



SEPTEMBER 2007

(For Private Circulation)

PRIESTLY ORDINATION

Dear friends,

We, the five Maduraians, cordially invite you to our Sacerdotal Ordination to be solemnized at **St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi at 05.00 p.m. on 13th October 2007**. As our hearts are filled with gratitude, we remember each and every one of you for carving us in very many ways all through our formation. Trusting in the Lord who has called us, we pray to God that we may live and give life in abundance.

FIRST MASS

NAME	PLACE	DATE AND TIME
G. Edwin Thadheu	Our Lady of Fatima Church Kallukootam	14 October 2007 05.00 p.m.
A. Louie Albert	Sacred Heart Church, Sarugani	14 October 2007 9.00 a.m.
M.S. Joseph Antony Jacob	Amala Annai Church, Chidambarapuram	14 October 2007 05.30 p.m.
Paulraj Packiam	St. Fatima Church, Oliyamangalam	14 October 2007 05.30 p.m.
Selvaraj Soosaimanickam	Our Lady of Assumption Church, Thatchankurichy	14 October 2007 05.30 p.m.

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Sep

- 07-13 Tiruchi: Visitation: St. Joseph's College; (Poondi & Ariyamangalam)
- 08-09 Tiruchi: Social Action and Dalit Commissions Joint Meeting
- 14 Tiruchi: Visitation: Clive's House
- 15 Dindigul: TVET General Body Meeting
- 16 Dindigul: Consult
- 19 Dindigul: Beschi: R & R
- 20-22 Shembag: Brothers' SA Coordinators' meeting
- 23 Shembag: Brothers' GBM

Oct

- 06 Chennai: Consult
- 06-07 Chennai: Spirituality and Dialogue Commission GBM
- 07-12 Chennai: Visitation: Loyola College
- 13 Tiruchi: Ordinations

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ☞ **Fr. Infant Kingsley** is transferred from Karisal to JRS Nepal
- ☞ Congratulations to our two recipients of the Tamil Nadu State BEST TEACHER AWARD: **Fr. Francis Xavier Lazar** and **Fr. Ignatius Britto**.
- ☞ In view of consultations prior to GC 35 on Socio-pastoral ministry, **Fr. Jerry Rosario** has been invited to Rome. The consultations are from September 08 to 16 and are organized by CIS (Centre for Ignatian Spirituality), to be participated also by Fr. General. The total number of participants from across the world is 12 among whom Fr. Jerry Rosario is participant cum resource person.
- ☞ Personal email letters by the members of the Province to the Provincial are to be sent to his personal email ID: **devadoss@eikmail.com** and not to the office email ID: **mduprosj@gmail.com**. By the way the present office email ID: **mduprosj@vsnl.com** will no more be valid. Socius.
- ☞ The Province **Resource Mobilization Team (RMT)** invites project proposals by 07 October 2007 to be sent to the following address: **Fr. Mariadoss, S.J.**, Province Procurator & Convener - RMT, St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi - 620 002.

Please note: As per the policy of the Province, all project proposals are to be routed through the local superior. Hence, RMT will not entertain any application without the recommendation of the local superior.

☞ **Please note the following changes:**

Fr. Maria Singarayar, Jesuit Community at JSTB, 2601 Le Conte Ave, Berkeley, California 94709-1024, USA; Phone : 001 510 225 6175, cell: 001 510 809 5871. Email : singamsj@gmail.com

Fr. C. Amat Berchmans' House, 17-H, Thalawaddy Road, 7 miles, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar; Tel: +95 (1) 660 728.

- ☞ **Sch. Maria Irudaya Selva Rajesh L.** left the Society on 26 August 2007

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

VIDYANIKETAN (JESUIT JUNIORATE), THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Sch. M. Ramlat (KER) spoke to us on the life of the local Christians, which helped us do our ministry in four different parishes in an effective manner. We were invited to the feast of Mount Carmel on 16 July by Carmel Ashram in Fathimapuram. We enjoyed the programme and the delicious dinner. **Fr. Francis Xavier** (MDU) gave us a course on "Time Management". We are thankful to him for his inspiring talk at our Province get-together. As the SICJ is marching towards its Silver Jubilee celebrations, we, are eager to bring out our best. **Fr. George Sebastian** of Kerala Province gave us a course on Film Appreciation on 3 August. On Independence Day, our co-worker **Mr. Cyril** hoisted the national flag and gave away the prizes to the winners of the quiz programme conducted for the juniors. **Sch. Thayriam** delivered an inspiring speech on Independence Day.

D. A. Stephen

BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

Sincere thanks to **Fr. Patrick Ravichandran** for his sharing with us of the deep-rooted missionary zeal of Jesuits in Africa, particularly in Zambia. It inspired the novices to opt for a similar mission. On 15 August, we celebrated the 60th Independence Day and the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a Solemn Mass. After the Mass, **Sr. Regina** of JRS staff hoisted the national flag. **Immanuel**, a I year novice delivered the Independence Day message with great gusto. He spoke eloquently on the bright and dark aspects of the Indian freedom struggle and on individual

responsibility for making India into a developed nation. **Fr. M. Pavulraj**, gave a course on “Discernment of Spirits” for Jesuit tertians at Shembaganur. On 30 August, the I year novices went on a pilgrimage for a week to Vailankanni on foot along with the parishioners of Anumantharayankottai. In preparation for this, **Fr. R. Dhanaraj** shared with them his experience of pilgrimage in a Jesuit’s life. During that week, the II year novices were busy in the kitchen and in the house maintenance.

M. Christu Raja

DNC, PUNE

On 5th August we had a concelebrated Eucharist for the **Golden Jubilee** of **Frs. Oscar Rozario, Albert D’Silva** and **Rui de Menezes**, in the Society and for **Fr. Bermejo’s**, Diamond Jubilee of priesthood. We had a presentation on **China Mission**.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of Independence **Fr. Jose Panadan** of Gujarat Province professed his Final Vows and hoisted the national flag. **Schs. Antony Inigo, Leo Anand**, and **Britto Arockiam** bagged prizes in the essay competition conducted by ASSR in JDV.

Antony Markus

VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI

There was a mega twin celebration at VJ, the feast of St Ignatius and **Fr.S. Arokiasamy’s** Golden Jubilee in the Society. The presence of local Jesuits, friends and close relatives of Fr. Arokiasamy made the function all the more personal and beautiful. **Fr. Leo Fernando** felicitated Fr. Arokiasamy with precious memories. And it was also an opportunity for us to celebrate Fr. Arokiasamy’s 70th Birthday. His close friend, **Fr. Manipadam** from China, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and shared his experiences with us about Fr. Arokiasamy.

As part of our Independence Day celebration we had a talk by **Mr. Smitu Kothari**. He spoke on “**Whither India at Sixty**” highlighting the glorious achievements of India and also the continuing plights of the poor. And he further invited us to be in touch with reality and bring people to the awareness of the same. **Fr. John Lee**, the delegate of China, addressed the Jesuit community on China Mission and invited us to generously offer our services. Fr. Leo Fernando, as Delhi State advisor of AICUF attended the AICUF National Council meeting held in Chennai.

A.M. John

DE BRITTO, DEVAKOTTAI

De Britto Hr. Sec. School had its 64th annual Sports Day in the first week of August. All the eminent guests

were our alumni and their very presence was truly an inspiration to our boys.

The school also had its Annual Day on August 25. It was a day of merriment for the entire De Britto family. The rain which disturbed our practice the previous day could not deter our celebration. The distinguished chief guest, **Mr. Tiruselvam**, our alumnus, the director of teleserial Nfhyq;fS; shared his thoughts on the importance media education at the school level.

Ravi

LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

After rendering selfless service in the campus Fr Martin set foot in Goa for his tertianship programme. **Fr. Joseph Kennedy** joined the community with renewed vigour after his tertianship. On 4th July at the community orientation, **Fr. Raj Irudaya** of Arul Kadal made a fervent plea for our constant dialoguing in mission. On 15th July there was a volleyball match between the non-Jesuit and Jesuit staff headed by **Fr Albert Joseph**. A week-long cultural festival that followed benefited us in more ways than one. The students have picked up Time Management skill from a course directed by **Fr. Sales. Mr. Amalraj IPS**, SP Kancheepuram was the chief guest at the Sports Day on 4th August. **Fr. Gerlin**, Director of Sports and Games Programme meticulously planned and executed the day’s events. **Fr. J.P. Bellarmine’s** commitment as a teacher of English language is very much visible. **Fr. Wilfred** has started a kindergarten school in Palliagaram to satisfy the demands of the locality. Fifty French students, guided by **Fr. Nicholas**, a French Jesuit were at the nearby Jesuit parishes for their village exposure.

Gnanaraj

ST MARY’S, DINDIGUL

Our annual Sports Day was held on 10th with **Mr.T.Raj Kumar**, an old student and a sportsman, as the chief guest. **Dr.Deena Dayalan**, Principal, G.T.N Arts college, Dindigul presided over the school day function on 11th. He urged all the students to make use of and benefit from all the opportunities provided in the school for their full growth, t h d k ; t r g g L k ; a sound and light drama, written and directed by our teachers stole the hearts of all with an emphasis on the role of parents and the duties of students.

A one-day seminar on sex education for our XI std. students was organized by the Alumni Association of our school. **Dr.Adilakshmi Gurusurthy** enlightened the students with accurate information on sex and related problems.

Our XI std. students, **M. Mohamad Habib Rahman** and **P. Saravanan**, bagged the first prize and the third prize respectively in the State Level elocution

contest on environmental awareness, conducted by the Japanese firm, ATOS – DOSOKAI in Chennai. The first prize carried a cash award of Rs.5000 and a free cultural trip to Japan in the third week of September. At the Independence Day school assembly both the students were felicitated for their grand achievement.

S.M. John Kennedy

ST MARY'S, MADURAI

The finale of the pastoral visit of the Madurai Archbishop was the meeting of St. Mary's community when he expressed his gratitude for the service both of the parish priests and the Jesuit community for the education of the weaker sections of the society both in the school and the hostel.

The Talent Night in the hostel was an innovative programme where multifarious cultural talents were exhibited to the maximum under the leadership of **Fr. Joe Xavier**. The staff of St. Mary's H.S.School had a one-day orientation focusing on their vocation as teachers, conducted by Redemptorists. Most of the teachers started counselling the students as part of the harmonious formation of the students after attending two days of intensive training by **Fr.M.A. Emmanuel** who made the course lively and inter-active.

On the Diamond Jubilee of India's Independence a debate on the growth or decline of democracy in our motherland was held. The audience enjoyed it thoroughly and wanted many more of such lively debates to enlighten their minds.

Fr. Stephen Kulandaisamy organized a grand show on the youth day, galvanizing youth power and energy in a special liturgy and well-organized cultural event.

The cultural week in the school invited spontaneous response from half of the student population who took keen interest in exhibiting their inherent vitality. At a special assembly on Independence Day prizes were distributed.

The Southern Spice Music Channel telecast the historical heritage and ethos of St. Mary's focusing on the various fields of growth, development and excellence in the campus.

Felix Joseph

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

On the 15th August, a new neighbourhood ministry, in the form of "Arrupe Evening School Study Centre" was inaugurated by our Superior, **Fr.P.S.Arul**, with a view to help the backward pupils **Fr. M. Stanislaus** blessed the Study Centre. In order to put into practice the idea of "Teach While Learning", six XI std. hostel

students also teach daily the pupils of the evening-school, together with some regular teachers.

The Annual School Sports Meet was declared open on the 24th August, Students who won laurels in the District Sports and Games, and those who won **Fr. Leveil's** shield were specially honoured on the Sports Day.

On the same day, The **Most Rev. Peter Remigius** took charge as the fifth Bishop of Kottar Diocese. The Carmel Jesuits joined the jubilant congregation of bishops, priests, religious and laity, in receiving and honouring the new Bishop.

On the 25th, August, Carmel School Day was celebrated. The new Bishop, was honoured that day, as he too honoured our school by making his very first visit as Bishop to Carmel. **Fr.K.A. Augustine** put up a very grand show that day.

A long-felt need and desire was fulfilled on the 27th August, when the House Chapel was blessed and inaugurated with a community Mass. The community went on a picnic to Papanasam.

S.M. Arockiam

ST. ARULANANDAR, ORIYUR

Fr. Mathew J. Moolel takes catechism classes for our co-workers on alternate Sundays. In the month of July he guided a retreat (First week) according to the **19th Annotation for eleven ladies of MARIYAYIN SENAL**.

The **Most Rev.J. Susaimanickam**, Bishop of Sivagangai paid pastoral visits to Oriyur parish and all its sub-stations. This served as a grace-giving occasion for us all.

As the first and the special feature of the centenary celebrations of our Arulanandaiyar Primary School, Oriyur (1908-2008) the children were given a course on cursive handwriting in English and Tamil, lasting for 20 days. This has begun to pay dividends.

Fr. Arockiasamy, the Superior arranged a daylong orientation at Gansoville for the community. The resource person, **Fr. John Lourdu**, insisted upon the Ignatian Spirit, which is to be kept alive in each individual's life. We are thankful to **Fr. Masillamani** and **Br. A.Irudayam** for their hospitality.

Fr. Ambrose came to Oriyur with the De Britto school staff for an orientation programme for which **Fr. Pavulraj**, was the resource person.

The 44th Sports Day of St. Arulanandar H.S. School was celebrated in a grand manner. Our students participated enthusiastically and got many prizes.

A. James

LOYOLA COMMUNITY COLLEGE, RANIPET

A one-day medical camp on the initiative of **Ms. Amala** and her team was organized in which each student's blood group was identified. **Sr. Albina** and her team conducted an AIDS awareness seminar. A seminar for 169 JRS students including 29 staff members was organized. **Sch. John Paul** provided tips to the children on studying and preparing for exam.

Vedanayagam

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, UDHAGAMANDALAM

We celebrated the Independence Day with the usual enthusiasm and joy. **Mr Vijay Kumar**, a staff-member, hoisted the national flag, and one of our carpentry students delivered a thought-provoking message.

The important event of August was the formal inauguration of Arrupe Illam, Mettupalayam. **Fr. A Victor**, Superior, Jesuit Chennai Mission unveiled the commemorative plaque of the house and **Fr. M Devadoss**, Provincial cut the ribbon and inaugurated the house. The **Most Rev. Dr. Amal Raj**, Bishop of Udhagamandalam blessed the house during a short prayer service. Kudos to **Fr. Ignatius Amalraj** who personally designed the house. A dedicated band of workers and our own carpentry students put up the building. **Fr.M. Anthony Samy** was instrumental in buying this beautiful location. Appreciation to **Frs. Amal** and **George C. Joseph** for the sumptuous supper and for the neat execution of the function. The visitation of the Provincial and of the Mission Superior, brief though it was, brought us much joy. Their appreciation of the good work of each member of our community was indeed a boost to our commitment. The Socius and the PCF were with us to share our joy. **Fr. Soosai**, our procurator is back after flying visits to Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

M. F. Kennedy

LTI MADURAI

Fr. Stephen Muthu conducted a workshop on 'Project and Financial Management' to the officials of Daltonganj diocese.

Loyola Institute of Placement Service (LIPS) was inaugurated on 3 August. Within a month LIPS has received 16 applications of which 4 placements have been arranged. Two institutions have applied to LIPS to supply them with workforce.

Loyola Collaborative Action Research for Enhancement (LCARE) on 11th August and **Loyola ITI** jointly organized an International Seminar on "Emerging Trends, Challenges and Opportunities in

Technical Education". There were 270 students and staff from various Engineering Colleges, Polytechnics and ITI who participated. This was the first International Seminar which **Sch. Maria Packiam** meticulously planned and conducted. He was ably assisted by Br. Ignatius. LTI Jesuit community salutes Packiam and Ignacy for their contribution.

Maria Packiam

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

A team from Haryana Government consisting of the Joint Secretary and Principals of two Polytechnic Colleges visited ICRDCE to know about the concept and implementation of the community college system and also to visit a few community colleges in and around Chennai. As a result of this visit, the Haryana Government has invited ICRDCE team to conduct a workshop in the month of September on the community college system and establish 30 community colleges in a period of three years all over the State with Government approval and funding.

The Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG) **Sir Michael Somare** has appointed a special officer to start community colleges with the approval of the Government and also to solicit funds from various countries and funding agencies. ICRDCE has been invited to be the official consultant on this project.

The JRS of Afghanistan has invited ICRDCE to collaborate with the Department of Technical Education of Afghanistan to conduct workshops in the country especially in the Universities of Heart and Bamiyan to introduce the community college concept and its implementation. The JRS is keen on establishing at least two community colleges in the country.

During this academic year ICRDCE is helping 17 community colleges to be established throughout the country. The Tiruppur Marialaya Community College run by the Salesian Sisters was inaugurated on 22nd August.

The Director of ICRDCE, **Fr. Xavier Alphonse**, was honoured with the award of excellence for the year 2006 by Asha Nivas, Chennai on 20th August for outstanding contribution towards the cause of Community College Education for the poor and the marginalised.

The Chairman of the UGC has appointed a new committee involving all stakeholders of higher education to present recommendations on the Community College System to the Human Resource Development Ministry for national recognition. He has appointed Fr. Xavier Alphonse chairman of the new committee.

Xavier Alphonse

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

On 7th August we celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit, presided over by **Fr. A. Victor**. His homily really inspired the students very much.

Fr. Montaud Hockey Tournament took place with the usual enthusiastic participation of many teams from all over Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Anand, an old student of Arul Anandar College generously provides the best player award every year in honour of his father **Mr. Karnan**.

Bus day was celebrated on 24th. Drivers and conductors were honoured for their services. As an expert committee member **Fr. Pushparaj** attended the meeting on scrutiny of projects for rare and endangered plant species in the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India in Delhi.

Fr. B. Vincent Sekhar gave the inaugural address to the clergy and religious on the occasion of the Madurai Archdiocesan effort to make inter-religious and ecumenical dialogue a successful movement.

On 22nd **Fr. Michael Jeyaraj** facilitated a day of recollection for the staff of Christ Hall Seminary on the theme "Formator as Mentor".

Michael

LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

On August 7 in the evening, most of the members of the Jesuit community were at the hostel premises for the *Inaugural Prayer Service and Freshers Gathering*, responding to an invitation from **Fr. Xavier Vedam**. As usual, the college trio (**Frs. K. Amal, Peter Xavier and Albert Muthumalai**) greeted the hostellers. The self-financing students were happy to hear **Fr. John Pragasam** their head on that occasion. It was a sight to witness the welcome smile of the hostel students inviting the Jesuits to participate in the grand meal and the Jesuits wishing them well for the continuous internal tests starting the following day.

Loyola congratulates **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** on his appointment by the Governor of Tamil Nadu to serve as a member of the Planning Board of the M.S. University, Tirunelveli.

The outreach activities include this year spoken English classes to the Chennai City boys and girls now pursuing their studies in the various colleges in the city. A special address by **Fr. Emmanuel** marked the inauguration of the programme.

On August 20, 2007, the college had a treat in Tamil from **Mr. Vaiko** as he inaugurated the Inigo Tamil Association.

Fr. Lawrence Amalraj encouraged one and all to witness the various matches of the Bertram Tournaments. Thanks to Frs. Albert Muthumalai and John Pragasam for the one-day workshop on *Teaching and Evaluation* to the newly recruited teaching staff. All the students participated at the Mentoring Session soon after the first continuous internal assessment.

Fr. Francis Britto from Japan spent a few days with us. He came to participate in an international conference. May your visits be more frequent.

Prayers are requested for the speedy recovery of **Fr. Peter Francis** now convalescing in St. Thomas Hospital after an operation at Apollo Hospital. He met with an accident on Aug 9, near the main gate of Loyola College and sustained a fracture in his left thigh bone.

There was enthusiastic participation by all the teaching Jesuits at Loyola at the two-day Jesuit Seminar (Aug 25 and 26) on *Excellence and Relevance of Higher Education: A Relook at SXC*, Palayamkottai.

Sad News again! **Mr. Daniel Raj**, a 1 year student of B.Sc. Visual Communication succumbed to a snake bite at his house at Avadi, Chennai.

A. G. Leonard

ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

An expert team headed by **Mr. Badri**, the AICTE Regional officer, Chennai inspected St. Joseph's Institute of Management on 6th June, 2007 to ascertain its suitability for offering the proposed MBA programme. They were fully satisfied that we had met all the building requirements stipulated by AICTE and provided the needed infrastructural facilities. **Fr. Louis Xavier** has retired from the Directorship and **Fr. Antony Pappuraj** is the new Director.

The annual College Sports day on 3 August was conducted on 3rd August. The sports and games items were organized inter-departmentally for the first time this year. This enhanced the participation of students. **Mr. I. Raja**, Inspector General of Police, Central zone, Tiruchi and an illustrious alumnus of the college presided over the function. The school conducted its Annual Sports Day on 4th August 2007. Around twenty students of Inigo Illam bagged prizes and trophies on the sports day. The school Annual Day was celebrated on 11th August. The Honorable State minister for Transport, **Mr. K.N. Nehru** presided over the function. The Corpus Christi procession was well conducted on 5th August. A two-day retreat was ably arranged by our energetic campus minister, **Fr. P. Susai** on 18th and 19th August.

The 60th Independence Day of the country was celebrated in the college: the Vice Principal, Fr. P. Susai hoisted the national flag. He highlighted in his speech

the great sacrifices made by the freedom fighters. As part of these celebrations a wreath was placed at the Gandhi Memorial in K.A.P. Viswanatham Hospital. Breakfast was given and sweets were distributed to the inmates of Government Girls' Blind school, Puthur.

The most notable event in the month of August was the visit of the former President, **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** to St. Joseph's college his Alma Mater on 24th August. He took a trip down the memory lane recalling his student days in St. Joseph's between 1950-54. Amidst lusty cheers from the hostellers, Mr. Kalam proudly recalled his time at the New hostel and how **Fr. Sequeira** took English Classes outside the regular working hours for students hailing from rural areas. He also acknowledged the contribution of several other 'Great Teachers' of the college. He created a lasting impression on the students with his simplicity and accessibility. He spent a couple of minutes with the college band and interacted with **Fr. Roche** and the players of various instruments. He willingly posed with them for a group photo. He also agreed to the college management's request to serve as a visiting faculty. "I shall teach nano science and knowledge products for physics and economics students. I will handle the classes whenever I visit Tiruchi" he said amidst cheers.

The College has launched a laudable venture under the leadership of **Fr. Lazar**, the Rector. It is "St. Joseph's IAS Academy". The aim of the academy is to coach candidates for the UPSC (Civil Services) Preliminary Examination. The response to the advertisement in "The Hindu", calling for applications to the course is enthusiastic and encouraging.

Louis Xavier

CLIVE'S HOUSE, TIRUCHI

The month of August was filled with great joy for Clive's since the pre-novices had success over the New Hostellers, Patricians and the Theologians of St. Paul's Seminary in friendly basketball matches. At the College Sports Meet, pre-novices **Magbay, Lenin, Kamaraj** and **Alexander** put up a stunning performance and secured medals in many events.

On 4 August, our scholastics preached the annual retreat for the students of St. Joseph's H.S School. On 15 August, the heart-stirring thoughts of Joseph Alexander on 'Patriotism', inspired us to care for the welfare of our nation.

Gladwin

DHYANA ASHRAM, CHENNAI

Fr. James Rodrigues, Superior, preached two retreats for the Jesuits of Dumka-Raiganj Province. **Fr. Bastian** is preaching a long retreat for two Sisters. After preaching an inner-healing retreat to 57 priests from

twelve dioceses in Bhopal, **Fr A. J. Thamburaj** has gone to Myanmar for ministry.

A. J. Thamburaj

IDEAS, MADURAI

"IDEAS should organize such gatherings for us often to help us come together and build a strong network among us" was the unanimous request of the 63 priests and religious and social activists, participating in the colloquium held on 28th and 29th July. Sharing on activities, reflection on challenges and discussion on future plans were the highlights.

Our Media Education Unit's *Thedal Arangam*, a regular programme of video films for social change, came up with its 13th show on 1st July by screening "**Serrupu**", a documentary film by **Mr. Amudhan**. An excellent occasion it was for us to initiate the large gathering of viewers comprising Madurai-based NGOs, religious and human rights activists into an animated discussion and decision to start the campaign for the inclusion of Christian SCs in the SC List in their respective places. Then immediately setting in motion a postcard campaign, **Fr. Eugene** contacted all the Secretaries of the TN Diocesan SC/ST Commissions in order to push this campaign forward vigorously.

The question "How to celebrate meaningfully this year's 60th anniversary of India's Independence?" found its responsive echo at IDEAS in the gathering of children from Madurai slums to reflect on their life today and future orientation. Adding to the liveliness of the campus were other important courses we conducted in July-Aug: a one-day course for tribal youth, a three-day orientation for the staff of SIDT, an NGO's work among tribals on Kodaikanal Hills, two legal literacy programmes for women and a course on social analysis for JRS youth. Thirty-five new teachers from our Jesuit schools had a three-day orientation programme at IDEAS, Madurai.

A group of 16 field research investigators from NAVSARJAN NGO in Gujarat had a stopover in our campus on 25th July. From 26th till 29th, they met their 9 TN counterparts from Madurai-based EVIDENCE NGO at a workshop in Shembaganur to examine the data they had collected till then on IDEAS' current research project: "*Dalit Women in Panchayat Raj: Access, Participation, Impact and Impunity*".

Fr. Eugene participated in the JESA South Zone Coordinators' Meet as well as in the JESA South Asia Coordinators' Meet at ISI, Bangalore on 9th-13th August. Later, he moved around to introduce the newly appointed JESA Secretary, **Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj** (CCU) to all our social centres in the south and meet the people, Jesuits and lay and religious collaborators. He quoted people saying "*but for the Jesuit social centres, we would*

have remained in the dark corners of our sub-human existence”.

“He has done it again!” was our feeling when **Fr. Stephen Martin** came out with his yet another creative piece: “C l f q; f s p d; , a q; F j s k;” (The Dynamic Space of Media)! – his seventh contribution to media education work so far!

Aloysius Irudayam

SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

All tertians and community members participated in the feast of Our Lady of La Salette on August 14 evening which was celebrated as the common feast of all the people of Kodaikanal irrespective of their religions.

The PEAK team mobilized nearly four hundred Dalits and tribals from 20 villages to stage a demonstration before the taluk office in Kodaikanal on August 4 demanding speedy implementation of Tamil Nadu government’s welfare schemes. Inauguration of the Ambedkar Youth Movement on the 15th of July at Poompari and on the 18th of August at Palamputhur brought confidence and courage to the hearts of Dalits to live up to the expectation of Ambedkar in battling against caste discrimination and oppression.

Tertians are leaving on the first of September for a month-long experiment.

Santiago

THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

On August 15, the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady and the 60th anniversary of the Independence of our country we had a concelebrated thanksgiving Mass. After the Mass the national flag was hoisted by two visiting young French Jesuits, **Olivier Barreau** and **Jacques Enjalbert**; national flag badges and sweets were distributed to all present. On this occasion **Mrs. Philomenammal**, niece of the late **Fr. Ignatius Hirudayam**, generously presented gifts of saris to the inmates of the old age home and served lunch for all in the campus.

Fr. Joseph Nedungatt continued his retreat preaching mission this month also. **Fr. Korkoniyas Moses** preached a six-day retreat to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary at Pondicherry. **Fr. Louis Adaikalraj** preached a seven-day retreat to the Superiors and Counsellors of Bethany Sisters. **Fr. Valiaveetil** directed a thirty-day retreat for an FBS Sister in Thozhamai Illam. **Fr. Lawrence Gabriel** has launched a project to plant fruit trees and teakwood saplings in the garden.

C. Valiaveetil

SAHAYAMATHA MISSION, KILPENNATHUR

The beneficiaries of the houses put up by some volunteers from France through the initiative of the AHAL Jesuits thank the benefactors, **Sch. Arockia Doss** from Arul Kadal shared his experience with the tuition teachers with a view to improve their contribution towards our budding stars. **Fr R. Arockia Raj**, Team Leader, has initiated preliminary work for buying land to put up a college in Vettavalam.

Durai

DACA, MADURAI

Our medical team from Ceyrac Medical Foundation went to different villages to create awareness on health care and assist the needy with medicines. The government-certified courses on computer and tailoring for girls started with an orientation by LASAC team. There were 34 girls in the computer course and 17 girls in the tailoring course. These courses were started in 1999 with the aim of enabling the school dropouts girls to stand on their feet and also to make them compete in the job market. It was approved by the Tamil Nadu government in 2000. Nearly three hundred girls successfully completed the course and some of them have got jobs in our garment section, bakery and shops. Besides the regular academic courses DACA trains them in social analysis, communication skills, leadership etc.,. This is done in order to make them realise the need for a social movement to change the social order. The staff members are keen on teaching as well as in providing the feasibility of an integrated formation for the girls. Thanks to **Fr. Eugene** and **Mr. Maran** for helping Regional and Zonal coordinators of Evening Study Centre and Self Help Groups to discover new methodology and pedagogy in teaching.

S. Packiaraj

GANSOVILLE, DEVAKOTTAI

On 5 August, all the Evening Study Centre teachers participated in the debate conducted by **Br. A. Irudayam** on the topic: “Who is responsible for the progress of a student?.....the parents or the teacher or the friends or the student himself?” Parents’ meetings in all the 30 Evening Study Centers is being organized.

Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj, the new JESA secretary along with **Fr. A. Joe Xavier**, his predecessor and **Fr. Eugene**, our social action coordinator were here, on the Independence Day, interacting with our leaders and animators.

Thanks to **Fr. A. Stanislaus** from De Britto, Devakottai for his lively sessions to motivate our DASTEC students.

A. Masillamani

REPORT OF SUPAM MEETING

We, the five supamites came together at St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi for our pastoral reflection and consultation on 14th August. **Fr. Jerry Rosario**, our veteran SUPAM coordinator welcomed us and introduced us to a new innovative way of pastoral thinking. The presence of **Fr. Britto Peter**, our PCF helped us to focus our reflection on the Jesuit tradition. Each of us shared his pastoral experience and thus learnt from one another. Each experience was very unique and rich. We felt that amidst many difficulties such as lack of food, shelter, and toilet facilities, it is God's grace that has sustained us and has shaped us for a joyful ministry.

When we feel the pain of poor people, it is that pain that doubles all our energies to work for the poor. All our petty and tiny problems go unnoticed. As we are doing the pastoral ministry we also feel the importance of being priests of God and His people. Ultimately the priests share the broken Body of Christ. We ended the pastoral reflection with Mass. The deep and insightful homily of Fr. Jerry Rosario filled us with renewed spirit and enthusiasm.

We thank Fr. Rector and Bro. Minister and all the members of St. Joseph's community for the delicious food and comfortable accommodation.

M.S. Jacob

FR. JERRY'S REPORT:

In the annual meeting of TNP Bishops' Council, **Fr. Jerry Rosario** presented the socio-pastoral and Eucharistic perspectives of organ donation (j hdk). He placed before them 7 proposals for their eventual consideration and decision. Regarding our deacons doing their SUPAM the Bishops expressed their profound appreciation of the pastoral service of the deacons.

GOOD NEWS FROM FR. L. YESUMARIAN:

Two years back, I filed a petition in the High Court of Chennai, challenging the "Untouchability Offences Act", called PCR Act. The Dalit Christians were not able to use this act at all because they don't belong to a scheduled caste.

After two years of legal battle, the Chennai High Court has passed an order saying that the Act shall be applicable to Christians also. It is something historical in our struggle. Once I get the copy of the order, I will circulate it.

Today (August 21) a delegation met **Ms. Mayawati** regarding the Dalit Christian issue. It seems that she is in favour of us and will support us.

TERTIANS, PEDRO ARRUPE INSTITUTE, GOA

Fr. K.Arockiam and myself reached Goa on 28 August 2007 amidst a heavy down pour. **Frs. Micheal Alosanai** and **Changa** warmly welcomed us.

Besides Indians we have Jesuits from the USA, Indonesia and Sri Lanka; thus we are an international community. Personal sharings and courses like Enneagram and Psycho-Spiritual Framework were of great help to prepare ourselves for a month-long Ignatian retreat. The incessant rain has taken a break and the weather is quite warm. We had a holy Eucharist celebration, around the relic of St. Francis Xavier at Bom Jesu, Old Goa. The core and pinnacle of the tertianship is the month-long spiritual journey with the Lord. Kindly keep us in your precious prayers, as we begin our Spiritual Exercises on 29 August 2007.

Martin George

NEWS FROM JRS, TAMIL NADU

JRS continues its capacity building work among the refugees. In a community where human capabilities continue to be diluted by their pitiable life as refugees, enhancing their social capital has brought in greater motivation in recent times.

Instructional skills were imparted to all the teachers who happen to be refugees. Most of our teachers were earlier our children. After 17 years, they are the motivators, guides and models to the refugee students. In-service training for 157 teachers was given in three prime teacher training institutes in the State: St. Xavier's Palayamkottai, St. Theresa's I.T.I., Viraganur and Stella Matutina, Chennai. This training will be of great help to them as they return to their camps.

The refugee youth remain a high risk group. Lack of jobs and educational opportunities etc. induce frustration and unsocial behaviour. JRS has launched motivational seminars for these youths. Two such seminars were held at Ranipet, guided by the veteran educationalist **Fr. Vedanayagam**

JRS itself receives volunteers whose enthusiasm and selfless generosity needs to be supplemented by ongoing training programmes. **Fr.P.S. Amalraj** the regional director, helped the team to reflect on the vision and mission of JRS. Team building exercises were conducted by the Novice Master **Fr. Pavul Raj** in the month of August. **Fr. A. Cyril** an expert in human rights education enlightened the team on the new trends and dynamics of human rights.

K. John Paul

NEW AVENUES OF INFLUENCES : ARE WE READY?

With knowledge emerging as the raw material in the new economy, demand for consultants, trainers,

evaluators, instructional designers, etc is fast growing. Jesuits can play a great role in all these. Let me share my experience as an example. In the last two years, I have done evaluations on earth quake projects (Kashmir) tsunami relief (Kannyakumari) and flood relief (North East India). This gave access to hundreds of organizations, various cultures and sharing of ideas and hopes with different communities.

Consultancy role has a great influencing impact. I was a consultant to NGOs on programme- design, flood relief, migration issues and HIV/Aids. Subsequently I developed training modules on Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP). Rights Based Approach (RBA) to development, the Catholic Social Teaching (CST), etc. NGO professionals in eight states were trained in RBA. South Asia CRS and CARITAS offices were helped with reflections on the Catholic Social teaching for their policy formulation. More than 600 people have benefited by these trainings. These officers work all over India. I also served as a consultant (and 'event manger) to the international Seminar on post-disaster shelter programme.

Apart from the good remuneration (starting from Rs. 3500 per day!) the work is of immense value to policy level interventions. Evaluations help in greater accountability to the people. Trainings bring wonderful cross learning. At every juncture there is a very great opportunity to influence decisions that affect thousands of people in our country.

All this resulted in writing of two books. Unfortunately there are not many 'experts' from Christian community to take up this very important work in the globalizing world. This has resulted in non-Christians making far-reaching decisions for many of the Indian Christian organizations.

Jesuits need to concentrate on these avenues: updating knowledge, developing modules, extending high quality consultancy, etc through which vast influence can be exerted.

C Amalraj

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR NEW TEACHERS

Thirty-two newly appointed teachers from all our nine schools participated actively in the orientation programme, held at IDEAS, Madurai from 24th to 26th of this month. After the inaugural function, **Fr. William Alphonse** spoke on 'Jesuit Education – Perspectives and Trends'. He touched upon some of the complications teachers face from within and from without. After screening the film, 'Ayeesa', **Fr. Jebamalai Raja** led the group into a lively discussion on student centred education. To crown the first day's programme there was a panel discussion by three of our retired staff,

Mr.N.S.Krishnan, Mr. Regis (both St. Mary's, Madurai) and **Mr. Kulandairaj** (St. Mary's, Dindigul). Everyone was impressed, inspired and challenged by their devotion to the institutes, love for the students and dedication to their work.

The second day began with a lively presentation by **Fr. Albert Joseph** on 'Jesuit Education – Past, Present and Future'. He narrated elaborately the glorious legacy of Jesuit education. The afternoon session was on 'Modern Trends in Education' by **Mr.Selvaraj**, Founder of Magdalene Matriculation School in Tirunelveli. He demonstrated how to effectively incorporate modern technology into teaching and thus keep it interactive and interesting.

The cornerstone of Jesuit education is social transformation. On the third day **Fr. Eugene** impressed the participants with his challenging presentation of 'Education for Social Transformation'.

We hope our teachers have gone back to their institutes highly oriented with renewed commitment.

S.M.John Kennedy

FROM FR. G. PACKIARAJ

Mr. Valentine Paulraj my old student of the New Hostel, SJC, now residing in the USA, has started a movement to bring all the former students of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchirapalli in the USA together. In the second issue of his recently published newsletter called "The Josephite" he has published an informal letter of appreciation I wrote to him about his efforts. He has asked me to write an article for the next issue. This newsletter can be read in "josephites_trichy@googlegroups.com" He is also planning to have a get-together soon of all the Josephites in the USA. His email address is "vpaulraj@hotmail.com" He is from Villuppuram. Let us hope that his efforts will be successful. There are quite a number of old students of St. Joseph's College settled in the USA and their coming together will be a big boost to the Alumni Association of the College.

FR.S. MARIA SINGARAYAR WRITES:

On 15th August I arrived at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley (JSTB), California, for the sabbatical programme called "New Directions". We are 19 members in this programme from 8 countries, 10 men and 9 women and 2 Jesuits, one from Japan and I from India. I am one of the 95 Jesuits in this campus from all over the world living in nine small communities. After a five-day retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Centre, Los Altos, we have started the Orientation week on 27th August and the classes begin on 4th September for the fall semester.

Singarayar

KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

On the occasion of the feast of St. Ignatius, we had a simple gathering culminating in a concelebrated High Mass presided by the local V.F., **Fr. Xavier**. The presence of the local diocesan clergy including **Fr. P. Xavier**, the Rector of Vailanganni Shrine, the religious and well-wishers numbering around 140 brought great joy to the Jesuit team. Moreover, the team's joy was doubled by the presence of **Fr. Lazar**, the Rector and **Fr. Mariadoss** of St. Joseph's College community.

A team from ALBOAN – a Jesuit funding agency from Spain which extended financial help to victims of tsunami visited Nagapattinam along with an external evaluator and evaluated for a week the entire works carried out by the team. A short preliminary report along with some concrete suggestions was passed on. The detailed report of the evaluation is awaited.

Eleven Sisters from CIS, Beschi Illam, Dindigul came to our centre for an exposure programme for fifteen days. They were sent to different fisher-folk villages in small groups. Their services were utilized for collecting a wealth of information regarding the changes which have taken place in the perspective of the fisher-folk after tsunami. Their closer interaction with the tsunami survivors and their observation on the plight of women in the coastal villages have touched them and deepened their commitment to the cause of the poor.

Thirteen deacons from St. Paul's Seminary, Tiruchi came for a week-long rural-based exposure, searching for an "Alternative Pastoral Ministry" in today's context. They were exposed to different realities: Dalits, fisherfolk, widows, youth, children, etc. Local resource persons from each of these categories shared and reflected along with the deacons. **Fr. Paul Mike** along with the *Kalangarai* Team facilitated the programme.

St. Joseph's Community College has admitted 90 students for this academic year 2007-2008. Advertisements through handbills, digital banners and Karaikal FM radio have really helped us in getting students even from remote villages. **Fr. A. Irudaya Raj** gave a short talk on the literary contribution of Veeramamunivar to Tamil language on the Karaikal FM radio.

With the tireless efforts of **Sch. Andrew**, our regent, we have brought out a small four-page students' magazine *nkhl ;L f;S*; This magazine would serve as an effective tool to reach out to the schoolchildren coming to our evening study centres and help them to express their creative talents in the form of writing.

A. Irudaya Raj

MINISTRY TO ALCOHOL AND DRUG DEPENDENTS:

On invitation from the Office of the Clergy, FABC, I went to Thailand to deliver a lecture at the Workshop on 'Caring for Priests especially those with difficulties'. The workshop was held in Pattaya, 146 miles south of Bangkok, from 27th to 31st August. I spoke to 73 bishops from Asia (India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Japan, the Philippines and Thailand) on 'Alcoholism among Priests' with a view to help bishops develop policies and procedures to 'care' for priests with alcohol dependence. The president of FABC thought my presentation was peppered with very useful practical suggestions and rated my speech as the 'best' among all the talks!

On 19th August, a one-day programme was held in Carmel School for 11 participants of the May camp. 'Living Sober' was the theme. **Fr. Korkonius** from Thozhamai Illam led two sessions on yoga and spirituality of recovery.

Francis Jayapathy

Islamic Studies Association (ISA) had its managing committee meeting at St. Xavier's Jesuit Residence, Shahbad-Daulatpur on 25th August. The ISA members honoured **Fr. Paul Jackson SJ** for his 50 golden years in the Society of Jesus and his marked contribution to Christian Muslim Dialogue. His untiring efforts to render the spiritual wealth found in the Persian texts of Sharafuddin Maneri in English is a great service to Christian Muslim relationship. On the occasion ISA presented him with a beautiful memento which carried the following words of appreciation:

- *For his commitment to the mission of understanding and communicating the core message of Sufi spirituality*
- *For his readiness to enter into the heart of the spirituality of the Sufi saint Sharafuddin Maneri and for bringing the treasures of this great personality to a wider audience through the translations of his works.*
- *For his efforts to open up the spirit of Islam to the whole world.*
- *For so effectively using discernment as an apostolic instrument and applying it to everyday encounters between Muslims and non-Muslims.*
- *For his engagement with Muslims and non-Muslims both at the intellectual level and at the level of the heart.*
- *For inspiring the younger generation to take up the mission of inter-religious dialogue.*

We the members of Islamic Studies Association greatly appreciate your commitment and passion for this mission.

Victor Edwin

NEW RELEASES

- ☞ C I f q; f s p d; , a q; F j s k; The Dynamic Space of Media (Tamil), Fr. A. Stephen Martin, S.J., pp. 64, Rs. 25/-
 - ☞ r % f e p f o; T f s; pp. 88, Rs. 30/-; M S i k e p f o; T f s; pp. 88, Rs. 25/- Both by Fr. Xavier Antony, S.J.
 - ☞ f y; t p j i y e p k p u; Fr. Jerry, S.J., pp. 40, Rs. 8/-
 - ☞ , N a R e h k n r g k; Fr. Koriko Moses, S.J., pp. 128, Rs. 15/-
- All the above books are published by Vaigarai Pathippagam, Dindigul.
- ☞ j p U T k; k j p A k; Fr. M.A. Joe Antony, S.J., Lilli Soosai Pathippagam, Chennai, pp. 176, Rs. 60/-
 - ☞ **Preaching Sharp** Fr. Vima Dasan, S.J., pp. 236, ATC, Bangalore

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

- Fr. Joseph Sassel** (CCU) 89/70 on 19 August 2007 at Luxembourg
- Fr. Richard Lambert** (PAT) 71/53 on 27 August 2007 at Patna
- Fr. Anthony Gerry Kindo** (RAN) 56/36 on 28 August 2007
- Br. Isaac Ashok Kujur** (MAP) 67/44 on 03 Sept 2007 at Ambikapur

Fr. Asirvadam M. Aloysius, SJ (13.06.1922 – 24.08.2007)

Fr. Asir, as he was affectionately known, passed away peacefully on August 24, 2007 at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul after a prolonged illness. He was 85.



When he came to Beschi Illam, Dindigul in 1999 he was quite cheerful and loved company. As he was a lover of games he was seen in the evenings sitting on the verandah near the refectory and watching the shuttlecock game. He used to take catechism classes for co-workers every Friday evening. The tarred road of Beschi Illam campus seemed to be his favourite place for perambulation with his friends. But gradually he lost his memory. He could not even locate his own room and had to be led to it. His blood sugar level also went up in spite of the warnings given by his doctor. Since he could not decide on his own what to take and what to

avoid he was served his meals in his room. He had to be given regular insulin injections.

Towards the end of his life he became quite withdrawn and reserved. He developed other complications also. He was not quite steady on his feet, had a fall in his bathroom and fractured his left forearm. Quite submissive to the will of God, he bore all the sufferings patiently. Admitted to St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul he stayed in the ICU. There was a boy by his side to attend to his needs.

When his condition became unpredictable, the Superior **Fr. Arul Sivan** anointed him on July 18. After that it was a gradual decline till he rendered up his brave soul to his creator on August 24.

Around 4.00 p.m. his body was brought to Beschi Illam and it lay in state in the parlour. The novices and the CIS Sisters took turns to pray for him. The obsequies started at 3.00 p.m. on the following day. Many of his friends and relatives attended the funeral. The Eucharist was presided over by **Fr. A. Arulanandam**, Socius to the Provincial. In his introduction he referred to the many services Fr. Asir had rendered especially to the poor and the marginalized as a teacher, as a pastor in Shembaganur and above all as the editor and publisher of the periodical 'Poyyavilakku' and as the founder of an orphanage in Shembaganur parish.

In his homily **Fr. R. George**, a close associate of Fr. Asir from his student days in St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai paid glowing tributes to his performances first in the school and later as the originator of the lamp-apostolate as it was called. As a part of this apostolate he started the magazine 'Poyyavilakku' which was primarily meant for non-Catholic students.

At the close of the Eucharist the Superior Fr. Arul Sivan thanked all those who took good care of Fr. Asir in the hospital. **Fr. D. Jeyaraj** blessed the body and recited the final prayers in the chapel. Then the coffin was taken in procession down the alley to the graveyard. At the cemetery **Fr. Antony Samy**, PP. of Perumalmalai (Madurai Archdiocese) recited the last prayers and the coffin was lowered into the grave. May the soul of Fr. Asir rest in peace.

X. Mampra

