmes on 'Solid Waste Management' from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February for the benefit of both the college and school students. A two-day national conference on Computer Science and Communication Technology was organized on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> February by the Department of Computer Science and **Fr. Francis Thamburaj**, the Cyber Technology Department coordinator. The conference witnessed the participation of a large number of students from the local colleges and nearly 150 delegates from different parts of the country. More than 100 research papers were presented on the occasion in parallel sessions. The Department of Electronics organized on Feb 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup>, a well-attended exhibition which displayed 33 exhibits involving various digital innovations by over 100 students. The Electronics Association has been conducting such exhibitions for the last four years and the students voluntarily carry out experiments with scientific interest and enthusiasm.

Another noteworthy feature of academic interest was the number of MOUs (Memorandum of Understanding) signed by the college with universities both inside and outside the country during this month. Thanks to the intense efforts taken by **Fr.A. Joseph** the Secretary of the college and the Head of the Placement Cell, more than 100 students of the college (both undergraduates and post-graduates) have already been placed in various jobs. The placement drive is still on.

Apart from all the above noteworthy academic endeavours, the spiritual activities that have always characterized St. Joseph's, are being carried on with the usual fervour. The annual car procession of our Lady of Lourdes took place on 11<sup>th</sup> February. The campus Ministry Team under the Leadership of **Fr.P. Susai** coordinated the 12<sup>th</sup> State level Catholic youth convention, Grace 2007 from 16-18 February. The convention was well organised. Both Jesuits and lay preachers and over 400 Catholic youth from various colleges of Tamil Nadu participated in the convention and experienced the touch of God's grace.

One must not fail to mention the achievements of some individual members of the community. **Br.M. Devadoss** who is teaching History in our school was awarded a merit certificate at a symposium conducted by the National College on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb. Two research papers by **Fr.K. Arockiam** who is currently pursuing his Ph.D programme on Sri Lankan Refugees have been accepted – one by the ‘The Indian Society of Labour Economics’, New Delhi and the other by ‘The Indian Society of Victimology’.

**Fr. Mount Joseph Selvan**, our parish priest has been admitted into the CSI Hospital with a severe leg muscle problem. Please pray for his speedy recovery.

*Louis Xavier*

## THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

The community residence is getting a facelift through laying of flooring tiles for the rooms and corridors.

Our inter-religious dialogue group, *Kanyakumari Palsamaya Sangamam* is meeting regularly every month. As the Muslim group in Kanyakumari is not open to dialogue with other religions, some of our Muslim friends from Thruvananthapuram come every time to make the Muslim participation lively and fruitful.

**Fr. Korkoniyas Moses** from Calcutta province is with us for two months of silence and meditation (*mouna sadhana*) from January 6 to March 6, 2007.

*Christanand C. Valiaveetil*

## AICUF

The Madurai Regional camp was held at W.Pudupatti near Srivilliputhur from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> February. A senior AICUFer **Mr.Jeganathan** inaugurated the camp and **Fr. Peter Sahaya Raj**, parish priest of the village offered felicitations and made all the arrangements for the camp. The students had the opportunity of learning the reality of the villagers through exposure and inputs. The regional advisor **Fr.Arul Ravi** and the full-timer **Mr. Anbarasu** co-ordinated the programme.

Tamil Nadu AICUFers launched a massive campaign against “Manual Scavenging” on 14<sup>th</sup> February through a signature campaign. They sent telegrams to the President, Prime Minister, Chief Minister and Social Welfare Minister of Tamil Nadu demanding immediately that manual scavenging be stopped and alternative livelihood be provided for the workers. On the same day they also organized a public demonstration at Madurai and Tiruchi to stop manual scavenging, which had been banned by the Supreme Court in 1993.

Our students participated in the National seminar on “Youth Envisioning Ecumenism” organized by Ecumenical Asia Pacific Students and Youth Network from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February in Bangalore.

The fourteenth State women’s camp on “Women and Media” was held at Vidiyal school campus, Valanadu Kaikatti in Tiruchi district from 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February. The State Advisor **Fr. Maria Singarayar** inaugurated the camp. **Ms. Mary**, Co-ordinator of the centre, **Mr. Alex Parimalam**, Loyola College, Chennai and **Dr. John**, St. Joseph’s College, Tiruchi were the resource persons. The uniqueness of the programme was the interaction of the

participants with a committed and dedicated social activist **Ms. Medha Patkar** on 16<sup>th</sup> February at AICUF House, Tiruchi. The camp was co-ordinated by the full-timer **Ms.Gomathi**.

St. Joseph’s College, Cuddalore was the host for the Chennai regional leadership camp held at its premises, from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> February. The camp was inaugurated by the Principal **Fr. Paul Rajkumar**. **Dr.Brinda Devi**, Revenue Department Officer, Cuddalore district was the chief guest. The State Advisor **Fr. Maria Singarayar**, **Dr. James Sundar** of Loyola College, Chennai and **Mr. Thriumani**, Director Culture Care Center, Chennai were the resource persons. The unit advisors **Prof. Savarimuthu** and **Prof. Arockia Mary** along with the full-timer **Mr. Anand Babu** were behind the success of the programme.

A one-day seminar for all colleges of Nagercoil was organized on 24<sup>th</sup> February by the AICUF unit of Holy Cross College, Nagercoil on “Reservation”. The regional advisor Fr.Arul Ravi was the resource person.

*Singam*

## SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION

How are spirituality and religion related to each other?

- \* Spirituality is the core of religion, religion is the form of spirituality.
- \* Spirituality is the content of religion, religion is the language of spirituality
- \* Spirituality is the gestalt of religions, religion is the gestalt of spirituality
- \* Spirituality is the bhava (inner dynamics) of religion, religion is the rupa (external form) of spirituality.
- \* Spirituality is the enstasis of the spirit, religion is the ekstasis.
- \* Spirituality is the pole of unification, religion is the point of diversification.
- \* Spirituality is the experience of the ultimate, religion is exposure to the concrete.
- \* Spirituality awakens the seeker to the trans-personal Divine, religion helps the believer encounter the personal God.
- \* Spirituality is essentially one, religions are existentially manifold.
- \* Spirituality is like the root dimension, religions evolve like branches which grow in different directions.
- \* Spirituality is something hidden, religion is the manifest form.
- \* Spirituality wakes up in the intuitive buddhi, religion finds articulation in the mind.
- \* Spirituality points to the mystery of the divine Spirit, religion refers to the creativity of the human spirit.

(Courtesy: S. Painadath, We are Co-Pilgrims, pp. 7-8)

## NEW RELEASES

“*Constructing Dalit Identity*” by C. Joe Arun, SJ  
Published by Rawat Publications, Jaipur. Rs. 695/-

**From: Vaigarai Pathippagam**

“*Sea, Land, People*” Edited by **Dr. M. Arunachalam, Dr.A. John de Britto, Dr. S.M. John Kennedy SJ**; pp. 320, Rs. 200/-

“*fi y> epyk> kf fS*,” by **S.M. John Kennedy, SJ**; pp. 112, Rs. 40/-

“*MS i k e p f o T f S*,” by **Xavier Antony, SJ**, pp. 88, Rs. 25/-

**From: t p p n t s p a L ‘LASS’, y y k > k J i u**

“*t l l t d ; k i w f s p y l U e J n g z ; f i s g ; g h J f h f ; F k ; r l ; k > 2005 g a d g h L k ; g p d ; z p A k ;*” by **Sahaya Philominraj, SJ**, pp: 86; Rs. 20/-

“*R d h k p R t L f S*,” by **A. Santhanam, SJ**, pp: 86; Rs. 20/-

## ABIDE WITH THE LORD

**Fr. Harold Pereira**, (BOM) 77/48 on Feb. 12 at Andheri, Mumbai.

**Fr. Austin Fernandes**, (BOM) 74/56 on Feb. 26, at Vinayalaya, Andheri.

**Fr. Joseph Van Hove** (CCU) 90/70 on Mar. 5 at Calcutta.

**Br.M.A. Emmanuel, SHJ** (87) uncle of Fr. M.J. Victor on Feb. 4 at Palayamkottai.

**Mr. S. Amalraj** (66) brother of Br. S. Arockiasamy (Beschi) on Feb. 21 at Valaiampatti.

**Mrs. Lourdummy**, (78) mother of Fr.P Susai on Feb. 10 at Michaelpuram.

**Mrs. Jebamalai**, mother of Frs. Joe Antony and Emmanuel on Mar. 1 at Madurai.

**Br. Susaimanickam S. Michael, SJ.**  
07.05.1936 – 24.02.2007

The Loyola Technical Institute Community in Madurai was privileged to have Br. Soosaimanickam during the last six years of his life. Earlier, he had served in St. Paul’s Seminary, St. Joseph’s College, Palamalai, Dindigul St. Mary’s and Shembaganur. Whatever the assignment he got, whether it be the hostel or the community or estate, he rose to every occasion by his gift of availability. He stuck to his place and work, day and night without finding excuses to move out of the place. His life has all along been characterized by simplicity, humility and hard work. We remember him as a model religious without the modern attractions and life style.



In December 2006, he understood that something was seriously wrong with some wound in his right lower leg. He downplayed the whole leg pain with the result that it became a serious gangrene. He was admitted to the Meenakshi Mission Hospital on 6<sup>th</sup> of December and was operated upon with some risks. After the necessary post-operative care in the same hospital, he was shifted to the Dindigul St. Joseph’s Hospital on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. He was there in the hospital for more than two months under the watchful care of the Sisters. The final healing of the wound in the leg was not forthcoming. The Doctors decided to do some grafting as a last resort. He was quite comfortable and cheerful after this minor operation. But suddenly his heart began to falter. He was shifted to the ICU. **Fr. Stephen Muthu** gave the anointment. The end came on 24<sup>th</sup> of February at 10.35 p.m. **Fr. Provincial** presided over the funeral Mass in Beschi College on 25<sup>th</sup> at 4.30 p.m. **Fr. G. Packiaraj** preached the homily and **Fr. R. George** and **Br. A. Ignacy** shared their reflections on the Brother after the Mass. May his soul rest in peace.

*G. Packiaraj*



Lentent Reflections

***The Cross in our life***  
***Fr. Joe Mannath, SDB***

Q1: During Lent, we think more about doing penance and about the role of the cross. What is the right Christian attitude to the cross?

Simple. The cross is not the centre of the Christian life; love is. To be faithful to live, we have to be ready for everything, including the cross. Jesus did not go in search of suffering, nor avoid the simple pleasures of life, like food, company or rest. In fact, his critics called him a "glutton and a drunkard." He was not seen as an ascetic, but as a good and compassionate man. Even in Gethsamene, Jesus showed all the fear and reluctance of a normal, human being in front of suffering, and prayed to be spared the pain, if possible. The key point, however, is: "Not my will, but yours be done." His life was centred around God's will. He spoke and acted in fidelity to this one Love that ruled His life. Out of love for the One He referred to as Abba, he spoke fearlessly, treated people with tender compassion, went against convention, confronted the powerful, and in the process made enemies, who eventually had him killed. He paid a very high price for fidelity. The cross was a part of this journey.

If we too are faithful to God's plans, we will live a life like that of Jesus - and have to pay a price for our fidelity. That will be our cross.

Q2: How do I imitate Jesus today, and carry my cross?

By choosing the path of integrity and compassion, as Jesus did. I think of an honest police officer who refused to sign a false accusation against a government servant, and was demoted. Or of public servants who refuse to accept bribes, and have to live on their salary, while colleagues amass wealth. Or of people like Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador who was killed for exposing the torture and murders perpetrated by the military.

None of us needs to go in search of the cross; it is enough we decide to live according to our conscience. We will invariably have to pay a price for it. This is the most meaningful form of suffering - the crosses we have to bear to fulfill our duties, to follow God's will, to be a true follower of Jesus.

Q3: This is hard, and I am no hero. I would rather skip a meal or say an extra prayer rather than take the Gospel so seriously.

You are being honest. Christianity can appear an easy religion if we count our days of fast and abstinence, or external practices we are bound to follow. It is not an easy religion to practise, because its central demand is that we practise love and justice, forgive others, and live by the truth - "practise the truth in love", as the New Testament tells us. It is easier to skip a meal than to practise justice or speak unpalatable truths.

Christian penance (carrying the cross) is that: to be faithful to God's love, whatever it may cost. This means: (1) honesty and justice in all our dealings; (2) faithfulness to the duties of our state of life; (3) the sacrifices required by charity, e.g., to deprive myself of something when someone else's need is more urgent; (4) to bear cheerfully the sufferings we do not choose, such as, limitations of health and talent, difficult situations and persons, disappointing events of life. The best crosses are what we do not choose. Let me illustrate each of these with an example.

First, honesty and justice: In addition to the examples given above, think of the many public servants who are incorrupt, in spite of the daily temptation to make easy money in dishonest ways. Secondly, the duties of one's state of life demand many sacrifices, Think of the life of a mother or father, of a doctor or nurse, of a teacher or priest. To fulfill our duties well we have to sacrifice our love of ease and comfort. This costs, as all of us know. Thirdly, charity, e.g., to reach out to someone who needs my time, attention, money or hospitality, when I would rather watch television, or sleep or spend money on myself. Fourthly, to bear the unavoidable crosses of life cheerfully. To quote an example, on days when Don Bosco looked extra cheerful, those who knew him well would say, "Today he must be having more to suffer; for he looks more cheerful than usual." We can learn not only to bear physical and mental suffering, but also to do so with a certain degree of joy and peace, without making everyone around us suffer. To go through life with a long face, with a long list of complaints and a large dose of pessimism, is not the meaning of carrying one's cross."

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Q4: What about voluntary mortifications, like fasting and abstinence?

Voluntary mortifications can be good or bad, according to why they are done, and what results they produce. We must remember, above all, that the purpose of penance is not to punish ourselves, but to grow in love. In Lent, for instance, we deprive ourselves of food and amusements to be more generous with the needy. Just to deprive oneself of something pleasant has no value; it may even be a bad thing, if such acts make me morose or unpleasant. If, for instance, I tend to become irritable when I don't get enough sleep, it will be a virtuous and charitable thing to sleep more so as to be more relaxed and approachable during the day. So too, it is better to eat and enjoy others' company than to fast and make a show of it, or think oneself more religious than others because of one's fasting. God looks at the heart, not at the plate in front of us.

Q5: Doesn't voluntary penance (e.g., fasting) have no spiritual value?

It can have a spiritual value if one or more of these three goals is being achieved: (1) greater detachment from material things; for food and other pleasures are not what will fill our heart; (2) readiness to share our material goods, time and talents with others; for the goods of the earth are not to be despised, but to be used in the service of love; (3) inner discipline, by which we master, and are not mastered by, our craving for pleasure; for nothing worthwhile can be achieved without discipline. Having said this, I want to repeat the central theme of Lent: change of heart, not just change of diet; growth in love, rather than counting the meals we skipped. Lent is not a gloomy period of going without what we like; it is a happy time of getting closer to the Lord and to one another through love and reconciliation.

Q6: If so, what suggestions would you make for a fruitful observance of Lent?

Just what the Church proposes, namely, a more assiduous listening to God's Word, a more intense practice of love and doing the penance each of us needs to be true to both (namely, listening to God and loving our brothers and sisters). So, for one person, the best penance may be to give up habits that damage his health and his family's well-being (such as, drinking or smoking). For another, controlling one's tongue and avoiding slander and gossip maybe the best penance. For someone else, repairing a broken relationship may be the most urgent need. One may find that she needs to devote more time to the Word of God and less time to the TV set. Others may see the need to give up corrupt practices, or injustice in their dealings. If we are honest, we will all find areas where we need to change and come closer to God. The steps we have to take to be faithful to God are the best penance for us.

Q7: What about illness, loss of dear ones, pain and mental anguish?

These certainly have a role in our life with God. The Passion and death of Jesus show us that, like Him, each of us will have a period of activity, popularity and struggles, as well as a time of helplessness, humiliation and sense of failure. Believing in the Paschal Mystery means that we believe in the meaningfulness of both. My life is meaningful (and useful) not only when I am active and feel useful (or write articles like this!), but also (and perhaps especially) when I will feel like a failure, find myself weak and in pain. One of the hardest things in life is to accept our limitations, our failures, our physical and mental sufferings, our disappointments and hurts. Just as fidelity to God demands of me the courageous practice of honesty and justice, the same God tests my fidelity at other times through failure, pain and humiliations. This is how He treated His Son; this is how He treated His mother. What right do we have to expect a different treatment?

So, part of the lesson of the cross is Wisdom - the wisdom to accept Jesus's life, cross and death as the pattern of my life, and to accept the truth that there are no short cuts to God without Calvary. Like Jesus, I too need not like suffering or go in search of the cross. What I need is the desire to be faithful, and the willingness to seek God's strength when this fidelity includes the cross. Within that fidelity, in response to God's ever-faithfulness, we will discover a fullness of life that mere pleasures cannot give, and a joy that this world cannot even dream of.

Paradoxically, on the eve of His Passion, Jesus tells his friends: I am telling you all this, that your joy may be complete. The cross does have a role in God's plan; but it makes sense only in the context of the joy and fullness of life that Love offers us in exceeding measure. The One who carried the cross before us, for our sake, is with us today and every day. He gives us the strength to carry our cross every day, and the love to reach out and help others with their crosses.

*Courtesy: The New Leader, March 1-15, 1997*