



MAY 2008

(For Private Circulation)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

May

10	PM: Shembaganur: Retreat
18-20	Shembaganur: Formation Meet
21-22	Shembaganur: Visitation
23-29	Perumalmalai, Bodhi Zendo, Palamalai, Manalur, Ayyampalayam: Visitation
30	AM: Dindigul: Beschi: Jubilarians' Day
31	Dindigul: Gansoville GBM (10.00 AM to 12.30 PM)

June

01	Rayapuram: Mass at 6.45 AM
07-08	Mettupalayam, Ooty: Visitation
09	Dindigul: Alboan Meeting
16	Dindigul: Consult

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

☞ **Fr. General** has appointed:

Fr. Manuel Morujao, at present Assistant for the Southern Europe, General Secretary and Spokesperson for the Episcopal Conference of Portugal. He will take office at the end of September.

Fr. Victor Assouad Provincial of Near East.

☞ Appointments by the **PROVINCIAL OF SOUTH ASIA**

APPOINTMENTS / TRANSFERS IN THE ASSISTANCY HOUSES of Formation/Works for 2008-09

Fr. Alwyn Prakash D'Souza (KAR) ISI, Bangalore

Fr. Anil Gomes (CAL) Registrar; SN. Chennai (In addition to being Spiritual Guide)

Fr. Baylon Milroy Perera (SRI) Tertian Director; Raia, Goa

Br. Fulgence Ekka (MAP) Administrator/Asst. JCI Treasurer, Jor Bagh, New Delhi

Fr. George Mlakuzhyil (DEL) Sabbatical. USA / Rome / teaching in China

Fr. Henry D'Almeida (KAR) JDV / DNC, Pune

Fr. Jesu Raj (DUM) Administrator / Treasurer; DNC, Pune

Fr. John Joseph Amaladoss (AND) Tertian Director; Kandy. Sri Lanka

Fr. Lawrence Fernandes (KAR) Post Doctoral Studies, Ireland

Fr. Medard Xalxo (RAN) Spiritual Director; VJ, Delhi (From Sept 2008)

Fr. Michael Alosanai (MDU) Tertian Director, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal

Br. Patras Kujur (MAP) P.G. Studies, Sadhana Institute. Lonavla

Br. Pravin Falcao (GUJ) Administrator VJ, Delhi

Fr. Pravin Severeekar (BOM) Spiritual Director; DNC, Pune: (From Sept 2008)

Fr. Robin Sahayaseelan (MDU) Dongfang University China (One year)

Fr. Thomas Kuriacose (DEL) JDV/DNC, Pune

Fr. Valan C. Anthony (CAL) Tertianship, Raia, Goa

Sch. Jude S. Sahaya (CAL) Regency. Afghanistan

Sch. Kanichai Linto Anto (KER) Regency. Afghanistan

Sch. M. A. Leo Anand (MDU) Regency, Afghanistan

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STATUS 2008

	FROM	TO
Br. Albert Cecilrayan	St. Mary's, Dindigul	SXHSS, Palayamkottai
Fr. Amalraj Amirtha Nathan	Kilpennathur	SXC, Palayamkottai, B Ed
Fr. Anbarasan Savariraj A.	KARISAL	KARISAL, Team Leader, Dir
Fr. Andrew Francis	Loyola, Chennai	Loyola, Chennai, Campus Treasurer
Fr. Anthony Samy M.	Oriyur	St. Mary's, Madurai, APP
Br. Antony Sinnamuthu	SXC, Palayamkottai	St. Mary's, Dindigul
Br. Arockiadoss Michael	SXC, Palayamkottai	Carmel, Nagercoil
Br. Arockiasamy Sebastian	Beschi, Dindigul	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi
Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier	AAC, Karumathur	AAC, Karumathur, Secretary
Fr. Arul P. Stanislaus	Carmel, Nagercoil	Carmel, Nagercoil, Corresp
Fr. Arulanandam Michael	St. Mary's, Dindigul	SJC, Tiruchi, PP
Fr. Aruldoss Selvaraj	Vallam	SJC, Tiruchi, History Dept, SFS
Br. Augustine James	SHC, Shembaganur	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
Fr. Augustine K. Antonimuthu	Carmel, Nagercoil	SJC, Trichy, HM & Corresp
Fr. Bastian Maria Susai	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	St. Mary's, Madurai, APP
Fr. Chelladurai P T	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Beschi, Dindigul
Fr. Das R Jesu Michael	Loyola, Chennai	SJC, Tiruchi
Fr. Dominic Royce	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	Berchmans Illam, Chennai, M.Ed.
Fr. Dunstan Vinny Joseph	St. Mary's, Dindigul	St. Mary's, Dindigul, Corresp
Fr. Edwin Thadheu	SUPAM	AHAL, Kilpennathur
Fr. Emmanuel Raj A.	SXC, Palayamkottai	St. Mary's, Madurai
Fr. Ephrem A	DACA, Perungudi	DA, Chennai, Min, Treasurer & Admin
Fr. Felix Joseph A.	St. Mary's Madurai PP	St. Peter's, Viragalur, Corresp
Fr. Francis Sales A.	Kuppayanallur	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi
Fr. Francis Xavier L.	Loyola, Chennai	Carmel, Nagercoil, HM
Fr. Frederick Xavier Joseph	Karumathur AAC	AAC, Karumathur, Acting Superior
Fr. George K C	Loyola, Chennai	SJAF, Perumalmai
Fr. George Vedamuthu	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi	SAHSS, Oriyur
Fr. Gilbert Camillus V.	AAC, Karumathur	Guyana
Br. Gnanadickam M.	St. Mary's, Dindigul	Carmel, Nagercoil
Br. Irudayam Antony	Devakottai – Gansoville	Mettupalayam
Fr. Irudayaraj Regis	Mandapam	St. Mary's, Madurai
Br. Jeganathan Ambrose	De Britto, Devakottai	St. Mary's, Dindigul
Br. Jesudas Raphael	SXC, Palayamkottai	Beschi, Dindigul
Br. Jeyaraj Annaviar	SXC, Palayamkottai	De Britto, Devakottai
Fr. Joseph Antony Jacob	SUPAM	Loyola Chennai, ICRDCE
Fr. Joseph Kennedy S.	Pappanallur	SXHSS, Palayamkottai
Br. Joseph Raja	Dhyana Ashram	SXC, Palayamkottai
Fr. Joseph Royappan	Loyola, Chennai	Carmel, Nagercoil

Fr. Josephraj Savarimuthu	Somasipadi	Mandapam PP
Fr. Lawrence Amalraj	Loyola, Chennai	Christ College, Killacherry, Principal (Community Loyola Chennai)
Fr. Louie Albert A	SUPAM	Dir Pre-novices, VMI, Vilangudi
Fr. Lourdusamy A M	Arul Kadal	Beschi, Dindigul
Fr. Marianathan Chinnasamy	DACA, Perungudi	BL Studies, DACA community
Fr. Martin George J	T'ship	SXCE, Palayamkottai, M. Ed.
Fr. Mattam CV	AAC, Karumathur	Beschi, Dindigul
Fr. Miranda Alphonso J	Loyola, Chennai	Beschi, Dindigul
Fr. Mount Joseph S	Tiruchi – SJC PP	St. Mary's, Madurai, PP
Fr. Nedungatt Joseph	Thozhamai Illam, KK	St. Mary's, Madurai
Fr. Packiaraj G.	LTI, Madurai	Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
Fr. Paul Pragash	SJC, Tiruchi	Clive's, Tiruchi, Dir Pre-novices
Fr. Paulraj Packiam	SUPAM	Somasipadi, PP
Fr. Pragasam J. L.	Thoothukudi	Boys Town (Community LATI, MDU)
Fr. Raju V. Michael	Manalur	St. Mary's, Dindigul, Minister
Fr. Raju Y.	Perumalmalai	Manalur
Br. S. Kulandairaj	Curia	SJC, Tiruchi, Campus Treasurer
Fr. Sahaya Wilfred J.	Palliagaram	Kandy T'ship
Fr. Sahaya Raj Thangasamy	KARISAL	Hekima College, Nairobi
Fr. Samuel Jeyaseelan	Clive's, Tiruchi	SJC, Tiruchi, Coord H Ed
Br. Santiago A. M.	St. Mary's, Madurai	Beschi, Dindigul
Fr. Santiago M.	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	SJC Tiruchi
Br. Selvaraj Sebastian	De Britto, Devakottai	SXC, Palayamkottai
Fr. Selvaraj Soosaimanickam	SUPAM	SJC Tiruchi, <i>Nam Vazvu</i> and APP College Parish
Fr. Stanislaus A.	De Britto, Devakottai	De Britto, Devakottai, stays at Gansoville
Fr. Stanislaus M.	Carmel, Nagercoil	St. Mary's, Dindigul
Fr. Thomas Amirtham	AAC, Karumathur	Province Treasurer
Fr. Thottungal G.	Beschi, Dindigul	SHC, Shembaganur
Fr. Vazhapilly Francis	SJC, Tiruchi	DACA – Treasurer
Fr. Viaguladasan M.	Loyola, Chennai	Loyola, Chennai, Ed. <i>Andrada Arul Vakku</i>
Fr. Vincent Amalraj M.	St. Mary's, Dindigul	St. Mary's MDU, HM &C
Fr. William Alphonse	St. Peter's, Viragalur	Loyola, Kuppayanallur, HM&C
Fr. Xavier Antony	SXC, Palayamkottai	Loyola, Chennai, teaching & Youth LASAC
Sch Arul Durai S.	Loyola, Chennai	IDEAS, Madurai, MSW
Sch Jayaseelan Saminathan	Afghanistan	Loyola, Chennai, MSW

All transfers are expected to be effected by the first week of June. At the start of the academic year, each local superior is to submit to the concerned Bishop a list of the priests joining his community and make sure that they get their Faculties on the basis of their new domicile.

Fr. Augustine Arulsamy is at Beschi Illam, Dindigul for post-operative rest and recuperation.

Dear Br. Kulandairaj,

With profound gratitude I acknowledge all that you have done for the Province during the past 13 years as Province Treasurer. The way in which you have taken your task so responsibly and committedly deserves commendation. You have put the Province on a sound financial footing by wise investment and careful management. You have generously adjusted to the personal administrative and leadership styles of different Provincials and took instructions from them befitting a true Jesuit. On behalf of the entire Province let me say a big THANK YOU!

M. Devadoss, S.J.
Provincial

(continued from page 1)

Our heart-felt thanks to those who return to their provinces after their meritorious service in the common houses:

Br. Benedict Rosario (KAR), **Br. Joseph Karakattu** (PUN), **Fr. E. P. Mathew** (KER), **Fr. Piergiorgio Mennini** (RAN), **Fr. Victor Joseph** (JAM). **Fr. Vijay Kamath** (RAN)

☞ **THE SOCIETY IN NUMBERS**

The General Secretariat of the Society has compiled the statistics for the year 2007. As of January 1, 2008 there was a total of 18,815 Jesuits: 13,305 Priests, 2,925 Scholastics, 1,758 Brothers and 827 Novices.

The average age of all the Jesuits was 57.53 years: 63.01 for the Priests, 30.01 for the Scholastics, and 65.06 for the Brothers.

The “youngest” Assistancy was South Asia as the following table indicates:

	Number of Jesuits	Average Age
South Asia	3.999	46,95
Africa and Madagascar	1.417	47,10
East Europe	1,079	51, 48
East Asia-Oceania	1.669	54,05
Southern Latin America	1.448	56,34
Northern Latin America	1.336	57,78
Central Europe	709	63,11
United States of America	2.869	64,77
Southern Europe	2.377	67,77
Western Europe	1.912	67,92

Percentage of the total number of Jesuits in each Assistancy:

South Asia	21,3
United States of America	15,2
Southern Europe	12,6
Western Europe	10,2
East Asia – Oceania	8,9
Southern Latin America	7,7
África-Madagascar	7,5
Northern Latin America	7,1
East Europe	5,7
Central Europe	3,8

Novices:**The largest number of novices was also located in the South Asia Assistancy**

South Asia	249
Africa and Madagascar	129
East Asia - Oceania	97
United States of America	66
Northern Latin America	64
Southern Latin America	62
Southern Europe	57
East Europe	50
Western Europe	34
Central Europe	19

☞ **Fr. A. Arockiasamy** defended his Ph.D. thesis in mathematics entitled “Fixed Point Theorems for Ray oriented Maps” on 30th April at M.S.University, Tirunelveli. Congratulations!

☞ **Please note the following changes**

Fr. Maria Bastin Durai. Colegio San Ignacio, Santa Maria, 1940 Calle Saucó, San Juan PR 00927 – 6718, Tel; Residence — 001 787 758 1717 ext 104 — 001 787 765 1721 ext 104, Colegio — 001 787 765 3814

Fr.C. Joe Arun has a new email ID: cjarun@gmail.com

Fr. Raj Irudaya’s new email ID: akrajiru@rediffmail.com

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITIES**ST MARY’S, MADURAI**

All the eight retiring staff of St. Mary’s H.S.S gathered around the Table of the Lord with the members of their families, the school community and the management in a spirit of joy and thanksgiving for the innumerable blessings received from the Lord during their service in the school. **Fr. Stephen Kulandai** the Rector presided over the Eucharist, well planned by **Frs. Ignatius Britto** and **Fr. Joe Xavier** and animated by **Fr. Stephen Lourdu.** Fr. Rector

and the others appreciated the deep sense of dedication and service of the eight retiring staff. It was an expression of solidarity among all the members of the school community at various levels.

There was yet another experience of solidarity when all the staff members went on a pilgrimage to FOFHFI I for spiritual renewal. The annual evaluation of the academic year 2007-08 proved to be a fruitful exercise in marching towards the Ignatian Magis.

An annex to the existing residence with seven comfortable rooms for the sick and the aged with a simple chapel was inaugurated by Br.S. Kulandairaj. **Fr.S.M. Irudayam** was the very first occupant followed by **Br. A.M.Santiago**.

Felix Joseph

LOYOLA ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS (LATI)

To commemorate the birthday of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, **Br. Ignacy**, organized a special programme at LATI campus for the students of Loyola I.T.I. The final year students of Loyola I.T.I. are attending an 'Orientation cum Skills Upgradation Programme'. The junior students of mechanic trade are busy preparing to go for a one-month exposure programme in the automobile industry in and around Madurai district.

Sch. Maria Packiam gave spiritual talks to two groups of Sisters. **Fr. Stephen J. Muthu** conducted a workshop for the retired CIC Sisters. The GC 35 decree on Collaboration in the Heart Mission was the theme for this monthly recollection for the LATI community.

The services of **Br. Rijo** the regent of LATI from Shoenstatt Congregation, especially to Loyola Hostel, were gratefully acknowledged on his leaving LATI for his future formation.

S. Maria Packiam

CARMEL, NAGERCOIL

Br. Paul Chinnappan, fell down in his bathroom and broke his right knee; he is now well. **Fr. S.M. Arockiam** who was in Tiruchi and Chennai ENT hospitals for more than four months for treatment of a serious problem in his ear returned to Carmel, on the 5th of April. He is now almost cured of his malady.

The Carmel Jesuits, except the two seniors, went on a much needed refreshing tour to Ooty in April. **Sch. Jayaseelan** was given a warm send-off from Carmel. **Fr. Francis Jayapathy** is now very actively engaged in his regular ministry to drug-dependants at Rameswaram.

S.M. Arockiam

ARUL ANANDAR COLLEGE, KARUMATHUR

Fr. A. Lourdasamy conducted a one-day seminar on "Christian Contributions to Folk Drama in Tamil Nadu" in the Department of Christian Studies at Madurai Kamaraj University .

As a community we had a farewell Mass for the outgoing scholastics followed by felicitations

Antony Anand

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, PALAYAMKOTTAI

The M.Ed. students had a well appreciated one-day life-orientation programme conducted by Fr. Rufus, on 4th April. A two-day campus interview was organized in the College of Education on 6th and 7th April. Ten schools from different parts of Tamil Nadu were present with their teams to select the candidates. Many were selected and issued appointment orders immediately; further another twelve schools have expressed their desire to have interviews later during weekdays.

The Diocesan Christian Life Commission, headed by **Fr.Varghese**, conducted a one-day training course on how to teach catechism. It was full of interactive sessions, songs, model lessons and preparation of teaching aids .While appreciating the workshop, the students suggested the need for integration of ICT in teaching catechism.

The 26th April was a memorable day in the annals of the history of SXCE. An intercollegiate cultural competition, titled XATEC-2008, marked the grand get-together of students of nineteen colleges of Education, affiliated to the M.S. University. The campus echoed with laughter and excitement as the students displayed their talents both literary and cultural on the stage.The Christian College of Education, Marthandam and St. Joseph's College of Education, Vaikalipatty bagged the overall winner and runner shields respectively.

The Sports Day which was twice postponed owing to rain was held on 29th April. **Fr. Manickam** delivered a talk on pollution to our students on 28th April organized by the Bioscience club. In SXHSS, emphasising the importance of Yoga, students were given coaching classes during the summer camp.

The foundation stone for a new library building was blessed by **Fr.L.V. Kumar. Mrs. Suriladevi** conducted a one-day seminar for the staff of the SXHSS on mental and physical health.

On 21 and 22 April **Fr. A. Arockiasamy** shared his expertise with the staff of Auxilium College, Vellore where he was called as an expert commentator to the Board of Studies of Mathematics.

On 26th April FRRC paid homage to **Dr.T. Lourdu**, Founder and Director (1989-96) of FRRC who breathed his last on 5th April. FRRC released twelve books and also a collection of tales of the sea of Tamil Nadu. Kudos to **Fr. Xavier Antony** who collected these tales and organised the event in a grand manner.

Rufus

ICRDCE, CHENNAI

The ICRDCE team met the various officials of the Government of Papua New Guinea in April 2008 and worked out a complete plan for the Government to implement the Community College Project. As a first

step the Government will establish the first Community College as a National Centre at Marienberg where the SVD missionaries arrived 100 years ago.

Twelve Community Colleges will be started. The Government has allotted 130 million Kinns for the 13 Community Colleges. **Fr. Xavier Alphonse** has been appointed as an International Consultant and Adviser to the project.

Xavier Alphonse

DACA, MADURAI

On 1st April the students of all the Evening Study Centres of Muthukulathur zone came together for their annual day celebration.

Dalit Women Empowerment Department, a unit of DACA invited its SHG women for the annual day celebration - in three regions on 4, 12 and 18 of April at Madurai, Nellai and Virudhunagar. More than 5000 women actively participated and gave hope of beginning a movement for Dalit women. Loans amounting to 4 lakh rupees to 40 women helped them to stand on their feet. Thirty-five trainees in various skills like tailoring, electronics and home appliances received their certificates. The celebration did get its publicity in the local news papers and TV channels too. All the annual days were a grand success because of the animators and coordinators.

DACA is proud to have published two books in the month of April. The first one was a collection of social awareness songs titled **Vidiyalai Noki**. **Fr. Antony Raj** released the book. The second was **Vankodumaikalum Satta Amalakkamum** a collection of research material from the southern districts of Tamil Nadu by **Mr.M.A. Britto**. **Fr.Rajarathinam**, Principal of St. Joseph's College, Tiruchi released the book.

For the first time in DACA on 26 of April the former students were invited for a day of sharing and planning. Fifty girls were able to make it. DACA was glad to see many of them well motivated.

S. Packiaraj

IDEAS, MADURAI

IDEAS organized a seminar for Religious Social Activists from 08-10 Feb. on "*Challenges to Religious Life in Today's Tamil Nadu Context*". The active participation of 70 religious from 17 Congregations and the follow-up action plan chalked out at the end were challenging one and all at this meet. The cool, quiet and scenic sylvan setting as well as the homely hospitality of the Mettupalayam Jesuit team provided the right atmosphere for IDEAS Jesuit team to enjoy their fruitful recollection-cum-evaluation and planning sessions from 11-13 Feb. "*To think with the Church is to act in Solidarity with the Marginalized Church*" was the refrain of our team which took active part in the rallies and demonstrations held at Madurai on 19 and at Uthamapalayam on 24 March demanding justice to the Dalit Catholics of Eraiyur. Apart from these highlights, the IDEAS team opened other mind-stimulating avenues too, for its apostolic stakeholders

from January to April. To highlight a few: workshops on communication skills, Dalit networking meetings, a legal literacy seminar, a social video screening-cum-discussion for local men and women religious, a training for tribal youth and a training for slum children.

If only we had wings...! For **Jebamalai Raja**, it was a thrilling experience to deliver a talk at the State level *Vettiyaan (graveyard workers) Maanadu* on 7th Jan. at Madurai. He followed it up with a talk on "*The Roots of Casteism, its Different Dimensions and Manifestations*" on 22 Feb. at the seminar organized by IDCR in Chennai; a week-long course on "*The Christian Response to Globalization*" in Feb. for the Arul Kadal theologians; a talk on "*The Role and Contribution of Women in Society: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*" at the seminar organized by St. Mary's College in Thoothukudi and another talk on "*The Role of Religious in the Struggles of People Today*" at a CRI seminar in Nagercoil on 15 March. **Fr. Aloysius Irudayam** was at ISI-Bangalore on 07 Jan. to conduct a one-day session on "*The What and the Why of Human Rights Advocacy*". His co-authored unpublished study report of 2004 "*The Right to Education of Adivasi Girls: Case Study of Palliyars and Pulayars on the Kodaikanal Hills of Tamil Nadu*", summarized in Tamil, entitled "*Education: Dream or Rights?*" is published by Society for Integrated Development of Tribals (SIDT). Subsequent to Aloy's inaugural talk on 12 March on "*Strategies for Human Rights Intervention*" conducted by the NGO, EVIDENCE at SHC, Shembaganur, he was invited to conduct a long session on "*The Status of Advocacy and Lobbying for Dalit Rights at the International Level*".

Deo Gratias! Even now Jebamalai Raja's heart glows with gratitude for the new gift of life he received from above on this year's Maundy Thursday. He was astounded to see himself alive and unhurt when three bogies of the Madurai-Kollam Passenger train derailed at 3.00 a.m. about 15 kms before Nagercoil. And Raja was in deep sleep in one of the bogies on the way to Melpuram for the Paschal Triduum ministry!

Aloysius Irudayam

GANSOVILLE, DEVAKOTTAI

A scientific annual evaluation of the Evening Study Programmes was conducted. The first phase of it was a one-day session on 2 March, with the teachers of those centres under the able guidance of **Fr. L.R. Michaelraj** from KARISAL. The second phase was an on-the-spot study, in all the 39 villages. A 4-page questionnaire consisting of 43 objective type questions was distributed to the students and their parents, as well. On the whole, we could inspire overall enthusiasm and involvement in education among our target people.

We had a preliminary planning session with the leaders of 4 movements of the people to plan out the forthcoming summer programmes: the zonal study camps and the cultural troupe.

We owe much to **Fr. Xavier Raj Antony** and **Mr. Bastin** from PEAK for introducing our youth to the benefits of the Welfare Board for the various unorganized sectors.

Ambedkar Jayanthi was commemorated by bringing together 27 Dalit government employees, mostly Dalit teachers; in the discussion they felt the need for concentrating more on the education of the Dalit students. Our juniors from Trivandrum were here for 12 days for a street theatre training cum performance in 5 Dalit villages. They did well indeed. Thanks to our Jesuit communities at Devakottai and Oriyur for their generous hospitality.

A. Masillamani

THOZHAMAI ILLAM, KANYAKUMARI

Fr. G. Lawrence preached an eight-day retreat to the Sisters of Jesus. Thanjavur, some preparing for their final profession and others for their first profession. **Fr. Joseph Nedungat** preached an eight-day retreat to Seva Missionary Sisters at Mangad, Chennai. **Fr. Chacko** gave a thirty-day retreat to three Sacred Heart Sisters at Thozhamai Illam in preparation for their final profession. **Fr. Louis** is giving a thirty-day retreat to Nazareth Sisters (Juniors) in Belgaum in preparation for their final commitment.

Fr. Korkoniyas Moses gave retreats in Asansol, West Bengal and Mymensingh and Bangladesh for volunteers working with physically and mentally disabled people. He visited Bamunigam and a few other villages in Orissa where Hindu fanatical groups had destroyed churches, presbyteries, and convents. He met some of the Priests and Sisters who were affected by these atrocities.

Fr. P.S. Arul conducted a three-day course on personality development. Twenty-three Sisters from different religious Congregations attended the programme with great profit.

C. Valiaveetil

MARIA SINGARAYAR WRITES FROM CALIFORNIA :

I had a good opportunity to participate in the Religious Education Congress organized by the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. The theme of the Congress was "Lift Your Gaze ... See Anew" and about 40,000 people from the United States and delegates from all over the world participated. More than 200 workshops on different topics with eminent speakers along with the liturgies in different languages and a grand exhibition about the Church in the world were the features of the Congress.

I was very happy to celebrate the Easter Vigil in Tamil at St. Joseph's Church, Mountain View, organized by the Bay area Tamil Catholic Community. It was a "Home Coming" experience for all our alumni when we gathered for the Tamil Nadu Jesuit Alumni Meeting at Holy Family Parish, San Jose, CA, on 5th April. About twenty alumni from De Britto, Devakottai, St. Mary's, Dindigul, St. Mary's, Madurai, Loyola, Chennai, St. Joseph's, Tiruchi and St. Xavier's,

Palayamkottai actively participated. All of them expressed their gratitude to the integral formation in particular and to the religious and moral education they had received with emphasis on concern for others. They also expressed the need for strengthening the network with the alumni and requested us to respond to the need of the hour by starting new innovative and relevant courses including professional colleges. After my fruitful stay in the US, I am looking forward to be back in the Province on 13th May.

FR. C. AMAL WRITES FROM MYANMAR:

The existence of the Church in Myanmar is a real miracle. In the last 50 years it had many constraints, lack of resources and great difficulty in movements. The missionaries, including six Jesuits, were expelled in 1966. Weathering a hostile onslaught, the local Church limped across a parched terrain. Religious in remote areas still live in utter poverty, some as farm workers. Congregations like the Gonzagas have survived without any support from outside.

Today there are 14 dioceses, 16 bishops, 677 priests, 333 men religious and 1958 women religious. Most of them are not exposed to English or modern theological thinking. Publishing even a tract is a big task. Catholics are found among Chin, Kachin, Kayah and Karen tribes. These are almost like our north eastern tribes. Tamils and Burmese form a minority.

The six American Jesuits left in 1966 with tears in their eyes. Some of their students almost formed a fan club and during Pedro Arrupe's time six priests tried to join the Jesuits. At present there are 3 bishops who were students of Jesuits and often tell us "there is no formation that can come near the Jesuit formation."

Last month we joined the jubilee celebration of a Kachin diocese. The Bishop of Arunachal Pradesh was here and was shocked to find a Tamil on the border. The cultural boundaries of the tribes were trampled upon by the post-colonial state formation. Kachin and Lishu tribes are found in India and Burma. The Bishop was here to explain possible networking.

The bishops ask for formation assistance. Burmese-born Jesuits can return to their country of origin. While people like me need to get out every third month, a Jesuit of Burmese origin can get a social visa for two years.

I am learning Burmese, have memorized the Mass. I hope to 'sing' the Mass from next month. (Poor Burmese have survived many a catastrophe, and surely they will survive this one too!)

FR. MARIA BASTIN WRITES FROM PUERTO RICO

"Bienvenido a Puerto Rico" thus welcomed me Fr. Jorge Ambert the Jesuit Regional Superior of Puerto Rico on 14th April at the international airport in San Juan - the Capital city of Puerto Rico and the second oldest city in the Americas. Puerto Rico is one of the islands in the Caribbean sea and an unincorporated territory of the United States with Commonwealth status which includes sovereignty, a voluntary association based on "respect and dignity between both nations", and common

citizenship. Hence all the people born in Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens and according to the 2006 census, the total population of Puerto Rico is about forty lakhs.

Puerto Rico is located in the tropics a territory about 170 km long and 60 km wide. It is mostly mountainous with large coastal areas and enjoys an average temperature of 28° C throughout the year. Spanish and English are the official languages of the island and Spanish is the primary one. Officially, 85% of the population is Roman Catholic and many are deep believers and to a large extent it is a spiritual nation. Here served once upon a time our Jesuit saint and martyr St. Spinola.

The jet lag is over. There are six Jesuits in this international community. Fr. Lawrence Searles is the parish priest of San Ignacio de Loyola, a Jesuit parish, adjacent to the Jesuit residence. Fr. Lawrence known as "Larry" did his Tertianship in Beschi Illam in 1992 - 93 and Fr. Rex. Pai was his instructor.

All take care of the Benjamin of the community ie., me very well. The average age of the members of my community is 58.4. I experience once again the Jesuit brotherliness, companionship and the love of our Mother Society more deeply .

The systematic learning of Spanish is yet to begin. Fr. Maria A. Torres, the President of the Colegio is in search for a proper Spanish tutorial centre to help me . I hope I will get it very soon. Till then Fr. Don Vega does his level best to make me familiar with certain Spanish words and phrases, for days, months, numbers, etc.

While learning Spanish, I will assist the parish priest in his ministry for the English speaking community and in the school I will serve as a counsellor and a maths teacher to the students.

Bienvenidos a Puerto Rico ! Thank you. Gracias

NEW RELEASES

"Nŗj p"> by Xavier Antony, FRRC, pp. 294, Rs. 250/-

"Building Strong Neighbourhoods: Religion and Politics in Secular India" by Vincent Sekhar, Claretian Publication, Bangalore, pp. 308.

"td;nfhLi kfS k; rli; l mkyhf;fKk;" M.A. Britto, DACA, pp. 393, Rs.250/-

"tof;fhWfs; fh;lLk; tho;tpay;" A. Irudayaraj, FRRC, SXC, Palayamkottai, pp. 208, Rs.120/-

“, yl;rpa Ntl;i fAl d;" (The GC 35, details & decrees in a popular style) by Jerry Rosario, meant for our collaborators in our schools / colleges / parishes / institutes will be out by 30 May. Book the copies (Rs.5) and distribute them to our collaborators as part of Orientation Programme at the beginning of the academic year in June.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Berchmans (Berkie) D'Souza (BOM) 63/42 on 10 April at Mumbai

Mr. Aruldoss, (70) brother of Fr. Anandanathan met with a road accident and died on 22 March

TRIBUTE TO REV. SR. MARTHA, ICM

This is a tribute to Rev. Sr. Martha ICM, who died in the Lord on 14 April 2008. She was 95 years old, 65 of which she had spent as a religious. In 1957 she came to India from China and spent all the fifty years in St. Joseph Hospital. She was in charge of the operation theatre as well as the priests' quarters. Probably more than 150 Jesuits departed from the earth, under her watchful loving care. Many other Jesuits, clerics and religious have also experienced her nursing care in the hospital.

The Jesuits of the Madurai Province owe her and the ICM Sisters an immeasurable debt of gratitude. A good number of Jesuits, including the Provincial were present for Sr. Martha's funeral.

Our hearts sing songs of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of Sr. Martha to us and to the thousands of poor people who had recourse to her in St. Joseph Hospital.

May the Lord be praised! May her soul rest in peace!

A. Arulanandam