



NOVEMBER 2015



(For Private Circulation)

## Message from the Provincial



### The Call of GC 36: Integration

Dear Brothers,

As we are preparing for GC 36, the booklet, *The Call of the Eternal King* is in your hands. I invite each member and also each community to spend time to meditate over the content of this booklet, which contains the letter of Fr. General and the synthesis prepared by the *Caetus Praevius*.

As Fr. General has pointed out, the central focus of this synthesis by the *Caetus Praevius* is integration. He says: "On the one hand, there is a call for the integration of our response to the great apostolic changes in our world today: the care for our common home, solidarity with migrants and other vulnerable peoples, and the construction of a new culture of dialogue and reconciliation. On the other hand, there is also a call to deepen the integration of our spiritual experience, our community life as friends in the Lord and our apostolic service".

Thus, we are called upon for an integrated life – integrating our personal and community life with our ministries – so that our personal and community life is impacted by our ministries and in return our ministries are impacted by our personal and community life. This integral approach is absolutely essential for each one of us, if we want to be genuine in our life as Jesuits and as ministers of the eternal King, who has called us. There is no real ministry, without deep personal spirituality and a meaningful community life. At the same time, our personal life and

our community life gets its full meaning and focus only in and through our ministries. Hence, the *Caetus Praevius* has wisely integrated these two aspects, while evolving the theme of GC36 – **the Renewal of Jesuit Life and Mission**. A special Committee is being constituted to go into this question in depth, which will be studied by the General Assembly of GC36. As pointed out above, for a Jesuit, there is no personal or community life without the mission and there is no mission without a meaningful personal and community life. We need to renew both these aspects, without neglecting either of them.

During the months ahead, till the conclusion of the General Congregation, all of us are expected to keep this as our focus and spend time to meditate on this theme. Moreover, this spirit of integration needs to be made visible at different levels: a) Genuine team spirit among the Jesuits; b) Genuine love, concern and respect for the collaborators, willingness to work with them and even under them, readiness to share responsibilities, posts and positions with them, and willingness to consider them as our true partners; c) Genuine love, concern and respect to each one whom we serve and our eagerness to look into their needs and work relentlessly for them and with them. May the eternal King, who has called each one of us personally, grant us the grace of genuine and effective integration of personal and community life and our mission.

Fraternally,  
*Sebastião L. Raj, SJ*  
Provincial

## Provincial's Programme:



### NOVEMBER

- 03-15 DNC, Pune -- Meeting of GC36 Electors, JCSA & POSA Consult  
23-24 Visitation: Xaveriana  
25-26 Visitation: SICJ, Trivandrum  
27-28 Visitation: Carmel  
30 Visitation: Thozhamai Illam

### DECEMBER

- 01 SXC, P'Kottai  
03 Tindivanam, TNPCRI Executive Meeting  
05-06 Visitation: Satya Nilayam  
07-09 Visitation: Arul Kadal  
13 Consult  
14-15 Visitation: Dhyana Ashram  
20-21 Visitation: De Britto

## Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

### NOVEMBER

- 01 Consultation at Maduralaya  
03-09 Meeting of Electors of GC 36, Pune  
18 GBM of Loyola College, Chennai  
24 Harur, Dharmapuri  
25 LCM, Mettala  
27 Mission Consult  
29 Symposium by JCERT, Chennai

### DECEMBER

- 03-06 Assistancy level Meeting on Restructuring, Kolkota  
12 Jubilee of Fr. Provincial at Maduralaya  
13 Province Consult  
14-15 Dhyana Ashram

## Announcements

### A Proposal under Consideration:

Loyola Institute of Technology and Science (LITES), KK District, being run by a Jesuit alumnus, has proposed that the Jesuits take over this Institute. A Committee was constituted to study the feasibility of this proposal. A preliminary report of the Committee was presented to the meeting of the Local Superiors and Team Leaders, held recently. Another consultation was held on November 1, in which 22 Jesuits participated – the Province Consultors, members of the Higher Education Commission, Rectors/Superiors of the Colleges, those associated with LICET and those associated with LITES. The pros and cons were discussed and the members expressed their views freely, which included some positive points as well as some genuine concerns. The Provincial has asked the Committee to look deeper into the concerns expressed by the members. Once the details regarding these concerns are submitted, further consultations will be held before a final decision is taken on this proposal.

### Catalogue - 2016:

By now everyone in the Province must have got his copy of the Province Catalogue – 2016. Sincere thanks to those – a handful, as always – who called or wrote to appreciate the new features and the hard work that makes the Catalogue possible every year. Primarily credit should go to Br Antony Pitchai at our Curia Office who does the major part of the work systematically and efficiently, year after year. Mrs Udaya Prabhu and Sch Maria V. Gladwin did the cover picture and the photographs. In spite of our best efforts the photographs of eight individuals are missing. My sincere apologies to them. Please feel free to point out any errors you may notice, so that they could be corrected next year. Only a limited number of extra copies are available and those who need them may write to Br Pitchai at [curia@mdusj.org](mailto:curia@mdusj.org). - **Socius**

### Socii Conference:

Along with the other Socii of our Assistancy I plan to attend a Conference at our Curia, Rome on 18-25 Nov. Please say a prayer for its success. - **Socius**

### Spirituality Seminars:

Province Spirituality Commission has organized two Seminars for Jesuits and IGFA Family (Religious and Laity): 1. *Dynamics of Preaching Ignatian Retreats*. Dates: 21 & 22 Nov '15 (Saturday & Sunday) 2. *How to Preach a Retreat in Daily Life?* (19th Annotation Retreat) Dates: 19 & 20 Dec '15 (Saturday & Sunday) *Resource Person: Fr A.J. Thamburaj, SJ*. Time: From 9.00 am till 5.30 pm. *Course fee: Rs 1,000* (board and lodge) for residents. Rs 500 (Board) for day scholars. *Contact: Fr Thamburaj*.

### Roots & Wings - 2016 (Colloquium on Ignatian Spirituality):

*Venue: Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. Dates: From 03 April eve to 08 May eve 2016. Contact: M. Devadhas, SJ at devadhasm@gmail.com. Mobile: +91 94875 80952. Last date to register: 29 Feb 2016.*



## Visiting villages

To form a *kalaikuzhu* and to give awareness programmes in the villages JIM organized folk arts training in two phases on 31 Sep - 4 Oct and 16-18. The first phase was thrown open to all and the second was an intensive training for the selected members. **AHAL** conducted a one-day motivation course for the 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std students. To enhance the writing skills of budding writers, AHAL organized a two-day skill development programme for 80 students for which Sch. Rajasekar was the resource person. AHAL Kalaikuzhu, consisting of our hostel boys, is visiting villages and giving awareness programmes on the illness of Alcoholic addiction. Two novices, Sam and Xavier, arrived on 12 Oct for their pastoral experience in Kilpennathur parish.

- Manoj

## Seminar for archivists

The Jesuit **ARCHIVES** in Shembaganur organized a seminar for archivists of dioceses and religious

congregations in Tamil Nadu. More than 40 participants attended, with some coming from Bangaluru too. The resource persons were Fr Thomas Reddy, SJ of JDV, Pune, two retired but experienced curators of museums, Fr Amudhan from Tiruchi, Fr S. Aruldoss and Fr Arock Xavier, both from SJC, Tiruchi. The lectures were on the following topics: The Pastoral Function of Church Archives, Preventive Conservation of Archival Photographs, The Principles and Practice of Archives, Conservation of Records, and Computers at the Service of Archivists. A computer savvy person, Mr Lobo Christy, has been recently appointed to work in the archives; he made the task of running the seminar easier. - **A. Arulanandam**

## Popular devotions

As a part of the course on Mariology, a field study was undertaken by **ARUL KADAL** students at Mazhai Malai Matha Shrine, Achirupakkam to directly experience the popular devotional practices of the people who came to pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary on the full moon night of 27 Sep. They spoke on what they experienced

and on 12 other topics related to Mary in a seminar, organized for 15 lay leaders. Our community picnic on 9 Oct to Mysore rejuvenated us. The members of Xavier Sadan community of Delhi Province took care of us.

On 14 Oct a theologizing session on "Jesuits' Response to Protests of People's Movements" awakened us to the challenges of the poor and the marginalized and our responses to them in our Jesuit ministries. Fr Jebamalai Raja, the Chennai Mission Superior and Fr Raj Irudaya, ADF, inspired us with their theo-praxical insights. For the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, AK has begun the 100-hour 'Theology for the Laity' program on 10 Oct with 25 fresh candidates. Fr Maria Arul Raja shared his theological insights as one of the three panelists discussing Christology in seven episodes telecast in Madha TV. He gave the keynote address on consecrated life on 21 Oct during the Assembly of Tamil Nadu Religious Brothers (TARB) in Campion, Trichy, and further on 17, 18 October



he addressed about 80 laity on Magnificat. On 22 Oct at IDCRC Schs Francis Xavier and Deva Arockia Stephen initiated the discussion on the book, *Gandhi at First Sight*, by Thomas Weber.

- **Velankanni**

## Beautifully renovated

On 25 Sep the community of **BESCHI** went on a pilgrimage to Kalugerkadai to pray at the tomb of Fr Augustine Kappilli of the old Madurai Mission, the Sacred Heart Shrine at Idaikattur, and Vedhaalai, the shrine dedicated to Ven. Antony Criminali, the first Jesuit martyr. Fr Ilanko celebrated the Mass along with the community members and the novices. We went to Rameswaram, where we prayed and paid homage, at the site of Abdul Kalam's final resting place. We went to his house and met his brother's family. We felt inspired by the Photo Gallery of Kalam's "Mission of Life," beautifully set up on the top floor of the house. On 05 Oct Senior Citizens' Day, we took our senior citizens for an outing to the CIC House at Nilakottai, where the Sisters gave us a warm welcome. While Fr Mampra presided over the Mass, Fr Stanislaus A. preached the homily, and Fr Chelladurai and Fr Maria

Jeyaraj took care of the singing.

At 5 p.m. on 09 Oct we had the blessing and opening of the newly renovated Infirmary Block. Fr Provincial blessed the building and Fr Tagore, the Superior, cut the ribbon. Fr Tagore thanked the Provincial who began this work, saw through its execution and completed the project in record time. For him it is a dream come true. The building looks so good



that visitors find it difficult to believe that it is an old building that has been renovated. The Minister, Fr Lawrence, who emceed the event, termed this renovation project a brain child of Fr Provincial. Fr Tagore thanked Fr Lawrence for his keen interest in the renovation work, and Mr Simon, the contractor for his exemplary commitment and flexibility and his dedicated team of workers. Fr Provincial too paid rich compliments to the contractor. At the end of

the function Fr Minister had arranged to distribute 'laddus' to about 100 people who were present. The Maduralaya Superior, Fr Joe Antony and Fr Selvanayagam, the Province Treasurer, joined Fr Provincial in blessing the rooms in the ground and first floors.

On 10 Oct Fr Louis Xavier joined the Beschi community. On 12 Oct ten second year

novices left for their pastoral experiment in parishes. The same night 7 first year novices began their Long Retreat after a week of intensive journal. Fr Ilanko, the Novice Master, is fully immersed in directing the retreat. An atmosphere of silence prevails in the campus as 32 St Anne's, Trichy Sisters are also making their retreat under the direction of Fr Bastian. Fr Stanislaus Asirvatham, who has joined our community,

preached a six-day retreat to the Gonzaga sisters at Vaadipatti. Fr Lawrence, our Minister, guided a retreat of the Sacred Heart Brothers at the Bishop's House.

The new building that connects the two Infirmary blocks is under construction. The entrance to Beschi campus is also getting a face-lift and soon a new gate with a classy look will greet visitors. On 21 Oct Fr Selva, editor, *Thoothan*, left for Indonesia to attend an international meeting of the Directors of the Apostleship of Prayer.

- Leo A. Tagore

### In a school

Because of the need for young priests, the new Provincial of **BRAZIL**, Fr Renato, appointed me to



work in a school (Colégio dos Jesuítas) since August. My ministry here is educational, pastoral and spiritual. I teach religions and collaborate in Christian formation of the students. I need to organize meetings on Ignatian Spirituality for the teachers and make pastoral visits in the

weekends, besides celebrating Mass in a suburban parish. People are cordial, appreciating my presence. Now they ask me to teach them Yoga! Fr Michael Amaladoss was scheduled to present a paper on 'Religions are for Peace or for War?' at an international symposium held at the Catholic Pontifical University of Minas Gerais-Brazil on 8 Oct. But since he could not make the trip because of visa problems I got the opportunity to read his paper. I would like to appeal to our young priests to volunteer to work in Brazil.

- Cyril Suresh

### Ambassadors of peace

On 10 Oct the students of **DE BRITTO** had a one-day recollection that helped their spiritual renewal. Gansoville and De Britto jointly organized a cultural competition for the schools of the area at De Britto on 14 Oct on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi. The theme was "Indru Gandhi Thamilagam Vanthaal". Eleven schools participated and brought out the current issues in Tamil Nadu that run counter to Gandhian values and vision. The children creatively depicted evils like alcoholism, religious intolerance, sexual violence, insecurity of women, caste discrimination, clamour for luxuries and foreign goods etc. In the evening school assembly, Dr William Baskaran,

professor, department of Gandhian thought and peace science, Gandhi Gram University, presided over the function. He appreciated students' awareness of the troubling social, cultural and political situation of Tamil Nadu. Saying he was keen on starting a Gandhian Peace Movement in the school, he motivated the students to become ambassadors of peace and non-violence and thus role models for others.

- Salomon

### Three-day seminar

In the last week of October, Province's Spirituality Commission organized a 3-day seminar on psycho-spirituality here at **DHYANA ASHRAM**, given by Fr Dudley Mendonca (BOM). Fr Emma handled one of the sessions. Out of the 58 participants there were 15 Jesuits.

Fr Thamburaj now offers every month a programme called 'Chitr Dhyanam' (picture-meditation). He projects a painting and leads the people in meditation using the dynamics of 'lectio divina' and the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. Around 30 to 40 people attend the meditation followed by an interactive session. Fr Xavier Irudayaraj played an important role in the laity conference

organized by the archdiocese. He inspired the youth to get involved in interfaith dialogue. Fr Dominic, OFM led charismatic, intercessory prayer services for three days in our church. Fr Lawrence Amalraj helped JIM, St. Joseph's to start a one year MBA programme in partnership with London School of Commerce and Anglia Ruskin University, London.

- Xavier Irudayaraj

## From the Philippines

ICRDCE conducted a one-day workshop on 1 Oct to develop 31 Quality Packs



to be aligned with NSDC. The delegates from ACED-Ateneo

De Manila University, Philippines visited ICRDCE to learn the best practices of ICRDCE and the Indian Community College System on 13-15 Oct. Their appreciation has led to a follow up and 10 delegates representing the Philippines Government will be visiting ICRDCE in January, 2016. Our ICRDCE Community College model will be introduced by the Government of Philippines for their 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std stream with a special focus on life-skills.

- M.S. Jacob

## At first sight

In view of BLINK's *Idea India 2020* and nurturing future Kalams, **BLINK** that operates in and with **IDCR** organized a youth meeting on Kalam's birthday on 15 Oct at Naarada Gaana Sabha. The Tamil Nadu Governor, Shri K. Rosaiah, Prateep V. Philip, IPS, and Dr Hande, a former State Minister for Health were the chief invitees. In order to make our youth come up with ideas for meeting the challenges of India, BLINK plans to get in touch with 100 schools and colleges. The best 100 ideas will win cash awards and be compiled into a book.

IDCR had a discussion on the book, *Gandhi at First Sight*

by Thomas Weber, Associate Professor of Social Sciences in Australia. Two Arul Kadalites, Schs Stephen and Francis Xavier, presented a summary of the book, which generated a good discussion. The first year venture of Research Methodology course concluded successfully and students are preparing to appear for the exam. Fr Vincent Sekhar was invited to Gandhi International Conference 2015 on Higher Education to present his paper on *The Youth: Interfaith Education and Training in Dialogue*. Nearly 100 scholars and activists took part in the conference.

- Vincent Sekhar

## Blessed

Though the Jesuit Center for Counseling has been functioning from the beginning of this academic year, the blessing of the **JESCO** office and LENS office was done officially by our Fr Provincial during his visitation on 08,09 Oct. Inspired by the huge picture in our chapel of St. Ignatius sending St. Francis Xavier on his mission, Fr. Provincial mentioned that with joy and

## Abide with the Lord

Fr Charles Van Besouw (MAP), 86/68, on 16 Sep in Belgium.

Fr Moreta Louis (GUJ), 87/69, on 27 Sep in Gujarat.

Fr Joseph Matheikal (DEL), 84/65, on 08 Oct in Delhi.





hope he was commissioning these two new important ministries in our province.

Fr Emma conducted on 02 -04 Oct a two-day Leadership Training for the JRS youth, the first program in the premises of JESCCO. 45 college students from various refugee camps from Trichy and Thirunelveli attended this program. Sch Mag Bay ensured that their stay at LTI was fruitful and comfortable. Fr Emma also conducted a 3-day counseling program for the Jesuit pastors of our province at Dhyana Ashram. This program was geared to understand the psycho-sexual integration that we need but neglect.

From 11- 16 Oct, Fr Emma directed a retreat to the first batch of priests from Kuzhithurai diocese. Bishop Jerome Dhas himself attended the retreat. Another retreat scheduled for the second batch of priests from the same diocese had to be postponed due to the illness of Fr Emma. He recovered and conducted a two-day workshop at Mettupalayam on Emotional Maturity to 15 Sisters who are preparing for their final profession. Besides being the administrator at JESCCO, Sch. Mag Bay is helping out at LTI, teaching students to communicate in English.

- Mag Bay

## Overwhelming

The staff from all our three ITIs gathered at Sirumalai for a two-day orientation program. Fr Emma guided our staff, and



motivated them to re-define and upgrade their teaching career. The overwhelming response from the staff, including those of LIS, RANIPET, was that it was very helpful not just for their professional life but for their personal life as well. As for the students' orientation here in Ranipet, Mr Franco Valan and Mr Melson from Loyola, Chennai did a wonderful job instilling in the young minds a passion to achieve. It was providential that Fr Jayapathy Francis and Mr Albert came here to talk to our students on addiction, as many milder forms of addiction do exist among our students.

On Aayutha Pooja the workers at Life Engineering Works thanked the Lord for all that He has been to them. Their happiness doubled when Fr Theresunathan rewarded them with gifts. The Industrial School on the other end had a simpler but joyous celebration with the staff and students.

- Franklin Rex

## Rejuvenating Staff Tour

The two day staff tour to Thoothukudi, Manapad and Kanyakumari area refreshed the staff of LOYOLA HSS, KUPPAYANALLUR. Many Jesuit communities welcomed us with kindness. Dr Kalam's birthday was marked with essay writing and drawing competitions in our school on 15 Oct. Fr Masillamani



and his JMAADD team are in full swing, meeting our students class wise and creating awareness among them about the dangers of alcoholism. They held a one-day seminar on addiction to alcohol in Aarani Refugee Camp.

- Victor Roch

## Home for two new ministries

On 10 Sep the JMAAD team conducted an alcohol awareness programme for the first year students of LTI, Madurai on 10 Sep. It was useful for the students to understand the different ill effects of alcohol. Fr Emma conducted a three day Youth

Leadership Training for 48 Sri Lankan youth at LTI.

Fr Provincial made his annual visitation to LTI on 8 and 9 Oct. He blessed and opened the new stair case in the Jesuit residence and two new initiatives of Jesuit Madurai Province, namely

forum on *Kuttram Kadithal*, an award-winning Tamil film which depicted the problems in teacher-student relationship in schools. All those who laboured for the establishment of those two ministries were honoured in the presence of Fr Provincial and Fr Socius.



JESCO (Jesuit Center for Counseling) and LENS (Loyola Educational Network for Social Communications). Fr A. Irudhayaraj, Director, LENS, appeals to all commission coordinators and directors of work to make the best use of the media services LENS wants to render. He also appeals to all the Jesuits to send a copy of their earlier and current media productions (books, audio CDs, video CDs and magazines edited) for documentation. LENS organized a discussion

Second year fitter trade students attended CNC training in Bangalore from 12 to 16 Oct at SKIP house. On 19 Oct "Student Teachers" (M.A. English students) from Fathima College, Madurai interacted with the first year students through diverse methods. It was the continuum programme of the Bridge Course held in June. On 20 Oct Mr John Bosco, Regional Joint Director of Trichy and Madurai Region, made his annual inspection of ITI. He said he was extremely positive and happy about the Institute

and its administration. At the Ayudha Pooja celebration at ITI, organized by Br Tony, the community members blessed the staff, students, the tools, and buildings. - Mag Bay

### Gold medals

Thanks to the hard work of Fr Gnanaraj, the then director and the staff, five students of 2013-14 batch of our Community College, **KALANGARAI**, have received two gold medals and 3 ranks from TNOU. Fr Kulandai, who met with a minor accident on 12 Oct, is convalescing. The representatives of 'Federation of Widows Livelihood Rights - Tamil Nadu' had a consultation on 20 Oct in view of the forthcoming State Assembly elections. They have prepared an 'Election Manifesto' that seeks support for widows and their rights.

- S. Jayaraj

### Awesome

It was an awesome experience to share our heritage to all the catechists of Banmaw Diocese, **MYANMAR** on 13 and 14 Oct. When I saw the catechists, I was a little bit perplexed, for they were 166 in number and aged 20 - 88. I gave a course on teaching according to the Ignatian Pedagogical Paradigm (IPP). I am very glad and grateful to the Society of Jesus that has



given me the opportunity to share with our laity the heritage of SJ.

- **Joe Livingston**

### **Third place**

We the Tamil scholastics of **SATYA NILAYAM** staged a street play on "Alcohol Deaddiction" at Loyola College during 'Ovations, 2015'. We secured the third place in the street play competition. On 17 Oct we put up the same street play in a slum called Sherkan Thottam in Kodampakkam as part of our social ministry. It was an eye-opening programme for the local people. Fr Albert Muthumalai went to Bipin Bihari College, Jhansi as the coordinator of NAAC team. On 27 Oct we began our semester exams.

- **M. Nelsonraj**

### **On a pilgrimage**

On 26 Sep the Tertiars returned to **SHC, SHEMBAGANUR** after their one-month 'experiment' in various places. They also went on a pilgrimage to the places where St Xavier worked, like Manapaadu, Kottaar etc.

On 25 and 27 Sep the PEAK team organized two training sessions for unorganized men and women labourers. On 26 Sep the kids of Inigo Children Home

went on a picnic to Vaigai Dam and the students of Inigo Boys Hostel spent two days, 3-4 Oct, in Kutraalam and Paapanaasam. On 15 Oct a new labour union was inaugurated in Pallangi. Fr Michaelraj urged the people to fight together with commitment for their rights. On 21-25 Oct a five-day training programme on Children's Parliament and folk arts was conducted for school students supported by PEAK. They enjoyed learning folk arts like kummi, karagam, silambam, parai and street plays.

- **A. Vino Selukas**

### **Vision of Kalam**

The birthday celebrations of Dr A.P.J. Kalam were inaugurated here at **ST JOSEPH'S** by Mr T. Sampth Kumar, a classmate and roommate of Dr Kalam. He is the founder of "Save Our Daughters India", Coimbatore. The Departments of Science had organised an exhibition for school children of three districts who displayed their exhibits. An oratorical contest was also organised for them. The air show and battle drill demo of the NCC wing of the college impressed everyone. Nearly 5,000 children had a glimpse of the vision of Kalam through these events. Research Day was marked by a seminar for the Ph.D and M.Phil scholars and a book exhibition. The NCC and the NSS students took out a rally in the morning and the

AICUF students organized a human chain in the evening holding placards that spoke of the vision of Kalam.

The Physics Department bade farewell to Fr Wellington in a simple function. Fr Xavier Alphonse addressed the Higher Education Commission of Karnataka Jesuits in Mangalore. He also made a presentation at JHEASA convention at Xavier University, Bhubaneswar on the recent U.G. themes. He conducted two orientation programmes for the teaching staff of St Mary's College, Tuticorin and Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College, Sivakasi in the last week of October.

Meditation in Action Movement (MAM) has been started also in Fatima College, Madurai by its founder, Fr Francis Thamburaj. He hopes that nearly 2,000 women students will be participating in the program throughout the year. It is integrated into the syllabus of value education and allotted one credit. A core group has been formed and given training in 'mindfulness'.

- **V. Viji Bose**

### **In full swing**

On 03 Oct **ST. MARY'S, MADURAI** celebrated the priestly Golden Jubilees of Frs Michael Jeyaraj and R.

Irudayaraj with enthusiasm. The presence of their relatives and the local religious made the occasion memorable. The renovation work of the Cathedral is going on in full swing. Painting and polishing work of the interior of the church is being carefully supervised by the Parish Priest, Fr R. Arockiaraj. On the Mission Sunday on 18 Oct the three parish priests organized games, Bible Quiz programs and various competitions. The Kamarajapuram substation of our parish celebrated their annual feast with prayer services for three days from the 16 Oct. The Rector, Fr P. Arockiasamy, inaugurated the celebrations.

Our School's Alumni Association organized a career guidance programme to the 12<sup>th</sup> std students and their parents. Fr R. Irudayaraj, the Jubilarian who is an alumnus, was the Chief Guest for the birthday celebration of Dr Kalam and shared his rich experiences. Guided by Fr George, the Assistant Headmaster, some of our staff members have prepared a CD on the basic knowledge of science needed for students up to 8<sup>th</sup> standard. Fr George hopes that it can serve as a good model for our Jesuit schools.

- G. Packiaraj

## Offerings to be given away

*Community:* On 05 Oct Senior Citizen's Day was celebrated and a special community prayer was conducted to pray for senior members of **ST XAVIER'S** community. Fr Britto Vincent, our PCF, was with us for his visitation from 18 to 21 Oct. His presence was a source of great joy.

*College:* On 01 Oct, the feast of Teresa of Child Jesus, our students generously brought a lot of offerings to be given to the differently-abled and the poor people. *School:* On 09 Oct a team of resource persons arranged by our Alumni Association conducted a one-day seminar on career guidance for 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> std students. On 10 Oct Br Arockiasamy, Director of Campus Ministry, organized a one-day retreat for all the Catholic students. We celebrated the birthday of Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam on 15 Oct by planting saplings in the campus and distributing them to the students.

*College of Education:* To mark the inauguration of the academic year, the Mass of the Holy Spirit was offered by Fr Rector on 05 Oct. *XIBA:* Our students participated in various competitions in the All India Management Meet conducted by Galaxy Institute of Management, Chennai on 17

Oct. They also participated in the Management meet conducted by the Department of Management studies, Anna University, Tirunelveli on 09 Oct and won the first prize.

- Jesu Raja

## Integration

Bishop Jerome Das of Kuzhithurai, along with 50 priests of his diocese, made their annual retreat here at **THOZHAMA ILLAM**, preached by Fr Emma on the theme 'Psycho-sexual integration,' whose talks were highly appreciated. The Sacred Heart Brother-Novices had their long retreat here guided by Fr M.S. Bastian. Frs Josephraj, Soosai Raj, Arockiaraj and Francis Sales guided retreats here and in other places. A JMAAD team organized a three-week de-addiction camp for 27 persons here in our campus. We were extremely happy to receive the tertians from Shembaganur who visited us during their pilgrimage. Fr Francis Sales, the local vocation facilitator, visited a few schools and parishes in the diocese of Kuzhithurai.

- Soosai raj

## Integral ecology

In the first week of October Fr Leo, Principal, **VIDYAJYOTI**, gave input sessions to the Jesuit Tertians

at Shembaganur on the History of the Society of Jesus. On 10 Oct Fr Leo was the Chief Guest at the Graduation



of Nursing students of Our Lady School of Nursing, St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul.

The staff and student representatives of Vidyajyoti attended an inter-faculty seminar on Integral Ecology jointly organized by Holy Trinity Regional Major Seminary, Jalandhar and Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi on 17 Oct at Jalandhar, Punjab. The seminar focused on the recent papal encyclical, *Laudato Si*, by Pope Francis. Sch. Christu represented Madurai scholastics of VJ in the seminar.

Guided by Fr P.R. John, a good number of us took part in the protest organized by Civil Rights' Organizations of Delhi on 21 Oct in front of the Haryana Bhawan, Delhi to condemn the killing of two Dalit children in Haryana. Fr Baskar is now at Vidyajyoti taking classes for the first year B.Th. students on Symbols of Religion. - **Vargheesh**

## Going green

World Day of Environment on 04 Oct was marked here at **VIDYA NIKETAN** with special prayers and a community get-together. Songs and power point presentations were on the theme of ecological awareness. A group discussion on this topic resulted in 'Swacch Vidyaniketan'. We had a special Mass on 14 Oct to mark the beginning of our efforts towards a clean and green Vidya Niketan. The campaign in the evening saw separation of degradable and biodegradable waste and disposing them off in a rational way. A team has been appointed to continue the good work. - **Praveen**

## Plentiful harvest

On 04 Sep Fr I. Arul, Superior, **VMI**, Vilangudi, preached a one-day recollection to the Clive House Scholastics and a six-day retreat to the Sisters of St. Anne, Chennai during the quarterly holidays. On 30 Sep Fr Bella gave a one-day recollection to the priests of Vellore diocese. The parish children and youth took an active part in Bible competitions held at the vicariate level in Pullambadi. The second term began on 04 Oct with exuberance. A week-long course on Personality Development by Fr I. M. Joseph proved to be enriching. Fr Robin gave a week-long course on Eucharist to the postulants of Canossian sisters. Nine of our regents got

together at VMI for a joyful recollection, preached by Fr Bella. The community was happy to have a grace-filled harvest this year.

- **T. Kamilas**

## Impressed

At the 'Muthalvan Virudhu' assembly at St Francis Xavier's, **XAVERIANA**, on 12 Oct the students who scored first marks were given prizes sponsored by the Alumni Association. On 15 Oct, the birthday of Dr Kalam was celebrated with charts and a quiz on Kalam's life and achievements.



Mr Pattunool Murugan, an alumnus, who was the chief guest, was impressed by the interest and involvement of the students. At the GSP assembly on 20 Oct Mr Suresh from Suresh Academy gave an inspiring talk. The alumni association organized a memorial Mass for Fr. C.V. Muttom, our former Headmaster, after which they served free meals at a Home for the Aged. - **Valan**



## Congratulations



To **Fr S. Ignacimuthu**, who has co-authored a book on organic farming with V. Anbalagan (*Eyarkai Velanmai* (Tamil), Kannadhasan Pathippagam, Chennai 600017. Pages 150. Rs 90).

To **Fr Jerry Rosario**, who has come up with a booklet of reflections on the Year of Mercy (*Out of the Box*, New Leader Publications, Chennai 600001. Pages 40. Rs. 25).

To **Fr Xavier Alphonse** who has written a book, in English and Tamil, on the life and message of Dr Kalam (*Kaalathai Vendra Kalam, Dreamer and Doer*, St Britto's Group of Institutions, Chennai, Rs 80)

To **Fr Xavier Irudayaraj** who has written a booklet for students on Dr Kalam (*APJ Kalam, People's President*, Santhome Hr Sec School, Rs 12).



## Memories

### Minatchi Vilas became...

When Bishop Leonard left Trichinopoly to the secular clergy he was faced, at Madura, with the heavy task of equipping the see of his new diocese with all the requisites of a bishopric. For months his residence was a rented bungalow, the Minatchi Vilas from the Ramnad Zamindari; it was not until December 1939 that His Lordship and his staff could settle themselves quietly at home in the new and commodious Bishop's House that had risen in what had been a waste land without a tree. Some days later, at the beginning of January 1940, the pupils of the Latin Seminary from Trichy occupied their new quarters in the same premises. The last realization was a bold step Roberto De Nobili, the apostle and scholar who founded in 1606 at Madura the first inland Mission in India, would have appreciated – a printing press that took his name. It began modestly in the out-houses of the Minatchi Vilas. The large machines hall and all the dependent buildings were ready by the end of May 1940.

(from *Caritas, Jan 1943*)

## Just for...



**Defunitions:** *Lizard:* A crocodile that did not drink Horlicks when it was young. *Pizza:* A paratha that went abroad for higher education. *Nurse:* A person who wakes you up to give you sleeping pills. *Politician:* One who shakes your hand before elections and your confidence thereafter.

## Secrets

### for Well-being and Peace



### As I get older...

According to the well-known Quo Vadis legend, Peter is leaving Rome in the year A.D.67. Christians are being crucified, thrown to the lions, and burned at the stake. Peter decides to leave the city. On the Appian way, Peter meets an apparition of Jesus. "Quo Vadis, Domine?" (Where are you going, Lord?) he asks. Jesus replies, "I'm going back into Rome, to die again and again with all the Christians who are giving up their lives there." So Peter goes with the Lord, back into Rome, to die.

There, on the Appian way, at the place of the supposed meeting, stands a little chapel – the Quo Vadis chapel. In the sanctuary are two murals. On the right side is Christ on his cross. On the left is Peter on his cross. When Peter learnt he was to be crucified, his last request was that he die with his head down. "I am not worthy to die with my head up. That is the way Jesus died." And so, on the mural, Peter is fastened to his cross – head down. The man who protested that Jesus did not want him, and who later denied on an oath that he ever knew the Lord, had come a long way.

Sometimes I think that I come in two parts: part of me is loving, part of me is not. Part of me believes, part of me questions and doubts. Sometimes I feel like a pleasure seeker, at other times I am the power broker. But as I get older I find myself believing more and more what the Lord tried so hard to tell his apostles: If you make your lives acts of love, you will be very happy... Under all my zigs and zags and ups and downs, I somehow know that this is the only way I will ever be truly happy. Our hearts were made for love and they will not rest until they rest in love.

- **John Powell, SJ**

- From *Through the Eyes of Faith*