



## MARCH 2008

(For Private Circulation)

### ACTING PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

#### MARCH

14-15 VMI, Vilangudi  
23-31 Beschi Ilam, Dindigul

### NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✂ The **35<sup>th</sup> Summer School of Carnatic Music, 2008**: May 1 to 28 at Satya Nilayam, Chennai. Fees Rs. 3100/- Register before 31 March. Contact: **Fr. PT. Chelladurai**. Ph: 24959081
- ✂ **Fr. R. Marivalan** is nominated to the Council of Priests and is appointed a member of the College of Consultors of Sivagangai Diocese.
- ✂ **Fr. Alangaram** has a new email and phone no: alanarsj@gmail.com; + 43-512-5346364

### NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES

#### CHENNAI MISSION

**Fr Klaus Vathroder SJ**, the German Mission Procurator along with Ms Christina Zetlmeisl from Nuremberg made his first visit to some centres and institutions in the Province including the Chennai Mission during Feb 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> to gain personal knowledge of the mission. He had a meeting with the Mission Consultors.

Maria Joe

#### LOYOLA COLLEGE, CHENNAI

The College conducted a National Seminar on *Higher Education* from Feb 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Fr S Ignacimuthu** was the convener of a National Seminar on Eco-Friendly Insect Pest Management at Entomology Research Institute on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. On Feb.11 a simple and prayerful procession marked the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apparition of Our Mother

By way of paying homage to **Fr. General** a profile of **Fr. Adolfo Nicolas S.J.** crafted by Fr. Hedwig Louis (GUJ) is being sent to all MNL readers. Courtesy: Gujarat Samachar.

Mary at Lourdes to St Bernadette. At the end, the faithful listened with rapt attention to a sermon by **Fr Henry**.

Loyola Campus Ministry arranged the 27<sup>th</sup> *Lenten Penitential Walk to St Thomas Mount* on Feb 16<sup>th</sup>. A meaningful Way of the Cross, a Holy Eucharist with **Fr. Peter Francis** as the main celebrant and a refreshing breakfast served by our hostel will be long remembered by the 300-strong group. **Fr. G. Arockiaraj**, in collaboration with the AICUF and the Unorganised Workers Federation arranged on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> a fine reflection on *Continuing Freedom Struggle*.

**Dr. Kirit Parikh**, Member, Planning Commission inaugurated on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, a national dialogue on *Environmental Economics* arranged by Loyola Economics Association for Development.

**Fr. Francis P. Xavier** delivered on Feb 20<sup>th</sup> a talk on *Benchmarking Practices towards Excellence in Student-Excellence Progression* as a resource person for the NAAC sponsored national seminar at Fatima College, Madurai. He was also the convener of a national conference on *Biodiversity, Bioresources and Biotechnology for Sustainable Livelihood of Rural Community* organized by LIFE from Jan 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. There were 21 invited talks and 40 research papers during the conference. LIFE has undertaken a study of the *coastal eco-system at Kalpakkam with special reference to biodiversity and productivity* as wished by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam. This project involves Rs 37-lakhs over a period of four years.

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**STATUS OF THE SCHOLASTICS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>UG Studies</b>		
Deva Arockia Stephen L.	Thiruvananthapuram	AAC, Karumathur B.Sc. Maths
George Raja A.	„	LATI, Madurai Tech. Studies
George Stephen Thayriam A.	„	BI, Chennai B.A. Eng.
John Paul G.	„	SXC, Palai B.Sc. Phy
Joseph Eric Dunston E.	„	AAC, Karumathur B.Sc. Phy
Manickam Perianayagaraj S.	„	SXC, Palai B.A. Eng.
Maria Then Amritharaj G.	„	BI, Chennai B.A. Eng.
Raphael Alexander G.	„	„ B.Sc. Maths
Regis Antony Christopher S.	„	„ B.Sc Phy
<b>PG / Special Studies</b>		
Andrew Michael	Nagapattinam	LC, Thiruvananthapuram, M.A. Socio
Arul Durai S.	Kilpennathur	LC, Chennai M.S.W.
Innacimuthu Santiago	PEAK	SJC, Tiruchi M.Sc. Maths
Ravikumar Sacariyas	De Britto, Devakottai	LC, Chennai M.S.W.
Sathiabalan Arockiasamy	BI, Chennai	Clive's Tiruchi M.Sc. Phy
Suman Maria Tony I.	Ranipet	LC, Chennai B.E.
Xavier Antony Selvam M.	AAC, Karumathur	LC, Chennai M.Sc. Chem
<b>Philosophy</b>		
Alex Yagu	LC, Chennai	DNC, Pune
Anton Robert	AAC, Karumathur	SN, Chennai
Arockiasamy S.A.	LC, Chennai	DNC, Pune
Benedict Santosh V.	Thiruvananthapuram	DNC, Pune
Cyril Suresh	Kohima	SN, Chennai
John Magesh D.	BI, Chennai	DNC, Pune
Kilbert Savarimuthu	BI, Chennai	SN, Chennai
Pushparaj Charles	BI, Chennai	DNC, Pune
Sahayaraj Vijayan	VMI, Vilangudi	„
Sebastian Thangadurai A.	Kuppayanallur	„
Vasantha Kumar I.	BI, Chennai	„
Velankanni Arockiam R.	BI, Chennai	„
Wenishraj Rayappan	Clive's, Tiruchi	„
<b>REGENCY</b>		
Antony Inigo I.	DNC, Pune	LATI, Madurai
Arockiasamy Ishak	DNC, Pune	Oriyur
Britto Arockiam	„	Guyana
Clement Jesudoss S.	„	VMI, Vilangudi
Francis Xavier Arockiadass	„	Kohima
James Antonyswamy	Oriyur	PEAK, Kodaikanal
Lawrence M.M.	KARISAL	Brazil
Leo Anand M.A.	DNC, Pune	Afghanistan
Maria Felix Kennedy M.	Udhagamandalam	Devakottai
Rayappan Innaci	DNC, Pune	Kilpennathur
Richard Hiruthayaraj	„	Nagapattinam
Theresunathan Soosai	SN, Chennai	Ranipet
Vargheesh Antony M.	DNC, Pune	PEAK, Kodaikanal
Victor Desoza A.	„	Udhagamandalam
Vincent Irudhayaraj M.	„	KARISAL
<b>Theology</b>		
Babu Vincentraj S.	LC, Chennai	Arul Kadal, Chennai
Ignacy Arockiasamy	„	„
James Suresh Kumar A.	„	„
John Wilson J.	SJC, Tiruchi	„
Leolin Arockia Dass A.	Clives's, Tiruchi	„
Manuel Savariar	SJC, Tiruchi	„
Maria Packiam S	LATI, Madurai	„
Victor Roch G	VMI, Vilangudi	„

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IDCR presented a preliminary report on caste violence in Tamil Nadu during a two-day workshop on *Tamil Culture and Caste Discrimination* (Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>) organised, with a view to focus on inter-caste and inter-cultural dialogue.

**Fr. A.G. Leonard** gave the Endowment Lecture on *Economics and Ethics* at the Madras University on Feb 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Fr. G. Lawrence Amalraj** made Loyola proud on the eve of the Sports Day celebrations as the sportsmen under his care brought several cups of triumph. He successfully conducted several tournaments in Loyola. He has the knack to bring the cups from other institutions.

*Leonard Gaspar*

### BERCHMANS ILLAM, CHENNAI

The beauty of Berchmans Illam is due to the creativity and hard work of **Br. Thomas**, Minister. Arrupe Block of Berchmans Illam that includes refectory, TV & Reading room, parlours, guest rooms, library and the corridors has been renovated. Berchmans Illam is provided with all necessary facilities like water purifier plant, generator and a few more computers. When you visit Chennai next time, do pay a visit to Berchmans Illam. **Fr. Joseph Maliyakal**, Spiritual guide underwent a successful bypass surgery in MMM Hospital, Chennai on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. as he had three major blocks. Now he is convalescing at St. Thomas Hospital, at St. Thomas Mount. Please pray for his speedy recovery.

February 23<sup>rd</sup> was a memorable day as we joyfully celebrated our community day with the theme "**Towards Magis**". A good many Jesuits and well-wishers turned up on this wonderful occasion. We extended our profound gratitude to everyone of them, very specially to **Fr. K. Amal**, the Rector of Loyola College, for presiding over the Holy Eucharist and the function thereafter. His homily was very inspiring and thought-provoking. The young budding Jesuits deserve appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Hearty congratulations to all the scholastics who put in their heart and soul to make the community day wonderful. We fondly remembered the prayerful accompaniment of **Fr. Santiago**, our Spiritual guide and thanked him for his paternal support and encouragement. **Br. Thomas** and his team provided a delicious and sumptuous meal!

*Royce*

### LOYOLA INSTITUTES, KUPPAYANALLUR

**Fr. Bellarmine** accorded a fitting reception to the local ordinary the **Most Rev. Neethinathan**, Bishop of Chengalpattu during his visitation of Ongur parish on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Fr. Gerlin** thrilled the audience by a generous display of the talents of the inmates during Art Beat 2008 on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> the annual day of the Loyola Hostels for boys and girls in Kuppayanallur. The school staff had a picnic to Chennai on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.  
Gnanaraj

### PRE-NOVITIATE, VILANGUDI

With the theme "NEST 2007", the Community Day was celebrated grandly for a fortnight, and appositely culminated in a fabulous cultural evening. An assortment of academic, cultural and creative games gave ample opportunities for the pre-novices to discover and show evidence of their talents. **Fr. Britto Peter**, the PCF was present for the term evaluation and egged on the young ones to excel in their lives. The third term started with a three-day course on "Personality Development" by **Fr. I.M. Joseph**. The Republic Day outing to Tiruchi was marked with a film and a friendly volleyball match with the Clivites. Hats off to **Fr.S. Jeyaseelan** and his team for successfully organizing it.

*G. Victor Roch*

### ARUL KADAL, CHENNAI

February has been a month of field-based courses with serious academic inputs from the theological perspectives of our mission people. A course on the "Theology of the Tamil Chittars" by **Fr. Clement Joseph C.Ss.R.** at Muhil centre, Tirumangalam led us deep into the religio-cultural roots of the Tamils. An inter-congregational seminar on "Our Life and Mission in TN Mission Context" at IDEAS was very challenging and enriching. Then a week-long course on "Dalit Aesthetics and Movements" was ably guided by **Rev. Jeyaharan**, Director of Dalit Resource Centre and **Rev. Dr. Mohan Larbeer**, Principal Tamil Nadu Theological College, Madurai. Our stay in TTS was an ecumenical experience. Finally the **Most. Rev. Neethinathar** and **Fr. Arul Raja**, Vicar General guided us in Pastoral Theology in Chengalpattu. The course was twinned with our interactions with the pastors and parishioners.

**Fr. Maria Arul Raja** spoke on "Civil Society for Subaltern Empowerment" giving the **Dr. Rajarathinam** Endowment Lecture in Gurukul Luthern Theological College. He also presented a paper on "The Response to Contemporary Signs of the Times" at a State level seminar in St. Paul's Tiruchi on the forthcoming synod on the word of God. **Sch. Inigo** represented Arul Kadal in the Plenary Academic Council at Vidyajyothi.

*Paul Benedict*

### BESCHI ILLAM, DINDIGUL

On 2 February, we celebrated the feast of the Presentation of the Lord with a candlelight procession followed by Eucharistic Celebration. We had a three-day course on "Media-Spirituality" conducted by **Fr. Xavier Antony**. He explained: how to use the media positively and effectively for enriching God-experience in our prayer life. On 14 February, the I year novices went to the coffee estates in Pannaikadu for a month-long "Work Experiment" accompanied by **Fr. Socius** and the II year novices left for Chetpet, Kumbakonam and Thoothukudi, to have a month-long "Hospital Experiment".

*Christu Raja M.*

## ST MARY'S, DINDIGUL

Our alumni association organized and conducted a one-day seminar on career guidance to our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std. students. Eighteen eminent specialists from different walks of life, most of them, our alumni, spoke to the students about their respective fields and thus guided the students to choose their future course of action.

**Sr. Concilia Mary**, HM of Our Lady H.S. School, presided over the Catechism Day on 21<sup>st</sup>. Our Catholic students staged several cultural items on biblical themes.

The tiny tots of our campus brought out their multifarious talents during their Sports and School Day celebrations on 29<sup>th</sup>. The spectators were enthralled by their enthusiastic performance.

*S.M. Kennedy*

## LOYOLA ACADEMIC & TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS (LATI)

Loyola Centre for Social Concern (LCSC), and Centre for Biodiversity and Biotechnology (CBB) of SXC, Palayamkottai jointly organized a seminar on "Promotion of Environmental Awareness and Tree Plantation" for the Self-Help Groups Madurai District. **Thiru. D.J. Dhinakaran**, Commissioner, Madurai City Corporation, presided over the function. **Fr. V.S. Manickam**, and his team were the resource persons for the seminar. On the same day **Dr. J. Paulraj Joseph**, Director, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University for Distance Education, was the chief guest who inaugurated the LATI Study Centre of M.S. University.

LCARE and the Department of Adult Education, Madras University jointly organized a National Seminar on "E-learning in Adult and Continuing Education".

For the first time The Residency Groups, conducted the campus interview at Madurai Community College (MCC) for the students of Hotel Management. Out of 14 students seven were selected for placement. The rest were absorbed by other hotels for training. Congrats to Loyola Institute of Placement Service (LIPS), a unit of LATI. There are vacancies available in the hotel industry and LIPS invites applications for placement.

Special visitors to our campus: About 100 school children from KARISAL Mission, 80 students from GANSOVILLE MISSION, 34 juniors and two staff members from the South Indian Common Juniorate, Trivandrum were with us. Twelve Professors from the department of Philosophy, Arul Anandar College had a special philosophical discourse at LATI Campus. The presence of friends from other missions is a blessing and inspiration to us.

*Maria Packiam*

## CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

A student of our school had the rare honour of participating in the Republic Day parade. The 26<sup>th</sup> January every year is earmarked as the Annual Alumni Day at Carmel School. The alumni came together for

planning and fellowship. On 9<sup>th</sup> February the school staff had a one-day retreat by **Fr. I. Arul**. The hostellers had their annual day on 10<sup>th</sup> February. **Fr. Albert**, an alumnus was the chief guest. The boys displayed their various histrionic talents. On 11<sup>th</sup> February the girls in the boarding house of the Little Flower H.S.S. the hostellers and a few people from outside joined the candlelight procession and Benediction to mark the feast of our Lady of Lourdes.

**Fr. P.S. Arul**, our Superior is regular in attending various meetings held at the Bishop's House, Kottar. He was invited to attend the meeting for the proposed establishment of a Chair of Christianity at Manonmaniam Sundaranar University. After taking treatment for herpes at Meenakshi Mission Hospital, Madurai he is back in the community hale and healthy.

**Fr. F. Jayapathy** completed yet another live-in-camp for alcoholic dependents at Kovalam. He is spreading his ministry for alcoholics beyond the boundaries of Kanyakumari. Interested people have requested him to conduct a live-in camp at Rameswaram. He has also developed a programme "Alteens" for teenagers and children of alcoholic parents.

We are extremely happy to have **Sch.S. Jayaseelan** back from Afghanistan in the community. He will be busy with hostel and ELT work.

**Fr. Sebastian Anand** was the Vice Chancellor's nominee for the selection of the Principal of Ambai Arts College, Ambasamudram. Thanks to the tireless efforts of **Br. Paul Chinnappan**, three of the biographies of Martyr Devasahayam have been reprinted, one in Malayalam and two in Tamil. In recognition of his stellar services at Devasahayam Mount, the parishioners have gifted him a cell phone. The Jesuit Community went on a pilgrimage to Devasahayam Mount on 14<sup>th</sup> February during the novena and **Fr. Stanislaus** preached a soul-stirring homily to the devotees gathered there.

*Sebastian Anand*

## ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

The feast of St. Arul Anandar, the patron of our College was grandly celebrated. **Fr. Arockia Raj** from St. Mary's, Madurai, the chief guest exhorted the people to stand for truth and justice like St. John de Britto.

On 9<sup>th</sup> the 38<sup>th</sup> the College Annual Sports Day was celebrated successfully in spite of inclement weather. The winners of the day were honoured by **Mrs. Jayashri**, IPS, Commissioner for Madurai and **Dr. David Amirtha Rajan**, Dean, College Development Council, M.K University who gave away the prizes.

The 28<sup>th</sup> convocation was held for 258 graduates. **Mrs. Cynthia Pandiyan**, the Vice-Chancellor of M.S. University, Tirunelveli was the chief guest and **Dr. S. Bhaskaran**, Director of Distance Education, Pondicherry the special guest of honour. They marvelled at the service of the Jesuits in this area for the last four decades

**Prof. Michael Angelo Jothirajan** is selected by the Tamil Nadu Council for Science and Technology

to be a coordinator for Tamil Nadu and member in the department of Science and Technology for the task force to organize programme for Planet Earth 2008.

The Women's Forum is conducting a Skill Development Programme for college girl students and school dropouts in RADAR.

On 27<sup>th</sup> **Fr. Lourdusamy** conducted the **Archbishop Arokiasamy** Endowment Seminar in the department of Christian studies.

**Fr. Vincent Sekhar** gave a talk in Loyola College at the National Seminar on "Tests and Evaluation Methods" appreciated very much. He was also a resource person on Examinations Reform at S.V.N College, Nagamalai.

The N.S.S. students from various colleges in and around Madurai had the opportunity to listen to Fr. Sekhar on "Christianity and Religious Harmony". He also presented a research paper on "Religions and Politics in Secular India" at the Philosophy Faculty Seminar.

**Sch. Michael** secured the first place in paper presentation in the inter-collegiate Physics Meet held at Gandhigram University.

On 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> **Dr.K.R Gnana Sambandan**, of Green India Laboratory gave a talk on Customers' Satisfaction in Marketing at the State Level.

On 16<sup>th</sup> **Dr. Solomon Bernard Shaw** received the Indira Gandhi National award for his service as the best NSS Organizer, and our College was given the best unit award for 2006-07. It was announced that **R.C. Shunmuganathan**, our student was the best NSS volunteer of Madurai Kamaraj University.

*Antony Anand*

## ST XAVIER'S INSTITUTES, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The Graduation day 2008 was on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February. **Dr. Cynthia Pandian**, the Vice- Chancellor of MS University gave an inspiring convocation address and presented the diplomas. **Mr. Rajan Babu**, Group MD, Red Eagle Groups, was the Guest of Honour and introduced and inspired the graduates to variety of opportunities available in the marine world.

The Ornamental Fish Expo Nellai & Ornamental Fish culture Training for income generation 2008 was held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> February. A throng of students from many schools accompanied by parents and students witnessed the rare collections of both ornamental fresh water and marine fishes. **Shri. G Prakash**, District Collector, Tirunelveli, **Dr. T. J. Pandian**, INSA senior scientists and great many others participated and encouraged the rare effort made by the department of Advanced Zoology, SXC.

A ten-day NSS camp was organized by the six NSS units of SXC from 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of February. More than 300 students actively participated in the camp at Gopalamutharam. Both the students as well as the local villagers became aware of the social realities and became inspired to do something worthwhile for the good of the society. The encouraging support of the Jesuits during the camp inspired the professors **Arulraj, Arockiadoss, Maria Sebastine,**

**Amalanathan, Robert Bellarmine** and **John Peter** and the students to volunteer for more social camps.

Inter-Collegiate Departmental competitions were organized for the first time by the innovative idea of **Fr. Alphonse Manickam** for three days: 22<sup>nd</sup> for the arts faculties, 29<sup>th</sup> for the commerce faculties and 1<sup>st</sup> of March for the science departments. Many colleges participated and were also introduced to the creative way of artistically presenting intellectual feats.

The sports department of our college organized Inter Departmental volley-ball matches. The usually afternoon slumber was disturbed by quiet vociferous jeers and cheers of the respective students in the ring.

All the twelve departments of SXC conducted a two-day national workshop / seminar during the course of this month. The CPE sponsored programmes were meticulously planned and executed to enrich the students with critical knowledge and development of skills.

On 2 February the S.H. Hostel of SXHSS celebrated the Family Day with a varied cultural show. **Mr. Jai Prakash Narayan**, MD, ARYAS institutions, Tirunelveli was the Chief Guest if the occasion.

Nine schools contested in the Social Science/ Science Quiz competitions for Xth standard students organized by SXHSS.

State Level players were honoured by the school management in the school assembly by **Mr. Aubul Razric**, the District Planning Officer. The wonderful display of the X std students, '**Vendru Kaatuvoom**' captivated the attention of the student community. Farewell function to the outgoing X and XII std students was organized by the S.H. hostel with a meaningful Mass followed by a cultural show and a grand dinner. The month of February has witnessed a hectic schedule in the campus of SXCE. Immediately after the first semester exams from 12-16 of Feb, the students had a two-day tour of Kerala, both for relaxation and enrichment.

23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February were days of spiritual renewal for the B. Ed students of SXCE. **Frs Anbu** and **Rufus** and **Br. Lourdu** of SHJ were the directors of the retreat conducted at Causanelpuram, Tirunelveli on 'Who I am and the Great Teacher Jesus.' Thanks to **Fr. Jesudoss** who organised this retreat.

On 22 February the college for the first time witnessed the Convocation or Graduation Day celebration in the history of 58 years of its existence. It was also the first batch of Autonomy of our College. The Registrar of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, **Dr. P. Chelladurai** delivered the convocation address and distributed the Diplomas to 125 UG, 20 PG and 8 M.Phil students. 'Think high, work hard and be different teacher' was the central message to the diploma holders. Kudos to **Fr. Thomas Alex** and his team for the short and flaw-free function. Earlier in the forenoon there was a get-together, '**SANGAMAM 2008**', for the former students, combined with GBM of the Alumni Association. It was well organized by **Fr. X.Amaladoss**. Congrats!

The sudden presence of 150 students with a security guard type of uniform in SXCE brought ripples

of laughter in and around the college area owing to the 10 day Scout Training Camp from 25 February. **Dr. Amalraj**, Principal, Sree Saradha College of Education, Tirunelveli, inaugurated the training programme.

Yet another noteworthy event in SXCE is the conduct of a national level Workshop on 'Total Quality Management in Teacher Education' on 28 & 29 Feb. **Dr. Mohammed Ismail**, JD of Collegiate Education, Tirunelveli delivered the inaugural address and **Fr. Vincent Britto**, Rector distributed the certificates, during the valedictory function. It is to be noted that there were 125 teacher educators and research scholars who registered for the workshop and 47 participants presented papers. It was an overwhelming response in the history of SXCE. Our great appreciation to **Dr. P. Amalraj**, the organizing secretary.

*Godwin Rufus*

## ST JOSEPH'S, TIRUCHI

The month of February witnessed a number of events on the campus: intellectual, cultural and spiritual.

The first in the order of events was a seminar on 'e-Learning Resources for Higher Academic Research' organized by the Department of Library and Fr. Jerome Centre for Information and Communication Technology (JCICT). The next event was the orientation programme for the recently appointed teachers organized by the training and placement cell of the College on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Feb.

Another notable event that received a wide coverage in the media was a 14-day training programme for college teachers organized by the Rapinat Herbarium from February 6<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> on the "Uses of Biotechnological Tools for Resources Conservation and Sustainable Development". A workshop consisting of exposure and prolonged practical sessions on handling of molecular tools and techniques was sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi. College teachers from different States of the country had a lively hands-on-experience in the use of molecular and biotechnology tools. The Director from the National Research Centre for Banana inaugurated the sessions on 6<sup>th</sup> February. Eminent scientists from Central and State Institutions and Laboratories handled the sessions. The Vice Chancellor of Periyar Maniammal University in his Valedictory address on 19<sup>th</sup> February elaborated on the successful working of several schemes on sustainable development.

On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Feb, the Youth Red Cross (YRC) organized a leadership training programme for the students. The library of the college organized a Library Exhibition (LIBEX 2008) from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> February in which several publishers and booksellers displayed their books. The inter-collegiate intellectual contest ECONS was held by the Department of Economics on 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. As a follow-up to our MoU with the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, the Department of Physics organized on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Feb a two-day National Workshop on "The Applications of Radiation and Radio Isotopes".

The Centenary Tournaments for basketball, kabadi, ball badminton and volleyball were conducted from 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. We the hosts were generous enough to concede most of the winning trophies to our guests. The three-day Electronic Exhibition "Elex 08" held from 21<sup>st</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, had 43 exhibits. A microprocessor-enabled voting machine designed by a final year student as a fool proof method for avoiding bogus voting, a microprocessor used to trace birthdays and an automatic windscreen wiper that starts functioning at the contact of a water droplet were the major attractions. Our college secured the first rank and lifted the Pushpamala rolling cup in the intercollegiate cultural competition held from 21<sup>st</sup> Feb to 23<sup>rd</sup> at Sri AVVM Pushpam College at Poondi near Thanjavur in which cultural troupes from 39 colleges from all over the State participated.

A notable event on the campus was the 13<sup>th</sup> State level Youth Prayer Convention "GRACE 2008" from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. The Jubilee Hall overflowed with participants numbering around 650 from more than 10 colleges from all over Tamil Nadu. On the second day, the **Most Rev. Singaroyan**, Bishop of Salem gave a talk and said Mass in charismatic style lasting for nearly three and a half hours. The participants were deeply involved in both. The "Grace 2008", ended on a grand note of joy and peace. The participants left the hall resolved to share their Christ-given joy with their families and friends. Kudos to our campus minister, **Fr. Paul Pragash** and his team of dedicated lay staff members!

*Louis Xavier*

## DACA, MADURAI

On 02 February DACA's Madurai City Conservancy Workers Development Project, Ceyrac Medical Foundation and Indian Medical Association, Madurai jointly organized a free medical camp at P.T Colony, Madurai. More than 350 persons benefited from the medical camp.

The Department of Dalit Women Empowerment of DACA gathered Dalits for 'Dalit Farmers, Conference' in its three regions namely Sankarankovil, Virudunagar and Tirunelveli on 9, 16 and 23 of February respectively. The resource persons enlightened the participants on land right and organic farming. Five hundred farmers took active part in the conference, which must be construed as the rise of the farmers to claim their rights. Regional and zonal coordinators did excellent work for the big success of this conference.

On 10 February the DACA Community gladly welcomed the German Mission Procurator and his assistant. Both of them interacted with the staff and students.

On 14<sup>th</sup> February Madurai City Conservancy Workers Development Project gathered the parents of Evening Study Centre students at Vaikalkarai, Madurai for a meeting. **Mr. Samson** insisted upon the need of education for Dalit children and Dalit women groups.

A three-day State level women's conference for AICUF students was held in the campus from 15-17<sup>th</sup>

February. DACA was glad to give them accommodation.

They also enthusiastically organized self-employment training for the people of Vandiar at Madurai on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Around 50 women learnt to prepare liquid soap oil, phenol and blue for linen use; and also they felt confident to sell them in the market.

From 18-20<sup>th</sup> February, the first batch of Dr. Ambedkar Teacher Training Institute appeared for their exam. Hope they will come out with flying colours!

To enable the Dalit youth become technically skilled, DACA conduct Home Appliance and Electronic courses in Sattur and Sankar Nagar respectively. The rural youth are cooperative and keen to learn.

On 26 and 27 February Regional and Zonal coordinators of SHG and ESC had their monthly training at Shembaganur. **Mrs. Jenifer** spoke to them on issues and rights of Dalit women. DACA is grateful to the Sacred Heart College community for their hospitality.

S. Packiaraj

## SACRED HEART COLLEGE, SHEMBAGANUR

**Fr.D. Jeyaraj** preached a retreat to the formators of St. Anne's of Madras at the end of January in Shembaganur. **Fr.S. Arockiam** preached a retreat for Carmelite nuns at Yercaud.

The PEAK Team is busy mobilizing the marginalized people of Kodaikanal hills for a public meeting on March 2 to highlight the need for basic facilities in their villages.

S. Santiago

## GANSOVILLE, DEVAKOTTAI

These days, our village visits used LCD to expose people to alternative indigenous medicine, especially the various uses of all the parts of the *Moringa oleisara tree*; issues related to women's liberation, untouchability, ecology, health and hygiene were also being highlighted on the silver screen. It was also helpful to mobilize the women folk to participate in the first-ever State level conference of the Women's Front, held at Tiruchi on 23 Feb.

The tour to Madurai and Vaigai dam on 24<sup>th</sup> February made the children of the study centres, more enthusiastic thanks to the generous hospitality of our communities at IDEAS, LATI, Madurai and the AAC, Karumathur.

A. Masillamani

## AICUF

State Women's Camp was conducted from 15-17<sup>th</sup> February in DACA. The opening ceremony started with a street play, which concentrated on empowering women through the medium of education and knowledge. **Miss. Evanjaline**, the State Women's Coordinator gave the welcome address and Miss. Thamarai, the State Full-timer, explained the dynamics of the camp. **Fr. Antony Raj**, and **Fr. Marianathan**, felicitated the students and asked them to be

courageous to face trials and tribulations in their life. **Fr. Jebemali Raja**, the director of IDEAS, gave the inaugural speech on the theme 'Women and Reservation'.

**Fr. Stephen Martin**, gave a talk on the theme "Women in Media Today". Women are being used by the media to sell ideas and thoughts and goods. He insisted that AICUF girls should be aware of exploitation by the media of women and they should have the courage to criticize the media. **Sr. Rosline**, the National Women's Animator provoked the students to reflect on the theme: "Women's liberation from Women's perspective". The screening of a documentary film called "Adanga Maru" about "Thinniyam Issue" where Dalits were forced to eat human shit made a great impact on the students and made them question the inhuman attitude of the dominant caste people.

**Fr. Emmanuel** gave a talk on the theme "Women's Personality and Women's liberation". He said that emotions, feelings and consciousness permeate the whole personality of the woman and invited alternate ideas from the participants, to get confidence that "Women liberation is Possible" by acquiring the power of knowledge. **Prof. Dayana** from Fatima College spoke on the theme "The Role of Education, Culture and Politics from the Perspective of Women's liberation". She analyzed these three important elements, which play a major role in making the women powerful. She also said even if any one of the elements is missing the target of the women's empowerment is not possible to achieve. Of course all the participants went with the courageous feeling that they would be able to make the women's empowerment possible.

S. Arul Ravi

## KALANGARAI, NAGAPATTINAM

The newly evolved 'Movement for the Livelihood Rights of Widows' is getting itself rooted day by day. Twenty five zonal leaders representing five different zones of the the entire district came together and elected the district executive body 5 members. Under the leadership of the newly-elected leaders, preparations for the forthcoming Women's Day celebrations have been geared. Along with **Sr. Vinnarasi**, **Fr. Paul Mike** accompanied the leaders in the whole process of movement building with a focused vision.

As part of staff enrichment programme, twenty five evening study centre teachers went on a picnic to Pondicheery and Pitchavaram, Chidambaram. It has reenergized them and paved the way to know each other better and deepen their relationship. **Sch. Andrew** accompanied the group and doubled their joy. Congrats to him and his team for bringing out the third issue of MOTTUKKAL - a quarterly magazine for the students.

The students of St. Joseph's Community College attended a two-day intensive course on Cell Phone Servicing organized by Hope Foundation - an NGO working in Nagapattinam. This collaborative venture

has not only helped our students to acquire a new skill but also stretched our hands of meaningful partnership with local NGOs in Nagapattinam.

A new book titled, “*r̄pwg;Gg; nghUshj hu kz ;l yqfs;*” written by **Fr.A. Irudayaraj** was released in TBML College, Porayar and subsequently he made a power point presentation on SEZ (Special Economic Zones) to the students of commerce and economics departments of four colleges namely St. Xavier’s College, Palayamkottai, Nethaji College, Tiruvarur, Arulanandar College, Karumathur and Fatima College, Madurai.

Fr.A. Irudayaraj gave one-day Lenten reflections to a group of sixty Gonzaga Sisters of Salem region at Suramangalm.

*A.Irudayaraj*

Fr. C. AMAL WRITES:

I just returned from a 35-hour trip from Myitkyina and Banmaw dioceses. This place is far from Yangon where I stay and is near Nagaland and China border.

A plane crash landed in Putao in the further north. The Parish Priest and two sisters were there. The plane broke into three parts, mercifully saving all except the pilot who sustained some shoulder bone fracture.

Some of our scholastics come from these dioceses. These are enchanting places, with rows of mountains with their foliage fed by the majestic Irrawaddy River. These two dioceses have seen much of suffering in the past but are now emerging slowly into peace and development.

The Bishops invited us to do some planning for the Karuna and also help in the diocesan planning. These two dioceses are situated in the far north, close to the Chinese border. Chinese presence is seen all around with their goods and people.

Banmaw is the youngest diocese of Myanmar with just 19 priests. It has a robust army of Catechists and volunteers. The priests also cater to Chinese Catholics and three parishes are perched on the border. Kachin Catholics are found on both sides of the border.

Kachins have developed a beautiful liturgy and their own Mass. It is a vibrant church. It has a catechetical training centre where around 64 are in training.

God blessed the Kachin state with abundance - above the ground and below the ground. It is the Jade land, tempting merchants from yonder lands to seek their fortune. The area also saw three decades of conflict displacing thousands.

Migration, shrinking livelihood and vulnerability to drugs and HIV/Aids are some of the major issues in the region. Local economy stays stagnant.

I travelled from Banmaw to Mandalay in the evening in a rattling bus, meandering through thick jungles. It is really a bone shattering travel but worth the trouble. The wild beauty exposes itself. The majesty of the Irrawaddy, sears through the arrogant mountains, subduing them in subservient shadows in its crystal waters. Irrawaddy is a dreamy water course,

dancing through the whole of Myanmar uniting people and making history. Wanton deforestation is emerging as a great threat to one of the most beautiful rivers of the world.

I visited Mandalay and hopped into another bus for 15 hours. This time the bus was of state of the art with comfortable seats. Myanmar survives on football and pop songs. The young men and women have taken to great singing with alluring tunes.

Wishes to those who were born in these two dioceses. This year one new candidate is joining from Myitkyina and has an interesting background. He is of German origin and his grand-uncle was a Jesuit **Fr. Rosner** here before he shifted to Calcutta Province. I used to meet him when I went to Nepal. In his old age, nostalgia for his native land took him over and he used to say so many things about Myanmar. That time, I never imagined one day, I would meet another Rosner.

It is a small world - at least for a Jesuit.

## NEW RELEASES

“*r̄pwgG nghUshj hu kz ;l yk;*” by Fr. A. Irudayaraj, SJ

Recent Trends in ***INSECT PEST MANAGEMENT***, by Fr.S. Ignacimuthu, S.J. & Dr. S. Jeyaraj, Elite Publishing House Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

“*ew;fUi z Ak; ewgz pAk;*” by Fr. S.P. Savarimuthu, SJ, Valluvan Pathippagam, Chennai. pp. 80, Rs. 40/-.

“*Kj yhs;pf; c Uthf;fj ; j ej r̄pwgGg; nghUshj hu kz ;l yr; rl ;l k> 2005*” by Fr. Sahaya Philominraj, S.J., *tpp nts;paL>* LAAS Illam, Madurai, pp. 12 + 128, Rs.30/-

## ABIDE WITH THE LORD

**Br. Galicia Salvador** (GUJ) 84/59 on 07 Feb. at Vadodara

**Fr. Manjil Antony** (KER) 89/69 on 28 Feb. at Calicut

**Mrs. Mary Gnanam**, 78, mother of Fr. Freddie on 01 Mar. at Madurai

**Mr. Viyagappan**, 55, father of Sch. V. John Michael on 01 Mar. at Alavanthankulam

**Fr. Xavier Jeyaraj, SJ, JESA Secretary, announces the following courses**

1. Socio-Cultural Analysis (Indian Context and the Global trends) in ISI- Bangalore from 14 April -28 April, 2008 (arrival by 13 April, 5.00 p.m. and departure, 4.00 p.m. on 28th) For details contact: [ajoexavier@aimail.com](mailto:ajoexavier@aimail.com) or 09480092170

2. Research Methodology and practical learning of SPSS software for Social Research, in ISI-New Delhi from 21 April to 27 April, 2008 (arrival by 20 April evening and departure on 2th 4.00 pm). For details contact: [jesadelhi@gmail.com](mailto:jesadelhi@gmail.com) or 09868476957