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Madurai Jesuits' News Letter

MARCH 2017



(For Private Circulation)

Message from the Provincial



Collaboration is a must

Dear Brothers,

One of the most important instructions of GC 36 is a clear direction regarding the manner of our governance and the way of carrying out our ministries. It has emphasized the importance of collaboration. Let us recall briefly the historical development of this concept in the recent years.

GC 34 says that "all those engaged in the work should exercise co-responsibility and be engaged in discernment and participative decision making where it is appropriate" (D.13, n.13). GC 35 says that collaboration "expresses our true identity as members of the Church, the complementarity of our diverse calls to holiness, our mutual responsibility for the mission of Christ, our desire to join people of good will in the service of the human family, and the coming of the Kingdom of God" (GC 35, D.6, n.30). GC 36 re-emphasizes the above instructions and "recognizes the decisive role of our partners in the vitality of the Society's mission today...." (D.2, n. 6).

Further, in the document on "Our Life and Mission", GC 36 says: "Collaboration with others is the only way the Society of Jesus can fulfil the mission entrusted to her. This partnership in mission includes those with whom we share Christian faith, those who belong to different religions, and women and men of good will, who, like us, desire to collaborate with Christ's reconciling work". (D.1, n. 36). Our New Superior General, Fr. Arturo Sosa, in his homily of October 15, 2016 declares that the Jesuits are "called to the mission of Jesus Christ, that does not belong to us exclusively, but that we share with so many men and women consecrated to the service of others". Further, in his talk to the JCSA on February 23, 2017, Fr Arturo Sosa, stated emphatically: "...collaboration with others is the only way the Society of Jesus can fulfill its mission. The magnitude and interconnectedness of the problems that affect humanity and challenge the mission of the Church and the Society are such, that only by working together can we contribute effectively to their solution".

GC 36 also recognizes some of the difficulties faced by the members of the Society in implementing this new approach, while acknowledging the remarkable progress made in this regard. It says that the challenges and difficulties may be because of our lack of imagination and courage or "they may come from inhibitions arising from our social contexts or even from local clerical practices. A particular difficulty can be the lack of genuine collaboration among Jesuits – individuals, institutions, communities, Provinces, and Conferences". (D. 2, n.7). It instructs us in clear terms that "inclusive discernment and ongoing planning and evaluation of our efforts to go beyond the obstacles is required in order to mainstream the participation of mission partners further in various levels of the Society's apostolic activities and governance". (D. 2, n.7).

In this spirit, let us look at our own situation in the Province, in promoting genuine collaboration wherever we work – the efforts, their partial successes, the reluctance on the part of many of us, the resistance by those who are afraid of losing their chances to hold positions of power, the lack of training and orientation on the part of the collaborators, the strong culture of clericalism etc. Let us have the courage to examine our inner disposition in this regard and learn to move gradually in the line of what GC 36 clearly instructs us to do. As genuine followers of St. Ignatius, we have only one option – the promotion of collaboration among the mission partners and sharing with them joyfully the various responsibilities with which a large number of the Jesuits are burdened and even over-burdened today. Let us learn to trust the partners, to allow them to share responsibilities and to take decisions within a clear framework and system. Let us also take steps to train and orient the mission partners, so that they understand the real meaning of collaboration in carrying out the Jesuit ministries and mission.

Faternally,
Sebastien L. Raj, SJ
Provincial

Provincial's Programme



MARCH 2017

- 04 Extended Consult
- 05 Canonical Consult
- 07-08 Visitation: Loyola, Vettavalam
- 09 Visitation: AHAL, Kilpennathur
- 11-12 Consult
- 16-22 Visitation: Myanmar
- 25-26 Visitation: Poondy, VMI, Vilangudi
- 27 Visitation: Nagapattinam
- 29 Visitation: Mettupalayam & Makkampalayam
- 30 Visitation: Ooty

APRIL 2017

- 03 Consult
- 04-06 Visitation: Beschi Illam
- 22-23 Meeting with the South Zone Provincials – Maduralaya

Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

MARCH 2017

- 04 Province Extended Consult
- 05 Canonical Consult
- 11-12 Province Consult
- 12 Eve: Porulur Parish
- 17 Mettuppalayam
- 18 Makkampalayam - Women's Day
- 19 Women's Day Celebration at Chennai
- 25 Annual Day, Ranipet
- 30 Governing Body Meeting, Loyola College, Chennai

APRIL 2017

- 03 Province Consult



Announcements

Acting Provincial:

As Fr Provincial will be away in Myanmar to visit our men there, Fr. Joe Antony, Socius, will be the Acting Provincial from 16 to 22 March '17.

Meeting of LS/TL and Coordinators:

There will be a meeting of the Local Superiors, Team Leaders and Coordinators on 30 May '17, in Maduralaya, during which the new Provincial will take charge. All the Superiors, Team Leaders and Coordinators are requested to ensure their presence for this important event.

SAP Participation:

The Local Superiors/Team Leaders are requested to find out how many in their respective communities have NOT yet participated in the SAP or SAP retreats and send the list to Fr Socius as soon as possible. A special SAP session is being planned at the zonal level for those who have missed it so far.

Roots & Wings 2017:

Colloquium on Ignatian Spirituality: *Venue:* Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal. *Dates:* From April

2 evening to May 8 evening (both days inclusive) 2017. *Total Course Fee:* Rs 20,000/- (including Board & Lodge). *Contact Person:* Fr M. Devadhas SJ. *Email:* devadhasm@gmail.com. *Mobile:* +91 94875 80952.

South Zone GC Retreats in May '17 in Bengaluru:

Karnataka province has organized two GC retreats in May for the Jesuits of Southern provinces: 1. For **Superiors:** *Dates:* from 21 May evening till 29 May evening. *Venue:* Prerana, Mount St Joseph, Bengaluru. *Directors:* Frs Dion Vaz & Jossy D'Mello, (KAR). *Charges:* Rs 3,600 (Rs 450 x 8) through a cheque or D.D. *in favour of Director, Prerana.* 2. For **others:** *Dates:* from 21 May evening till 29 May evening. *Venue:* Dhyanaashrama, Mount St Joseph, Bengaluru. *Director:* Fr Irudayaraj Manickam (GUJ). *Charges:* Rs 3,600 (Rs 450 x 8) through a cheque or D.D. *in favour of Director, Dhyanaashrama.* *Contact person for both retreats:* Fr Jerome D'Souza, Socius. *email:* karsocius@gmail.com or jeromeds@gmail.com. *Cell phone:* (0)94821 73889. Please inform him about *the time* of your arrival on 21 May. On 21 May morning KAR Jesuits have a common celebration for the Province Jubilarians at Mount St Joseph. They

welcome the retreatants to the Mass at 10 am followed by felicitations and dinner.

South Zone GC Retreats in May '17 in Shembag & Dindigul:

The MDU province has organized two special GC retreats this summer for the Jesuits of southern provinces: 1. For **Superiors:** *Dates:* from 02 May evening till 10 May evening. *Venue:* Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, Kodaikanal. *Director:* Fr Kinley Tshering, Provincial, DAR. *Charges:* Rs 3,600 (Rs 450 x 8) through cheque or D.D. in favour of Procurator, Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur. 2. For **others:** *Dates:* from 02 May evening till 10 May evening. *Venue:* Beschi Illam, Dindigul. (renovated, bath-attached rooms, spacious, air-conditioned hall for talks and Mass, a vast, green campus). *Director:* Fr Bhausahab Sansare, Provincial, PUN. *Charges:* Rs 3,600 (Rs 450 x 8) through cheque or D.D. in favour of Treasurer, Beschi Illam. *Contact person* for both retreats: Fr Joe Xavier, PCF, MDU. *email:* pcf@mdusj.org. As only 35 retreatants can be accommodated at SHC or Beschi, write early to book your place.

Chair for Robin:

Fr Robin Seelan has been appointed to hold the Maclean Chair (visiting professor) at St Joseph's

University, Philadelphia, USA from January 2017. His residential address: Fr Robin S.Seelan SJ, Jesuit Community, 261, City Avenue, Merion Station, Philadelphia, PA 19066. Landline: +1-610-660-1412/25. Cell: +1-267-475-5397. Whatsapp: 9962303182.

Website for Higher Education:

On 02 March '17 Fr Xavier Alphonse, Co-ordinator of Higher Education Commission, launched a Website for Jesuit Higher Education Commission: www.jesuithighereducationcommission.com. He invites all to visit the Website and give him feedback and suggestions.

Vocation Camps:

The Vocation Promoter requests all the Jesuits in institutions and parishes to send capable, enthusiastic and motivated candidates for these vocation camps this summer: 10th Students: *Dates:* 30 March (evening) - 4 April (morning). *Venue:* LTI, Madurai. 12th Students: *Dates:* 2 April (evening) - 8 April (morning). *Venue:* IDEAS, Madurai & Dhayana Ashram, Chennai

Special Camp for 12th & College students: *Dates:* 25 April - 27 April. *Venue:* St. Mary's Hostel, Dindigul. Special Camp for College students:

Date: 14 May. *Venue:* Maduralaya, Dindigul.

Status: Appointments & Transfers List II

SCHOLASTICS: PG STUDIES

NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
Alexander Gnanapragasam	PAATHAI, Vallam	SXC, Palayamkottai	MSW
Amalraj Mariasingam	LIS, Ranipet	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	M.Sc Chemistry
Anto Arputha Raja P.	Beschi, Dindigul (JRS)	Bangalore	M.Sc Psychology
Felix Sahayaraj	AHAL, Keelpennathur	SJC, Trichy	M.Sc Comp. Science
John Kamilas T.	VMI, Vilangudi	Bangalore	M.Sc Psychology
John Peter A	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Berchmans Illam, Chennai	B. Ed
Joseph Alexander R	Perumalmai	SJC, Trichy	M.Sc Comp. Science
Manojkumar Tharmam	JESIM, Keelpennathur	Loyola College, Chennai	M.A Sociology
Salomon Antony Samy	De Britto, Devakottai	Loyola College, Chennai	B. Ed

Status: Appointments & Transfers

List II

PRIESTS AND BROTHERS

NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATION
Fr Arockiam Kulandai	Clive House, Trichy	SJC, Trichy	Staff
Br Arockiaraj Irudayasamy	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Loyola College, Chennai	Sub-Minister
Fr Arockiasamy Antony	SXC, Palayamkottai	Kohima Region	Missionary
Br Arockiasamy Pitchaimu.	SXC, Palayamkottai	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi	Staff
Fr Berchmans Maria Joseph	Loyola College, Mettala	St. Joseph's, Trichy	College Staff
Br Devadoss Muthusavari	Thozhamai Illam, K. Kumari	Clive House, Trichy	House Administration
Fr Dhanaraj Raphael	Arrupe House, Mettupalayam	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Dominic Savio M	Beschi Illam, DGL (JRS)	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Administrator
Fr D'Silva Aelred	SXC, Palayamkottai	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Rest
Fr Gaspar Leonard A	AAC, Karumathur	Loyola College, Chennai	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Gilbert Camillus V	Delhi Province (Jaipur)	Loyola College, Vettavalam	Principal
Fr Henry Jerome V	Loyola College, Chennai	AAC, Karumathur	Staff
Fr Irudaya Valanarasu	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi	De Britto HSS, Devakottai	Staff
Br John Bosco M.L.	Loyola College, Chennai	Thozhamai Illam, K.Kumari	Administrator & Treasurer
Fr John Lourdu L	SXC, Palayamkottai	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Rest
Fr Josephraj Savarimuthu	Thozhamai Illam, K. K.	Bodhi Zendo, Perumalmalai	Updating Spirituality
Fr Lawrence Benedict	Tertianship	Loyola College, Mettala	Treasurer & Staff
Fr Leolin Arockia Dass A.	SHC, Shembaganur	Loyola College, Chennai	Asst. Campus Treasurer
Fr Manuel Saveriar	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	AAC, Karumathur	Minister and Staff
Fr Maria Augustine S. A.	Palamalai Farm	SHC, Shembaganur	Campus Treasurer
Fr Marivalan Rayappan	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	SJC, Trichy	Parish Priest
Fr Michael Pugazhendhi A	Supam	SJC, Trichy	Vocation Prom.& Asst. PP
Fr Peter Sengole Xavier	St. Joseph's, Bangalore	Satya Nilayam, Chennai	Registrar & Librarian
Fr Prabhu Francis	Supam	St. Mary's, Madurai	Asst. Parish Priest
Fr Raju Michael S	LTI, Madurai	St Mary's, Madurai	Spiritual Ministry
Fr Stephen Robert	Supam	Arulanandar Shrine, Oriyur	Asst. Parish Priest
Fr Vazhapilly Francis	LTI, Madurai	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Spiritual Ministry
Br Xavier Maria	Rayapuram (SMM)	St Mary's, Madurai	House Garden

Fr General's talk to the South Asian Provincials

23 February 2017

(Excerpts)



General Comments

We are called to move from a province vision to a universal vision. A universal vision means a tension between the local and the global. The universal vision is impossible without local roots. The local apostolate makes sense in the context of the universal mission. Discernment is the key to mediate the relationship between the local and the universal. The JCSA is an excellent forum and opportunity to carry out this common responsibility and for discerning how to concretize this universal mission for South Asia.

I am happy to hear about the process of “Re-Orienting for Greater Apostolic Effectiveness (REGAE)” started in 2015, with the hope for a long-term vision and widespread participation of the Jesuits of the South Asian Assistency. A process has been put in motion, please do not stop it. Processes need to mature. The kind of processes we are promoting come from the timely prompting of the Holy Spirit, and not from ourselves.

Life-Mission Challenges

For GC 36, Life and Mission are deeply interconnected. For us, as Christians and Jesuits, Life and Mission are two sides of the same coin. The first step in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises is to imbibe the spirit of the Principle and Foundation. That is: To gain the inner freedom that enables spiritual indifference as a condition for discernment and decision-making. Indifference is necessary to be available for mission and is the result of a genuine spiritual life.

The invitation to ongoing conversion and renewal of our spiritual life is a perennial reality. The Spiritual Animation Process (SAP) has taken care of this important dimension of our Life-Mission. Discernment, as a way of decision-making, is a challenge. Discernment is not only to search God's will in our individual lives but also to find God's will together. Discernment was Jesus' way of proceeding during his life. The complexity and magnitude of the present context demand more and better discernment so as to be effective apostolically. The practice of discernment is a gift that we can share with others only if we practice it.

The Society of Jesus has become a multicultural body. GC 36 was an example of this. It has been a source of joy that we have learnt to live together. We are called to another step: to grow as an intercultural body that helps to challenge and enrich our own local cultures. Each one of us can contribute with his own culture and experience, and in turn can receive from others. The

result is a universal sensitivity that transforms us into the image and likeness of God, a God who thrives on plurality and variety, in contrast with a globalization process that tries to create a uniform and standardized culture.

Another characteristic of our way of proceeding is what we call the Intellectual Apostolate. All apostolic commitments of the Society and of the individual Jesuit come from a process of discernment and must be well thought out. The big investment we have made in intellectual formation is because we want Jesuits to be able to think for themselves in any situation they are missioned to. We need to be true intellectuals within the field of Higher Education, Social Analysis or any other apostolic work. Becoming a thinker is an ongoing process. To be an intellectual is to also have the ability to proclaim the Good News in a manner that is appealing and transformative. To be an intellectual is to be an effective instrument for the apostolate.

Governance

General Principles: The government of the Society of Jesus is oriented towards the mission. It is personal, spiritual and apostolic. This is a golden principle that is not always followed. The Governance structures of the Society of Jesus were created at specific moments of history to respond to concrete mission situations. Since GC 34, the Society has been searching for a more effective structure of governance. There is a shared perception that our present structure is not effective for the mission. GC35 asked for an evaluation of the governance structures and reorganization of the Society's government. GC 36 confirmed this mandate and proposed collaboration and networking as the way of proceeding after a process of discernment.

Discernment: Discernment necessarily involves a tension between seeking and finding the will of God and apostolic planning. To seek and to find the will of God is the objective of discernment that seeks to put us at the service of the mission of Christ. Discernment is a way of making decisions that enables us to pay attention to the spiritual movements in relation to the issue that is being discerned. To pay attention to spiritual movements is to go beyond rational arguments which is a normal temptation for most of us.

Collaboration: The willingness to listen to the Spirit in discernment must, of course, include those with whom we work. They often teach us openness to the Spirit and their voices and experiences enrich our

discernment. We realize that collaboration with others is the only way the Society of Jesus can fulfill its mission. The magnitude and interconnectedness of the problems that affect humanity and challenge the mission of the Church and the Society are such, that only by working together can we contribute effectively to their solution. Along the way of collaboration, we encounter people and organizations dedicated to the service of others. Some of these share the Christian faith, others faith in God, and yet others are men and women of goodwill -- all committed to the task of reconciling humanity.

Networking: Collaboration leads spontaneously to cooperation through networks. Networks facilitate collaboration between the apostolic works of the Society and with the works of others, opening new horizons that go beyond those of a province or region in addition to mobilizing resources in support of the mission.

GC 36 (2:8) recalls some conditions for networking that involve sharing the vision of the mission. These include a “culture of generosity” as the basis of openness in collaborating with others and being effective leaders who are capable of maintaining a balance between local initiative and their own authority. GC 36 also recalls the challenge represented by the governance of Jesuit apostolic networks that go, on the one hand, beyond the works and boundaries of provinces and, on the other, those networks that are established in conjunction with other (non-Jesuit) institutions.

Apostolic Planning

Apostolic planning is an instrument for putting into action the fruits of discernment. It supposes a long-term strategy, mid-term and short-term to evaluate and reorient. A good plan is always flexible. If this tension between discernment and apostolic planning disappears, apostolic planning degenerates from being an instrument of the mission to becoming an end in itself. If this happens, it obliterates the meaning of what we are and called to do.

Planning is a way of improving the effectiveness of the mission. It is not only planning that is needed. What we are called to do is “apostolic” planning because it includes the tension between evangelization and the Ignatian magis. The aim of apostolic planning is to make present the Good News to every human being and every culture. Magis means that it is always possible to improve. We can do more and do it better if we make the best use of our resources, especially of the human

capacities of those who share the same mission, Jesuits and non-Jesuits.

Apostolic preferences are universal, for the whole Society of Jesus. But they do not constitute a plan. They are mission requirements to be considered at all levels of apostolic planning. International apostolates need to be planned as a responsibility of the universal body. Conferences are supposed to plan interprovincial apostolates and common projects under their responsibility. Therefore, a Province plan is not an attempt to accommodate a global or Conference/ Zonal plan to a local situation. Provinces plan their mission and works in a concrete territory according to the mandate received from the Superior General/the Society and the Church.

In the current organizational set-up of the Society of Jesus, a province is a unit that administers

human, economic and organizational resources for the local, regional and universal mission. The Province resources are not exclusively for a Province but for the mission of the whole Society. It



is important to recall that the Society of Jesus is not a federation of independent provinces but a universal apostolic body organized into provinces as a way of administering its resources. The Society of Jesus has been a successful administrative organization for hundreds of years because there exists an efficient system of communication and sharing of resources.

The South Asian and Latin-American Jesuits cannot forget how the Society was born in these parts. Where and how was the Society of Jesus in South Asia before the emergence of the present 18 provinces and 2 regions? Who sowed the seed and how did it grow? We exist as Jesuits in these areas because other Jesuits shared their resources.

Provinces are a provisional structure, existing side by side with other civil and church structures. If we take seriously the mandates of GC 35 and 36, we need to evaluate all the structures of our Society and, in creative fidelity, align our structures with the intuition of our Founders. There is no doubt about the important role of provinces in the Society's governance. The question is: are other structures possible? Maybe we are arriving at a moment when we need to take seriously what we have learnt in the novitiate: we enter the Society of Jesus and not any particular province. Can we imagine other ways of organizing the apostolates in South Asia with a better use of the resources we have?



They met, they celebrated...

Celebrations, Functions, Courses...

The joyous participation of the teaching and non-teaching staff and students marked the celebration of the feast of the patron of **AAC**, Karumathur, St Arulanandhar on 04 Feb. Theatre Fest 2017, organized by the department of English Literature, helped the students exhibit their talents.

JESIM, AHAL organized a training programme for Self Help groups of four villages on small savings and bank accounting on 26 Feb. AHAL hostel day was celebrated on 18 Feb. Parents appreciated the English skit staged by the students.

The annual Lonergan Endowment Seminar of **Arul Kadal** for this year, held on 05 Feb at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pallavaram, focussed on Jallikkattu and Tamil Tradition. About 145 youth from 13 parishes of our week-end ministry actively participated and made a pledge to preserve our rich Tamil Tradition. Fr Arulraj, the parish priest of Pallavaram, made all the arrangements. He also offered Arulkadal scholastics a week-long programme on "Pastoral Insights" during which they visited several parishes. Sch D.A.Stephen represented the student community of Arul Kadal at the Plenary Academic Council Meeting at Vidyajyoti, Delhi. Fr Maria Arulraja made several presentations and delivered lectures at seminars and conferences during the month.

We, the two MDU Juniors at the **Belgaum Juniorate** went on a cultural tour on 18,19 Feb to Kanheri Math in Kolhapur. The museum had a display of life-sized clay images of men and women in various professions. We then visited the Shahu Palace Museum and Panhala Fort. We are now getting ready for the Assistency Standardized English Test (ASET).

On 11 Feb **Beschi** community celebrated the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes with a procession from the Press past Maduralaya to the grotto, and ended with a Mass at which Fr Ignatius Britto preached. On the same day Fr Charles Lasarado, SJ, Asst. General Treasurer from Rome, visited Beschi. The 10 first year Novices have gone to our Sirumalai Estate for their one month work experiment, accompanied by Fr Manuel, the Socius. The Sisters' Tertianship program at **CIS** has entered its last phase, the Long Retreat. Five Junior Brothers of St Michael have joined them for the retreat. Frs Bastian and Britto are the directors, each taking up a group of 17 retreatants.

Fr Paul C. Jesuraja's Jubilee was celebrated at **Clive's**, Trichy with solemnity on 07 Jan. Fr Sebastia L. Raj, the Provincial, blessed the new Basket Ball Court on 15 Jan. The tour to Pondicherry on 16 Jan and the community day celebrations on 20, 21 Jan and the Bal Mela on 18 Feb were occasions of joy and fellowship for the community.





Dhyana Ashram



LCC



Loyola ICAM



LCE



LCE

Jerry facilitated a special 'Mercy Retreat' at **Dhyana Ashram**. He guided a pastoral retreat for the Bishop and clergy of Vijayawada Diocese. Along with Fr Joe Kalathil SJ, he visited Pakistan and talked to different groups of lawyers, pastors, NGOs, and the youth. On the invitation of OFM pastors, he conducted animation programmes in different parishes in Muscot, Oman. He presented 10 episodes on St Teresa of Kolokotta and a programme on St John de Britto on Madha TV.

More than 80 participants from 58 Organizations attended the one-day Consultation on NSDC Schemes organized by **ICRDCE** on 08 Feb at Loyola, Chennai. Fr. M.S. Jacob, Director, was the Chief Guest at the convocation of Teresian Community College, Mysore on 31 Jan and at 15th Anniversary celebrations of Karunakarya Community College, Eraiyur, on 11 Feb.

Mr Mariyappan Thangavelu, Gold Medalist in Rio Paralympics, presided over the closing ceremony and distributed the prizes at the Annual Sports Meet of **Loyola College, Chennai** held on 17, 18 Feb. Department Festivals for Science and Arts departments were organized on 24, 25 Feb. The campus was filled with participants from other colleges.

A team of officials from Fu Jen University, Taiwan, Ottawa University and Linden Wood University, USA visited **LOYOLA-ICAM Engineering College** to discuss academic collaborations and certificate courses. 20 Universities and Colleges participated in LICET Tournament.

FIESTA, the annual cultural extravaganza of **Loyola College of Education (LCE)**, was celebrated on 11, 12 Jan. Fr Jebamalairaja, CMS, presided over the inaugural function and felicitated the students and teachers who gave their best to make the event memorable. Fr M.A. Joe Antony, Socius and Superior, Maduralaya, presided over the valedictory function and gave away the prizes to the winners. In his address he said since Pongal, the farmers' festival, was just two days away, he had to draw the attention of the student-teachers to the pathetic conditions of the Indian farmers, who were committing suicide in droves. The Secretary and 16 staff members accompanied 120 second year students in their Educational Tour to Mumbai and Goa On 15-22 Jan. Everyone enjoyed their week-long tour immensely.

More than 120 alumni of **Loyola College, Vettavalam (LCV)** attended its 2nd Alumni Meet on 26 Jan and had a fruitful sharing of their experiences. More than 628 students from 22 villages participated in the Cultural and Sports Meet for the children of Loyola Outreach Evening Study Centers on 29 Jan.

On 23, 24 Feb **JIM**, St Joseph's, Trichy organised an international conference on 'Startups and their Impact on Management Education'. CEOs of startups and Directors of Business schools from India, Germany, USA and Singapore took part in the discussion on various issues.

Scholastics from Arul Kadal, Berchmans Illam, LCC, LCV and regents participated in the Spiritual Animation Programme (SAP), conducted by Fr Raj Irudaya, ADF at Loyola, Chennai on 10-12 Feb. The Scholastics gained insights into our Jesuit identity, restructuring and universal availability. Group discussions involved reading, reflection and response. Fr Joe Xavier, Sch Raphael Alex, and Sch Maria Valan worked hard to make the programmed effective.

St Joseph's, Trichy brought together the students of its four hostels (Bellarmine, Sacred Heart, New Hostel and Teresa Hostel for Women) for 'Family Day Celebrations' on 05 March. The event began with the Eucharist and ended with a cultural extravaganza at which students put up scintillating programmes. Fr James Thamburaj participated in the Golden Jubilee Grand Conference of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, held at St Joseph Vaz Retreat Centre, Goa. About 560 leaders from all over India attended. Fr Thamburaj gave a talk on 'Call to Return to the First Love' and conducted a Healing Service.

To celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on 11 Feb **St Mary's, Dindigul** had a candle-light procession in the campus, attended by the staff and students. On 23 it conducted a moving prayer service for the 12th std students and their parents who fervently prayed for their children. On 24 St Mary's Primary School celebrated its 167th annual day and sports day. On 25 AMUTHU organized a meeting at Loyola R.C. School, Oddanchatram with a talk by Fr Philomin Raj, IDEAS, on manual scavenging to 30 people from different panchayats. On the same day there was a free medical camp at Porulur parish organized by DREAMS Trust in collaboration with AMUTHU.

Students of Britto Hostel, **St Mary's, Madurai** celebrated the feast of their patron, St John De Britto, on 04 Feb. The Hostel organized a Parents Meeting for VI to IX and XI std. Many parents found the programme very useful. They felt blessed to give away prizes to their own children who had done well. We took X, XII std students to the Shrine of Annai Velankanni, Vaadipatti to offer prayers for our students who are writing Government Examinations. A special Mass and prayers marked the Farewell Day for X, XII std. students.

The **St Xavier's** College of Education (SXCE) organized a Community Service Camp on 02-04 Feb in a nearby village called Samathuvapuram, where the students organized a medical camp, visited homes, cleaned the surroundings and presented cultural programmes. The first year students went on an educational tour to Hyderabad on 11-16 Feb.

A very meaningful Condolence meeting was organized at SXC on 16 Feb to express its collective gratitude to Fr Victor





Arulappan, who passed away suddenly in Chennai on 14 Feb. Fr Victor had served the college as students' counsellor from 1984 to 1987 and as Rector from 1988 to 1991. Jesuit officials of SXC and representatives from the teaching and non-teaching staff paid touching tributes to Fr Victor.

Dr. K. Baskar, Vice Chancellor of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, distributed the Diplomas to 866 graduates at SXC's 91st Graduation Ceremony on 17 Feb. The Vice Chancellor expressed his surprise at the growth of the college with 38 UG/PG/M.Phil courses and initiatives such as 'One Rupee a Day Scheme' which support the poor students and the poor in the neighbourhood.



The fifth **SUPAM** meeting was held at Infant Jesus Cathedral, Salem on 22 Feb. Fr Arockiaraj, the SUPAM Coordinator, Fr Joe Xavier, the PCF and Fr Maria Arul Raja, Dean, Arul Kadal were the resource persons. The SUPAMites shared their socio-pastoral experiences and the others gave their feedback. We also visited the St Mary's Co-cathedral, Shevpet, where Fr Alton is serving. It was the famous Jesuit scholar, Robert De Nobili, who established the mission at Shevpet. Frs Gregory and Christuraja made all the arrangements to make our stay comfortable.



Sch Swaminathan Krishnamurti, London, was ordained a Deacon on 25 Feb. He writes, "The ordination Mass was grace-filled and I was deeply moved to be called to this honour.. Bishop Hudson gave a soul-stirring homily on what it is to be a celibate disciple following the Good Shepherd in the world today. The congregation was packed and prayerful. The liturgical atmosphere was very profoundly solemn. Adding to my joy, one of the altar servers, a high schooler, who read the short write-up about my vocation, expressed his desire to become a priest!"



On 18 Feb at **Vidyajyoti**, Delhi, 23 of us, including 6 from our Province, were ordained deacons by Archbishop Anil Couto of Delhi at the Millennium Hall, St Xavier's School. A large gathering of faithful, along with Fr. General, the three Assistants, POSA, Delhi Provincial and Jesuits witnessed the Diaconate ceremony, which was very meaningful and solemn. The Vidyajyoti community was filled with joy to welcome Fr General and the Assistants. Fr. General stressed on our intellectual apostolate. He reminded us that the study of theology and theologising on the current issues can help us do our ministry in an effective way. He also said that action without thinking can be useless and even be dangerous.

Abide with the Lord

Fr Victor Arulappan, SJ (MDU), 72/54, on 14 Feb in Chennai.

Fr Bernie Donnelly, SJ (HAZ) 84/65, on 16 Feb at Sitagarh.

Fr Patras Ekka, SJ (RAN), 63/ 43, on 09 March in Ranchi.



They have done it!

Something new, something good...

Vignesh, a student of **AAC, Karumathur**, created a new Guinness record in cycling, crossing 122 kilometers without a break and riding with hands off (not holding the hand bar). On 28 Feb, inspired by **Fr Viji Bose**, his colleagues of the 2002-2005 batch of alumni/ae of AAC, adopted three poor students, promising to completely support their education and even after, till they get a job. They plan to adopt two poor students every year from AAC's department of Physics.

On 02 Feb Fr Provincial blessed the Skills Development Centre at **Arulagam, Harur** that is already offering training in tailoring. A seminar on 'How to prepare for Government exams' offered on 18 Feb was appreciated by youth around Harur. Arulagam runs Evening Study Centres in 10 villages that serve 450 school students. More than 50 students are benefitting from TET and Police Training programs offered at weekends.

Velicham, **AHAL's** cultural troupe, staged a much-appreciated skit on the livelihood problems of Irulars at 'Veethi Virudhu Vizha' held at Loyola College, Chennai. **JESIM** conducted Sports Day for the tuition children on 12 Feb. Fr S. Marianathan inaugurated the function. Collector of Villupuram, Mr. L. Subramanian, was the Chief Guest. More than 536 people participated in the programme. At the function Fr Jebamalai Raja, CMS and Fr Maria Joe, Superior, LCV, distributed community certificates to 13 Irulars of Thondur Village.

The main building of **De Britto**, Devakottai, Xavier Block, with its new elevation was blessed by Fr Provincial on 14 Feb. The initiative has gladdened the hearts of the staff and students. **Fr Cyril**, Director, Gansoville and the Department of Social Work of Ananda College jointly organized a one-day state level seminar on 'Human Rights and Peace- A Gandhian Perspective.' Dr. William Baskaran, Professor, Dept. Gandhian Thought and Peace Science, Gandhigram University, Dindigul, emphasized the need to become aware of human rights and peace building. More than 200 students from 5 colleges participated in the seminar and took an oath to promote and protect human rights.

DABEX - 2017, a book exhibition which **Fr Jerry** of **Dhyana Ashram** organised, in collaboration with Vaigarai Pathippagam, in the dioceses of Madras and Chengalpattu, fetched about Rs.2 lakhs in sales - a record. On 05 Jan Jerry became the highest blood donor in the country with 188 blood donations! The facilities that **Fr A. Joseph**, Superior, has begun to provide at Dhyana Ashram have already increased its occupancy level and promise to make it soon a sought-after retreat-centre.





Voicing their opposition against the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for medical admissions, several educationists and educational institutions formed an umbrella body called 'Tamil Nadu Educationists Forum', during a consultation meeting on 05 March at St. Joseph's College, Trichy. Frs John Kennedy, Director, **JCERT**, Stephen Pragasam, SEC Coordinator, Xavier Alphonse, HE Coordinator, Simon, HM, St. Joseph's, Joe Arun, Director, JIM and Royce, Secretary, LCE were the Jesuit representatives at the meeting, besides 15 others from various teachers' organizations



NEET seems to be a backdoor entry of implementing some aspects, proposed in the much contentious New Education Policy. It is against federalism. It will further accelerate the process of commercialization of education and ensure opportunities of professional courses only to the rich and the elite. It will be completely against the interests of the poor and rural students. When there is no equity in educational opportunities, how is it just to seek equity in entrance examinations? The immediate task is to create awareness among the students, teachers, parents and the general public about the evils of NEET. The participants decided to start our protest against NEET with a state-level conference at St. Joseph's College, Trichy on 01 April '17



JIM, St Joseph's released its first bi-annual scientific journal, *JIM Journal of Management (JJM)*. Releasing the journal, Mrs Latha Pandiarajan, Director, MA Foi Strategy Ltd spoke on relevance of research and teaching in Business Schools. As part of its Decennial Celebrations, JIM organized Decennial Alumni Congress on 25-26 Feb. More than 500 alumni/ae of nine batches participated in the Congress and formed its first Alumni Association that promised to take active part in the growth of JIM. Mr Sujith Kumar, Head, HR, Infosys, addressed the Congress on the importance of Alumni Connect.



A Job Fair for Differently-abled cum Disability Inclusive Conference was organized by **Loyola** Alumni Association in collaboration with other NGOs on 26 Feb at LCC. 90 firms and 4,000 candidates took part in the career fair. Loyola College celebrated the National Science Day on 27 Feb with a symposium on 'Science and Technology for Specially Aabled Persons' organized by Loyola Institute of Frontier Energy (**LIFE**) in collaboration with the Resource Centre for Differently Aabled.



Thanks to the hard work of **Fr M.J. Christie**, Director and his Staff, LIBA has leapfrogged in rankings. In the recent 'Times of India B-School Survey', **LIBA** has been ranked 29th in the country (last year – 41) and in South India it has been ranked 3 (last year – 8).

Loyola-ICAM Engineering College has signed a MoU with DAIKIN Technologies, Japan for setting up a Center of Excellence & Training in its premises. Scholarships worth of Rs 1.12 crores from Renault Nissan were awarded to 28 rural and urban poor students studying in LOYOLA-ICAM that would

support all the expenses for their four-year engineering studies.

Loyola College of Education has been accredited with “A” Grade with CGPA: 3.48 in the second cycle of NAAC. NAAC Peer Team Visit (II cycle) took place on 30, 31 Jan. **Fr Royce**, Secretary, attributed the achievement to the hard work of the staff and students. LCE organized a two day Campus Placement drive in which 20 schools participated. About 82 students (54%) of the total strength of the II year B.Ed. students (152) have been assured of jobs in various schools.

Isaac Legacy Scholarship Fund of Rs 10 lakhs was started for the poor and deserving students of **Loyola College, Vettavalam** on 30 Dec ‘16. In the presence of Fr Jebamalai Raja, CMS, the members of the family of Late Mr. Isaac donated the money to the College. As part of neighborhood ministry, the LCV Jesuit Community offered its full pastoral support for the celebration of the Feast of St. John De Brito on 04 Feb at the Olaijadi Substation where the College is situated.

SIGNIS, the world-wide Catholic organization for media professionals, honoured Fr **M.A. Joe Antony, SJ**, Socius to the Provincial and Editor, *Jivan* with a ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ in the field of journalism and writing. At the Signis National Assembly held on 21 Feb at Citadel, Chennai, Mr Bharathi Raja, eminent Film Director and Mr Gustavo Andujar, President, Signis World, presented him a statuette and a plaque containing the citation that said the award was for his ‘outstanding contribution to promoting a culture of peace through journalism.’

Being invited by Kohima Jesuits, **Fr Stephen L. Pragasam**, Coordinator, **SEC**, and **Fr John Kennedy**, Director, **JCERT**, St Xavier’s conducted orientation programmes for teachers in three Jesuit schools in the Kohima region. The themes focussed on challenges of education in India today, Jesuit heritage in education, four pillars of Jesuit education and characteristics of a teacher in a Jesuit institution. Each programme concluded with concrete action plans to be implemented in the coming academic year.

Sch Parthasarathi, Vidya Jyoti, who participated as third year class representative at the annual Preliminary Academic Council (PAC) of VJ held on 13-16 Feb, has been elected as a Senate member of VJ.

Jesuits of **Xaveriana**, Tuticorin, feel grateful for what they have been able to do through an innovative scheme at our St Francis Xavier’s School. Guided by **Fr Vincent Amalraj**, Headmaster and Co-ordinator, ‘Supam Scheme,’ the students donated Rs 1,20,000, teachers Rs 40,000 and the Alumni Rs.17,000 to pay for the open-heart surgery of a student. The School donated totally Rs. 1,77,000 towards the medical expenses of Selvan Logesh Rahul, a XII Std student.



CORRESPONDENTS:

Anthony Rex Kumar, Amirtharaj, Donic Raja, Francis Xavier, George V., Gladwin, Jacob, John Kennedy, John Paul K., Lawrence A, Lenin, Manoj, Paul Pragash, Pugazhendhi, Ravi Kumar, Richard, Roch, Rufus, Salomon, Victor Desoza, Viji .

EMMANUEL RAJ ANTONISAMY, SJ

1945 - 2017

Fr Emmanuel Raj welcomed with a smile everyone who came to visit him at the hospital and kept saying, "Thank you" or "Praise the Lord." The call of the Lord came to him on 03 Feb '17 morning.

Fr Emmanuel Raj was born on 17 Dec 1945 at Pacheri, a substation of Vembattur–

Michael Pattanam parish in Sivagangai diocese. He was the eldest child in his family with two brothers and a sister. Since his father, Mr Antonisamy, was a teacher in the school at Michaelpattanam, his family settled down there. He entered the novitiate in Beschi college on 24 May 1962. A pious and prayerful novice, he was the one who volunteered to preach, whenever the novices were asked to preach an extempore sermon, when they were out on villa days.

After one year of Juniorate in Beschi, he was sent to Berchmans Hall in Chennai for his undergraduate studies.

After theology in Pune he was ordained on 02 May 1976. He was appointed the General Prefect of the Catholic Boys Boarding at St Mary's, Madurai for a year. In the following year he was the procurator and teacher at St.Mary's, Dindigul. Then he was sent to St Xavier's, Palayamkottai and he taught in the Hr.Sec. School from 1986 till May 1988. He went on to teach in the College of Education while serving also as the Director of the B.Ed. Hostel. This seems to be the time when he began to develop problems related to mental health. He was sent to Beschi Illam, Dindigul for rest. He improved and became the academic coordinator in the

M.S. University in Palayamkottai till May 2005. He was the Principal of Ansaldo College of Education in Maruthuvambadi, Chetpet from 2005 till 2012. As his health deteriorated, he was sent to St.Mary's, Madurai. In August, 2016 he became very sick and was taken to St Mary of Leuca Hospital in Moonrumavadi on 13 Aug

'16. The doctors found he had jaundice, but when he was healed of jaundice, other complications set in that affected his liver. On 20 Aug he was taken to Meenakshi Mission Hospital and kept in the I.C.U. for 8 days. The doctors said that there was no hope of his recovery and he was discharged from the hospital. He returned to St Mary's, but soon he had to be rushed to the hospital again.

He passed away peacefully in the morning of 03 Feb. His body was



brought to St Mary's at about 9.45 a.m. and a lot of people came to pay their respects. The funeral Mass began in the Cathedral at 4.00 p.m. presided by the Provincial, Fr Sebastia L. Raj. In his homily Fr Sebastian Soosai praised God for the many good qualities of Fr Emmanuel. After the Mass, Fr P.Arockiasamy, Rector, St Mary's, and Fr. Michael Jeyaraj, former Provincial, paid rich tributes to Fr Emmanuel Raj. Mr. A. Amalraj, his second brother, thanked the Jesuits, particularly those who looked after him in his last days. The final commendation was done by Fr Provincial and Fr Danis Ponniah, Rector, St.Xavier's, conducted the burial service in the cemetery. May Fr Raj, the hard working educationist, rest in peace! - Eronimus Santiago, SJ

VICTOR ARULAPPAN, SJ

1945 - 2017

On 13 Feb '17, having returned after guiding a retreat, Fr Victor looked tired and complained of throat pain. At night while he was watching TV, Fr A. Joseph, Superior, Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, who was with him in the T.V. room, suggested he should sleep early and offered to celebrate the Mass next morning. Saying he will be up for the Mass, Fr Victor retired to bed. The next morning he didn't turn up for the Mass and Fr Joseph celebrated it. Initially they thought he might like to sleep longer, as he felt tired. But as time went by they decided to open the door. They found him in a sitting position near the clothes stand. As there was no pulse, they called for the doctor who, after checking, said he must have died around 5.30 a.m. of a massive heart attack.

The news of his death was received by Jesuits with shock and sadness. His funeral, originally scheduled to be held at Loyola, Chennai, had to be shifted to Beschi, Dindigul, as most of his family and relatives in and around Dindigul felt they won't be able to travel to Chennai.

Fr Victor Arulappan was born in Silukkuvaarpatti near Dindigul in 1945 and joined the Society in 1962. After completing his formation he was ordained in 1974. As part of his tertianship he undertook something few would dare to do. He got the superiors to let him live a beggar's life for a month in order to experience the reality of poverty. With no money to depend on, he wandered around dressed like a beggar, begging for his food and sleeping in public places like railway stations. He made his

last vows in 1982.

He spent 8 years at St Xavier's, Palayamkottai, as the Hostel Director, Minister, counsellor and then as Rector. He spent 8 years at the Sacred Heart Residence, Dindigul as the Regional Director of Apostleship of Prayer and editor of Thoothan, the Tamil Messenger. For 10 years he was at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, directing retreats and counselling students at Loyola. In 2007 he became the first Chennai Mission Superior and worked earnestly for the development of the region. After his 6-year term ended he served as the Team Leader at Ranipet and then at Vadampakkam. He returned to Dhyana Ashram in 2016.



A deeply spiritual man with a strong faith, he never said no whenever he was called to celebrate the

Eucharist. A spirited and dynamic preacher, he counselled and guided married couples, youth and the religious. He readily helped a number of poor Dalits receive an education.

A large crowd of relatives, Sisters and Jesuits attended his funeral Mass on 15 Feb, presided over by the Provincial, Fr Sebastia L.Raj, who said Fr Victor's death was a personal loss for him, as he was always a friend. Fr Bosco (AND), his close relative and friend, preached a touching homily. Frs A. Joseph, Justin Emmanuel, Victor's nephew, Sr Rose, his sister and Mr Nicholas, his uncle testified to his life of faith and service. Fr Jebamalai Raja, Chennai Mission Superior, did the Final Commendation and Fr Ignacy Arockya, his nephew, conducted the burial service.

- M.A.J.A.

Memories

Sacred Heart & St Paul's

In 1895 the Sacred Heart College opened at Shembaganur for the novices, juniors and students of philosophy for all the ten Jesuit Missions in India and Ceylon (Ranchi, Patna Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Poona, Goa, Calicut, Madura, Galle and Trincomali). They go through their theological studies at Poona or at Kurseong in Bengal.

In 1921 Bishop Augustine Faisandier opened St Paul's Senior Seminary for the training of secular priests of various dioceses. It had over 70 students in 1936 and has already given 103 new missionaries to various South Indian dioceses.

In 1923 the number of Catholics had reached 279, 319. They had 632 churches with brick or stone walls and 456 mud-walled chapels. There were 150 Jesuit and 31 secular or diocesan priests, 39 Jesuit and 55 other lay brothers, 70 European and 382 Indian Sisters, 143 catechists and 990 elementary school teachers.

- **Joseph C. Houpert, SJ**
in *A South Indian Mission*

New Books



Indhiya Viduthalai Poraattamum Kirithavargalum by **M.Arockiasamy Xavier, SJ**, Vaigarai Publishing House, Pages: 288; Price: Rs.150.

The Gifts by **Robin Seelan, SJ**, LAP ATC, Bangalore. Pages: 120; Price: Rs.120.

Just for...



Wife was very angry when she saw the fridge filled with Kingfisher beer bottles. She shouted to her husband: "You promised not to drink during the Lent! Then why have you done this?" The Husband said, "Honey, you must feel proud of your husband. I am doing what the Indian government and the banks could not do. I am freezing the properties of Vijay Mallya. Soon I will liquidate these assets."

Secrets

for Well-being and Peace



Called out of normal life

Celibacy does, in fact, take its toll upon the lives of many priests who end up unhealthy – succumbing to alcohol, a rationalized double life, gadgetry, compensating consumption, or repressed sexuality that frequently then manifests itself in the abuse of power.

What is true here for celibacy is also true for many other areas wherein religion, or anything else, asks a person to live what most others are not living. For example, in monasticism (as well as more recently in social justice circles) one sees a dark side among some: weirdness, repression of need, elitist self-righteousness, neuroses, and anger paraded as sanctity, and, as in clerical celibacy gone sour, the misuse of power.

However Goethe might aptly be quoted: "the risks of life are many, and safety lies among them." The gospel asks of us risk, to put out into the deep waters. This demand, if followed, will precisely displace us from what we would like to live as normal life. The word 'church' comes from the word *ecclesia*, from the Greek (*ek*-out of; *kaleo*-to call). To be a member of the church is to be alled out of something. What are we called out of? Precisely, normal life. Outside of a challenge from something beyond us we automatically identify what is normal with what most people are living at a given time.

The human instinct is to define the normal by idiosyncratic preference and social consensus. We need to challenge this if religion is to have an agenda that includes celibacy, social justice, or anything else that goes against what most people are in fact living.

- **Ronald Rolheiser**

In Spirituality for a Restless Culture