



# Madurai Jesuits' News Letter



NOVEMBER 2017

(For Private Circulation)

## Message from the Provincial



### My prayers

*(His homily at the Mass on 18 June '17 when he took over as the new MDU Provincial. Continued from MNL, October '17)*

Dear Friends in the Lord,

#### **On Collaboration**

Collaboration with others is the only way the Society of Jesus can fulfill the mission entrusted to her. GC 36 D1. No 36

Father General Arturo Sosa says, "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. GC 36 D1. No. 36

#### **On Networking**

GC 36, Dec.2. No. 8. "Often mentioned in our recent Congregation documents, networking builds on a shared vision and requires a culture of generosity, openness to work with others and a desire to celebrate successes."

First of all, we need to celebrate the successes of our own Jesuit brothers, our companions, our Friends in the Lord.

To put it in a nutshell, the spirit underlying our glorious tradition, time-tested guidelines and our province option is thus encapsulated in the documents of GC 36 which clearly give us the direction we need to take. The Mother Society clearly shows us the way forward. We shall move forward. We will strive hard very sincerely to follow all these guidelines and principles.

We need to restore our glorious tradition of companionship and solidarity with one another. We ought to strengthen the union of minds and hearts thereby ensuring our corporate resolve for preservation of our rich past and total compliance with all these guidelines and our option.

Therefore, the call given to each one of us today is a call to unity, solidarity and communion. And it is a call for the second restoration.

Dear Friends, I come to the conclusion of my sharing with a prayerful note.

#### **V. My Prayers**

On this day, I offer the whole Society, especially all the members of our Province, at the feet of the Lord who called St. Ignatius of Loyola, our Founder. Like our Founder, I plead with God today to place me and us with His Son Jesus carrying the cross. I entreat Mother Mary to intercede for us

with God to obtain for all of us this wonderful grace.

As a novice and as a tertian, I understood well the meaning of this great prayer said by St. Ignatius asking God to place him with His Son Jesus carrying the cross. My understanding of this prayer grew deeper after I was missioned by the Society to be the Rector of St. Xavier's. Now, at this moment, as I have been missioned by the Society to this new ministry of service and leadership and as I am fully aware of the enormity of the burden I will have to carry on my shoulders, the prayer loved by St. Ignatius has assumed now greater significance and importance. My understanding of this prayer grows deeper and deeper. This prayer comes back to me as a powerful source of spiritual strength and energy. Therefore, I would like to make my own this prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

I also make my own the prayer of Pope John the XXIII. He prayed like this: 1) Lord, help me know everything that happens in the church, 2) Lord, give me the generosity to ignore many things, iii) Lord, give me the wisdom and strength to focus on one thing in which I am competent. And he opened the Second Vatican Council. Let it be the prayer for all of us.

I would like to end my sharing with the prayer of our Holy Father, St. Ignatius of Loyola, a prayer for generosity:

*Lord, teach me to be generous.*

*Teach me to serve you as you deserve;*

*To give and not to count the cost,*

*To fight and not to heed the wounds,*

*To toil and not seek for rest,*

*To labour and not to ask for reward,*

*Save that of knowing that I do your will.*

*Danis Ponniah, SJ*  
Provincial

## Provincial's Programme



### NOVEMBER 2017

- 01-04 Europe: Visits to Nuremberg and Zurich
- 05-20 Europe: Colloquium for New Major Superiors – Rome
- 23 Meeting of Commission Coordinators - Maduralaya
- 24 GBM: Pastoral Commission – Maduralaya
- 25-26 Visitation: SICJ, Trivandrum
- 28 Province Consult
- 29-30 Visitation: Maduralaya

### DECEMBER 2017

- 01-02 Visitation – St. Mary's, Dindigul
- 04-06 Visitation – AAC, Karumathur
- 08 Province Consult
- 09-10 GBM: Secondary Education Commission
- 11-16 Visitation – SJC, Trichy
- 17 Brothers' Meeting, Thozhamai Illam,
- 18-19 Visitation – Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
- 20-21 Visitation – Carmel, Nagercoil
- 25 Christmas
- 28-29 LS/TL Meeting, Maduralaya

## Chennai Mission Superior's Programme

### NOVEMBER 2017

- 10-11 LCV, Vettavalam
- 11-12 JESIM and AHAL
- 12 Migrants Ext (JIMM Ex), Vilupuram
- 22 Mission Consult
- 23 Meeting of Commission Coordinators - Maduralaya
- 24 GBM – Pastoral Commission
- 25-28 With Fr Jean-Yves Grenet, Former Provincial of France
- 28 Province Consult

### DECEMBER 2017

- 02 Christmas Gathering of all Jesuits in Chennai Mission, PAATHAI, Vallam
- 08 Province Consult
- 09-10 GBM – Secondary Education Commission, Maduralaya
- 16-18 LCM, Mettala and Harur
- 28-29 Superiors' Meeting at Maduralaya

# Announcements

## Catalogue - 2018

The Curia Office began despatching to all our Houses copies of MDU Province's Catalogue for the year 2018 from 23 Oct '17. Hopefully by now everyone has received his copy. As in the previous years the patient, painstaking work, needed to put together the Catalogue, was done by our **Br Antony Pitchai**, the hard working and efficient Secretary at the Provincial's Office. My contribution was just the Cover, Faces, and proofreading the drafts. I should thank two of our Jesuits for the cover picture. Fr Samuel Jeyaseelan, Loyola, Chennai, had posted a picture in our WhatsApp group of 'Jesuit Friends.' The picture that shows our beloved Pope Francis and our General Fr Sosa shovelling soil to plant and bless a cypress struck me as a beautiful picture that could be on the cover of the Catalogue. It could symbolically portray what the Jesuit Pope and the Jesuits all over the world do and should continue to do - planting, nurturing, blessing, greening the earth and caring for it etc. Jeyaseelan said Sch Vino Selukas, who is studying theology at the Jesu, Rome, had sent it to him. I contacted Selukas and he sent me the picture clicked by a friend with his cell phone camera. The ceremony took place on 12 October '17, during the celebration of the Centenary of the Congregation of Oriental Churches and the Pontifical Oriental Institute, Rome, run by the Jesuits.

If you notice any errors in the Catalogue 2018, please inform me or Br Pitchai.

- **M.A.J.A**



## New Consultors of Chennai Mission

In consultation with Fr Jebamalai Raja, Chennai Mission Superior, Fr Provincial has appointed two new Consultors for the Chennai Mission: **Fr Masillamani D. Antonimuthu** and **Fr Philip Kumar**.

## For Jesuits from Kerala

**Fr P.T. Mathew, SJ**, Socius, Kerala Province writes: "We have received a letter from Archbishop Soosapackiam, President of the KCBC, to bring this to the knowledge of Jesuits from Kerala working outside Kerala: The Church in Kerala is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its Pastoral Orientation Centre (POC) at Ernakulam this year. As part of the celebrations it invites all Jesuits and other missionaries from Kerala now working outside Kerala to a Missionary Conference on 26-28 January 2018 at POC, Ernakulam. It begins at 10 am on Jan 26, and ends at 2 pm on Jan 28. The aim is to promote more missionary vocations from the State.

## Phone numbers

Cell phone number of **Fr John Michael, SJ**, our missionary in Mauritius: +230 54730407. His landline number: +230 454 01 14.

## Left

A first year novice, Joshwa Mychin Raja J., left the novitiate on 21 Oct '17.

# From our men elsewhere

## From Boston:

**Fr Francis P. Xavier:** “I was at Washington DC for a presentation on JWL during the mEducation Alliance Symposium on 05 Oct. Over 300 delegates from 15 countries took part in the symposium. The symposium was on how to use mobile phones in educating children. JWL proposed the use of Kindle for higher education of the marginalized. I was invited to give a talk on ‘Physics and Chemistry in Unraveling the Mysteries of Biology’ at Shibaura Institute of Technology, Tokyo on 23 Oct. I also served as the jury for the final round of paper presentations in Physics and Chemistry.

When I was in Japan I visited Fr Francis Britto, originally an MDU Jesuit who was transcribed to Japan in 1995. He suffered a stroke about seven months ago during his return flight from Croatia. His right side is paralyzed. Though he is able to recognize people, he finds it difficult to speak. He is undergoing physiotherapy.

I have been asked to be the Chair for the Task Force on Education for the Marginalized and the Poor, in preparation for the 2018 meeting of the Presidents of Jesuit Universities in Bilbao, Spain. My first Gasson lecture would be on 01 Nov at Boston College.”

## From Mauritius

**Fr. John Michael:** “I got my visa for Mauritius on 05 Oct and I took off from Chennai on 13 Oct. I was warmly welcomed by Fr Christophe, the Mission Superior and Fr George, Minister at the airport. I am well settled now at St Ignace community. We are 10 Jesuits from Madagascar, France, India, China and Mauritius. I was happy to learn that this community was established years ago by our province men who worked here, as this mission was part of the Madurai Mission since 1861. I see many Catholics of Tamil origin here, but they have not been trained in Tamil Eucharistic liturgy, although they have kept some of the old Tamil liturgical hymns alive. The national language is English, as the country was captured by the Portuguese,



the Dutch, the French and finally the British from whom it won independence in 1968. However the major languages here are French and Kreol.

At present I am helping with Mass, Confessions and other pastoral ministries. Soon I will get my new assignment from Cardinal Maurice as we begin our new academic year in January. I find Mauritians sociable, kind and very hospitable. I feel at home here because of the sense of brotherhood that prevails among the people and clergy. I request your blessings and prayers, as I plunge into my new mission that the Society has given me.”

## From Sri Lanka:

**Fr Alex Premkumar:** “I have obtained a Master’s degree from Fordham University, New York. I started my IDHA 32 ( International Diploma in Humanitarian Assistance) in Goa, India in 2010. I completed two other modules in 2012 and 2013 when I was serving in Afghanistan. I planned to complete my fourth module and thesis in 2014, but you know what happened. So I could complete my final module only in 2016 and write my thesis on ‘Peace Building among the Sri Lankan Refugees in Tamil Nadu, India: A Critical Study of Educational Engagements of Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS).’ I thank IIHA (Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs), New York, JRS, Madurai and Sri Lanka provinces and the Sri Lankan Tamils in the refugee camps and the people of Afghanistan.”



## They met, they celebrated...

*Celebrations, Functions, Courses...*

At the function to welcome the Apostolic Nuncio to India, Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro who had come to Trivandrum, we, the Juniors at **Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum**, sang the prayer song. Fr Jose Magadia, General Counsellor for Formation, spent a day in Vidyaniketan, meeting the Juniors, the staff and the Jesuits of Trivandrum area. His inspiring presence ended with a Eucharistic celebration the next day. Before and after the PCFs meeting in Kozhikode some of them visited us. We joined the local parishioners in honouring the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. The Art Appreciation course by Fr Roy, SJ was followed by visits to art galleries in the city. Our companions from the north of India made the Deepavali celebration prayerful and meaningful.

Fr. Michael Alosanaya, **Vidyajyoti, Delhi**, gave a 30-day retreat to the Tertian Sisters of Madras St. Anne's on 12 Sep - 12 Oct in Chennai. He guided the Province Chapter on Discernment for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery, Bhopal on 17 Oct.

**SXCE, Palayamkottai** inaugurated Subject Clubs on 14 Oct in the presence of Fr Jesudass, Principal, St. Joseph's College of Education, Kosavapatti. On 21 Dr. Eugene Franco, Department of Commerce, SXC, challenged the prospective teachers on their role in bringing up a new generation of citizens who will live by human values. On 31 the Alumni Association of SXCE organized a quiz competition to prepare the students for TET. **SXHSS** had Deepavali celebrations on 16 Oct. Mrs. Parvathi Muthamil from Suriyan FM, Tirunelveli, called for a pollution free Deepavali.

On 16 Oct, **St Mary's, Dindigul** celebrated Deepavali on a grand scale. Mr. M. Maruthanayagam, chief of 108 Vinayagar Temple, was the chief guest who delivered an inspiring talk on how to celebrate Diwali meaningfully. In this month, all the subject oriented clubs (Mandrams) celebrated their fests in a mega manner. On 29 the hostel conducted the students'





St Mary's, Dindigul:  
Students' Parliament



St Joseph's, Trichy: Jubilee



AICUF, Trichy



Delhi:  
CHAI Conference



JIM

parliament.

**St Joseph's, Trichy** celebrated with joy the Jubilees of Frs S.M. Selvaraj, Felix Joseph and Br Raja on 08 Oct. The highlight was the sharing of the veterans. Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, SJC, clubbed together the Bible Sunday and Mission Sunday and the Rosary Month to have a month long celebration and spiritual renewal.

Fr Leonard Fernando, Rector, was the Chief Organizer of the triennial conference of the Church History Association of India (CHAI) on 17 Oct in Delhi. It was inaugurated by Prof P. J. Kurien, Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. About 100 persons from different Christian Churches took part.

In response to the JCSA statement, 'Contesting the Hindu Rashtra' **AICUF**, SJC organized a seminar for Religious superiors and heads of the Institutions under the banner "Challenges to Minorities". The main speakers of the day were Mr. Thiyagu (Urimai Desam), Mr. Ravikumar (General Secretary of VCK) and Mrs. Sabarimala (teacher who resigned her job to protest the NEET exam). Bishop Antony Devotta of Trichy congratulated the organizers for organizing such a seminar at an appropriate time while Fr Leonard Fernando, Rector, welcomed the participants. Fr. Joe Arun explained the dynamics of the seminar. Around 200 Religious and some diocesan priests attended the seminar. Fr Paulraj thanked the participants for their presence.

With the inauguration of the Student Chapter of Madras Management Association (MMA), **JIM** signed an MoU with MMA for enhancing industry-institute interaction. JIM organized a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on Predictive Analytics for the faculty from B schools and engineering colleges. Trainers from Mind Tree and Ericsson India led the participants in application of big data to predict future prospects in business enterprises. JIM ran an inter-business school competition of StockWar, a virtual trading game, in which 48 teams from different colleges took part.

Fr Thamburaj gave a talk on Fr General's Letter, 'Discernment in Common' at the Formation GBM. He also gave a six day retreat to the Pilar Fathers of Mumbai Province in Kandala. Fr G. Packiaraj preached a retreat to the Medical Sisters of Raipur in Chhattisgarh.

On 20-21 Oct the Kanal Team organized a two-day course on creative writing for 70 students of **St Arulanandar H.S. School, Oriyur**. On 28 Arulagam Hostel Day was celebrated with the theme, 'Not a Hostel, but Our Home'. Release of a students' magazine, Arulagam anthem and logo were the highlights of the celebration.

In order to reach out to rural students, **Loyola College, Vettavalam**, organized on 07 and 14 Oct Loyola-Mary and Turgay Tournament for school students. Mr Senthil, Inspector of Police, Vettavalam, inaugurated the event at which 12 schools participated. Fr Dominic Jayakumar, Treasurer, Chennai Mission, gave away the rolling trophy to the winning team from Government Higher secondary School, Sorakolathur. On 14 Oct Ms Kavitha, the Sub Inspector of Kandachipuram division inaugurated the first ever Kho- Kho match for girl students of 16 schools. The Government Hr. Sec School, Kolakudi won over the overall trophy. On 17 Oct the Red Ribbon Club of LCV and Government Hospital, Thiruvannamalai organized a blood donation camp, at which a large number of the staff and students donated blood.

**Loyola H. S. School, Kuppayanallur** is proud of its students who won the overall championship rolling trophy in athletics conducted by HCL. Seven of them will participate in the sports events conducted in Delhi on 14 Nov. On 25 Oct HCL organized a young Kalam Science Fest in Anna University, where our 10th std student Muruganandham bagged the first prize and Rs. 1 lakh. Every first Friday the staff attend input sessions





Loyola H.S. School,  
Kuppayanallur



LENS



LENS

on teaching skills. On 07 Oct a team of professors from LCV, led by Fr Eugene Rosario conducted a one-day seminar for the staff and students.

NSS, SCOUT & JRC students volunteered to clean the banks of Ongur lake. Families of 45 recovering alcoholics got together for a post-Deepavali gathering organized by JMAAD, Kuppayanallur.

Fr A.Irudayaraj, Director, **LENS**, Madurai conducted awareness programmes on the dangers of Blue Whale on-line game for 300 students of Arulanandar Higher Secondary school, Oriyur and 70 students of XIBA, St Xavier's, Palayamkottai. His team organized a three-day workshop on the implications of digital media for the youth for 39 Montfort Brothers at Sathiamangalam. He spoke on the portrayal of women in media to 35 CIC Sisters in Madurai.

On 03, 04 Oct, **Kalangarai**, Nagapatinam, conducted a two-day skill training to 100 widows on enhancing income by making and selling *Tulasi vithai panthu* (Tulsi seed balls). Mr Tulasi K Balasubramanian, founder, Global Green Growth Group was the trainer. The widows have made 40,000 seed balls and sold them. Fr Richard, JESCCO, Madurai taught around 120 widows how to build a high self-esteem on 23-26 Oct in Poombuhar, Tharangambadi and Nagai zones. On 21 Oct he took a class on innovative teaching methods for the teaching staff of St. Joseph's Community College, Nagapattinam. On 08 Oct students of Kalangarai Evening Study Centre in Poraiyar took the initiative to clean their surroundings which are prone to breeding



Kalangarai



Dengue mosquitoes..

Fr Emma, Director, **JESCO**, conducted from 07 Oct a five-day workshop on 'Affective Maturity' for the Junior Sisters of St. Ann of Phirangipuram at Guntur. He also conducted on 14, 15 Oct a two-day workshop on 'Leadership for Leaders' for the Superiors of De La Salle congregation at Nagamalai, Madurai.

On 06 Oct Fr Richard, JESCO, conducted a one-day seminar on 'Personality Development' for the students and on 07 sessions on 'Solution Focused Training' to the staff of the Servite School in Karaikal. On 10 Oct he conducted a seminar on 'Addiction and Adolescent Psychology' for the college students at DACA, Madurai. On 21 Oct Fr Richard conducted a one-day seminar on 'Effective Teaching Skills' to the staff of St. Joseph's Community College at Nagapattinam. To empower the widows at Kalangarai, he conducted programmes for three days on 23-26 Oct on self-esteem and leadership. On 28,29 Oct he led a workshop on stress management to the JAMADD staff at Citadel, Chennai.

Fr Leo Anand, **JDV**, Pune, preached a 6-day Ignatian retreat for 54 Missionary Sisters of the Queen of the Apostles at Utten, Mumbai. The retreat was a preparation for their provincial chapter.

Fr Vincent Sekhar, **IDCR**, was invited to address the World Jesuit Educators JESEDU 2017 conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 'Our Experience of God in Dialogue with Diverse Points of View.' His reflections stimulated a good discussion, leading the delegates to commit "to work with the schools to insure a module of interreligious education, preparing students and faculty to learn about and from the world's religions and respect the various ways religions express and celebrates the divine." He went also to Italy to present a paper on 'Contextual Theology from an Indian Experience' at the international conference on "Exiting Violence: the role of religions - From Texts to Theories" in Trento. He attended the Pope's Mass at Sancta Martha and after the Mass he draped Pope Francis with an *angavastra* and presented him a wooden peacock.

Fr Danis Ponniah, Provincial, Jesuit Madurai Province was elected the President of the 40-year-old **Gansoville** (Gandhian Society Villages Association), **Devakottai** on 25 Sep '17 at the General Body Meeting held at Jesuit Residence, De Britto H.S. School and presided by Prof. Victor A. Singarayyar, Vice President



of Gansoville. Fr. S. Joseph Kennedy, Treasurer and the GBM members felicitated the newly elected president. Fr Cyril Antony, the Secretary welcomed the gathering. Sr. Maria Antony Pragasi, SAT, Provincial, Maria Province, Madurai said the opening prayer and Sr. Shanthi, SAT said the closing prayer.

Gansoville, founded by late Fr Ignatius Jesudasan, is a registered Association whose key objectives are to establish village communities of Gandhian social pattern, to promote religious harmony, to foster social justice and to promote self help groups among rural women. The Sisters of the Congregation of St Anne, Trichy (SAT) have been collaborating with Gansoville since 2007.

Fr A. Joseph, **Dhyana Ashram**, Chennai, preached a six-day retreat for 80 priests of Madurai Archdiocese and a six-day retreat to 25 FMM Sisters at Tanjore. On 17 Sep Fr Jerry motivated the students of Loyola College, Mettala by speaking on the Jesuit educational focus. He spoke at the JEPASA convention in Vijayavada (ALC) on Ignatian Spirituality for Jesuit Pastors. He preached a retreat on *Laudato Si* for 50 SVD priests of Hyderabad Province and gave a 3-day programme for Hazaribag Jesuit provincial team, superiors and principals on 'Contemporary Interpretation of Ignatian Spirituality.' He handled sessions for the teachers and students of CSST institutions in Jharkand.

Fr Dhanaraj preached a six-day retreat to a group of Salesian clerics at Dhyana Ashram. Fr Lawrence Amalraj conducted a 2 day programme on 'mid- life crisis' to 40 OMI priests at St. Thoms Mount, Chennai.

**AAC, Karumathur**, organized a grand function on 10 Oct to felicitate Mr. Vignesh, a student of AAC and the Guinness World Record holder, who created a new world record in cycling (with hands off ie: not holding the hand bar), crossing 122 kilometers without a break. Mr Sellur K Raju, State Minister for Co-operatives, distributed the certificate to Mr. Vignesh. Mr. Veera Raghava Rao, IAS, Collector, Madurai District, Mr Solai M. Raja, and other government officials participated in the celebration.

Fr Basil Xavier, Principal, served as a NAAC peer team member and visited Vijayarh Jyotish Ray College, Calcutta. AAC organized a 3 day tour for its Staff to Kerala and southern Tamil Nadu.



## They have done it!

*Something new, something good...*

Farmers from Tamil Nadu who have been protesting at Jantar Mantar, Delhi, ended their protest on the 100th day, 24 Oct '17. Students of **Vidyajyoti**, Delhi, supported the cause of the farmers by visiting them multiple times under the leadership of Sch. Velankanni and expressed their solidarity with them by inviting Mr. Ayyakannu and some of his colleagues to VJ to address the staff and the students. We offered them fruits, biscuits and mosquito nets. Fr Provincial, during his visitation, visited the farmers and expressed his support to them. Sch. James Raja, won the third prize in the Zeitlar Memorial National Essay Competition conducted by Ishvani Kendra, Pune.

The week after Gandhi Jayanthi was celebrated as the 'Joy of Giving Week' at **St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai**. Eighteen HIV positive children of Thozhamai Illam, a home run by the Sacred Heart Brothers at Causanelpuram, the abandoned infants sheltered at Vidiyal Illam, run by Palayamkottai Diocese at Alangulam and the mentally challenged





Vidyajyoti: With Farmers



Vidyajyoti: Fr Provincial with Farmers



Fr Leonard: Elected CHAI President

children of a special school and women of an Old Age Home run by Sisters of St. Anne of Tiruchirappalli at Palayamkottai were the beneficiaries of the generosity of the staff and students. They contributed a lot of useful materials to these people in need and shared their joy with them through cultural performances and games. About 40 NSS students of the college cleaned the nearby park and about 140 students involved themselves in the sanitation work in the villages of STAND outreach programme.

The staff and students of the Dept of Computer Science contributed Rs 25,000 towards the medical expenses of a woman student of the Department. At the concluding ceremony of the 'Joy of Giving Week' on 09 Oct Dr S. Premachandran M.B.B.S. inaugurated a 'Box of Kindness' which is meant for generous sharing of useful materials by the students with other students who are in need of such materials.

**St Mary's, Dindigul** had a weeklong celebration called 'the Joy of Giving Week.' Students generously and joyfully offered materials which were distributed to orphanages and homes for the aged and delighted the inmates with their cultural programmes. It was a week that showed the generosity of the students. The school has bagged gold medals and bronze medals in State-level caroms and hockey competitions.

At the triennial conference of the Church History Association of India (CHAI) **Fr Leonard Fernando**, Rector, **St Joseph's**, Trichy, was elected the President of the Church History Association of India.

On 06 Oct, **St Arulanandar H.S. School, Oriyur**, inaugurated an NCC unit, thanks to the hard work of Frs Elangeswaran, Jerome and Amalraj. At the Deepavali celebration on 17 Oct, students of IX-F made a resolution that they will not contribute to the noxious air pollution caused by fire crackers. Instead they bought books and donated them to the school library.

**Fr A. Irudayaraj, LENS** successfully defended his doctoral thesis on social media and online identity construction at Periyar University, Salem on 27 Oct '17.

## FR. ANANDANATHAN BARNABAS, SJ

1951 - 2017

When Fr Anandanathan passed away unexpectedly on 21 Oct '17, he was 66 years old and had spent 47 years in the Society of Jesus. The funeral Mass and burial took place on 22 Oct at St Mary's Cathedral, Madurai.

Anandanathan Barnabas was born on 10 Feb 1951 in Krishnankuppam, near Cuddalore, as the eldest son of Mr Barnabas and Mrs Viyahula Mary. After his primary and secondary education he entered the Society on 01 June 1970 at the age of 19.

After his ordination in 1982 he worked as the sub-editor of *Kumurum Nenjam*, a social justice magazine started by Fr Vara. After a year, he moved to Dhyana Ashram and was a retreat preacher for four years. Then he went to Beschi, Dindigul to be the editor of *Thiru Iruthaya Thoothan* and vocation promoter. Fr Anand began a long teaching career from 1994 to 2009 at various Jesuit schools. He taught at St Francis Xavier's, Tuticorin in 1994-95 and then at De Britto, Devakottai in 1995-96. For five years he served as a teacher and the hostel director at St Xavier's, Palayamkottai from 1996 to 2000. Later he taught at Carmel school, Nagercoil. He was sent to be the headmaster at St Antony's School, Kanyakumari from 2004 to 2006. He then served at St Peter's School, Viragalur as the headmaster for three years.

Entering into pastoral ministry after his retirement, he worked as the pastor at Palliagaram in the year 2009. He served for three years before he became the principal at Vadamelpakkam Loyola CBSE school. He served as a principal from 2011-12. From there he went to Ongur to be the parish priest and director

of Good Samaritan Home, Kuppayanallur till 2014. He became an assistant pastor at St Mary's Cathedral, Madurai.

Fr Anandan had gone to meet his sister in Cuddalore about 10 days ago. His relatives found him lying unconscious on the floor. After initial treatment at a local hospital, he was brought to St

Mary of Leuca Hospital, Madurai.

The doctors thought he must have felt giddy, because of high blood pressure, and hit his head against the wall or the floor and suffered a minor fracture in the skull. They found swelling and a blood clot in the brain. They were hopeful that treatment would dissolve the clot. So the news of his death on 21 Oct came as a shock to everyone.

On Sunday, 22 Oct Archbishop Antony Pappusamy of Madurai came to pay his respects. Fr Arockiasamy, Rector, St Mary's, prayed and blessed the body before the funeral procession to the Cathedral. The relatives, friends, parishioners and around 70 priests went in procession to the Cathedral for the Funeral Mass, which was presided over by Bishop Neethinathan of Chengalpattu. Fr Provincial, in his introduction, spoke about his many talents and his compassion for the poor. Fr Yesumarian, in his homily, stressed that he was an educator, musician, writer, orator, leader and above all someone who worked for the Dalits and the marginalised. After the Holy Communion Bishop Neethinathan, Fr T.B. Jeyaseelan, and Mr Abel paid tributes to Fr Anandan. Fr Kamalraj, CM, the grandson of Fr Anandanathan, parish priest of Our Lady of Assumption Church, Methanagar, Chennai performed the last rites in the cemetery.

- **Edward Jeganathan, SJ**



# HENRY AMIRTHARAJ, SJ

1942 - 2017

**F**r Henry was born on 21 July 1942 at Tiruchirapalli as the last but one child of Mr Dhanasamy, a flourishing lawyer and Mrs Maria Natchathiram, one of the sisters of the once famous Catholic magistrate, Mr Chinnappa Pillai. He joined St Joseph's High School for First Form. Like most of the Trichy boys at the time he too joined the now defunct semi-boarding, and thus came under the influence of the legendary Br Ponnusamy. It was because of the latter's guidance and inspiration that he desired to be a Jesuit. As a student he was fond of outdoor games and had a natural flair for any game and so he could play with ease and elegance football, basket ball and hockey. As a student he was above average.

After his Pre University Course at St Joseph's, he joined the Novitiate in Dindigul on 20 June 1959. We went to Loyola College, Chennai for our college studies and Henry took B. Sc (Botany) as his major. He was good in his studies and enjoyed his practical laboratory work, field trips and classes thus preparing himself to be an efficient teacher of Botany and Biology later in his school career. Henry did his Philosophy and Theology courses in Shembaganur and Kurseong. During all these formative years he hardly enjoyed good health. He was a chronic ulcer patient and therefore he had to be on medication right through. However, he never gave up his games. He had his periodic bouts of stomach pain that kept him confined to his room and bed. He did his B Ed in V.O.C. College, Tuticorin as a community member of Xaveriana. His teaching career took him to most of the schools of the Province.



Perhaps, his most successful and colourful stint was at St Mary's High School, Madurai where he was the Rector and later Head Master. Here it was that Henry for the first time and perhaps, for the last, admitted visually challenged boys into the school to follow the classes as regular students. It was a big hit indeed! After he left the school too he continued to be the friend and guide of these students, helping them with financial assistance from an international Protestant organization. As the Rector he steadied up the sagging finances of the school by putting up commercial buildings and renting them out to Banks. He was the H.M of De Britto Higher

Sec School where he is remembered even today by the staff and former students. Even before his retirement he had to undergo a serious surgery to remove a benign tumour. He returned after a successful surgery and went back to De Britto to retire as the HM in 2000.

From 2004 his health was declining and he was asked to go to Beschi to spend the rest of his life there in prayer. I had the good fortune to look after him for three years as his Superior. He could walk a little and sit for long hours, speak a few words and answer queries till 2014. By the year 2016 he found it difficult to walk and began to be confined to his room and later to his bed. He could not speak or eat any food. He was fed with the help of the Rhyle's tube in the last 7 or 8 months. It was thanks to the good care given by Sr Sahayam, assisted by her helper Mr Stanley, that Henry survived without being tormented by bedsores for so long. His sisters' frequent visits from Trichy and his older sister Sr Rosa's inimitable fondness and care for him

worked like tonic over the years to keep his morale high, in spite of his helplessness and intense pain in his limbs.

He had been living in Beschi for the past 13 years enduring great suffering of mind and body. On and off he was admitted in St Joseph Hospital, Dindigul to help him recover from his bed sores. His last visit to the hospital again was to help him recover from a deep bed sore that wouldn't heal. He breathed his last there on 06 Oct, 2017 at 3.20 am. His mortal remains were brought to Beschi. Soon after Fr Provincial started the funeral Mass and a heavy downpour started, as if to mourn the death of Fr Henry. In his introduction Fr Provincial referred to his yeoman services

as teacher and Head Master in many of our schools and thanked the family members for having given him to the Society. Fr Anthuvan of Trichy diocese, Fr Henry's cousin, dwelt on his qualities of head and heart and his significant achievements as Head Master, despite his indifferent health. Some staff members from our schools where he had labored, paid their eulogies to their smiling star, who had always stood for the rights of teachers and upheld their interest and welfare. The rite of final committal was held in the portico, and later his body was carried by the Novices and a few others to be buried in the Beschi cemetery. May his soul rest in peace!

- **Leo A Tagore, SJ**

## Abide with the Lord

**Fr Christian Mignon, SJ**, (CCU), 93/75, on 20 Oct '17 in Kolkata.

**Fr Ken McNamara, SJ**, (HAZ), 92/69, on 11 Oct '17 in Australia.

**Fr Lawrence Lobo, SJ**, (GUJ), 79/56, on 18 Oct '17 in Vadodara.

**Fr Pradeep I. Shail, SJ**, (HAZ), 60/37, on 19 Oct '17 in Sitagarha.

**Br Thirithuvaraj Arockiam, SJ**, (AND), 68/49, on 04 Oct in Kurnool, A.P.

Mrs Lourdu Mary, 80, mother of Fr Britto Vincent, SJ on 19 Oct '17 in Chennai.

Mr Santhanam (73), father of Fr. Clement Jesudoss, SJ on 24 Oct '17 in Paalukurichi.



## New Books

*Shining in Life*

By **S. Ignacimuthu, SJ**,

Vijay Nichole Imprints Private Ltd.

Pages: 137

*Day by Day*

By **Jerry Rosario, SJ**

New Leader Publications

Pages: 64

Price: Rs.30

## CORRESPONDENTS:

*Albin, Arul, Benitto,*

*Donic, Franklin Rex,*

*Irudayaraj, John Richard,*

*Lawrence Amalraj, Lenin,*

*Leo Anand, Manickam,*

*Pugazhendhi, Rufus,*

*Santhosh, Viju.*



## Memories

### A hundred years ago...

An epidemic of cholera broke out in Trichy during October. St. Joseph's College was closed for a fortnight; and Holy Cross High School had to do the same, although the College alone had students attacked, two of whom actually died.

H.E. the Delegate Apost. stayed about 24 hours (18-19 Sept.) in Madura, on his way to Trevandrum, whither he was going to present H.H. the Maharajah with a congratulatory letter of the Holy Father on the occasion of H.H.'s 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. As desired by H.E., no official reception had been organized.

Catholic Indian Association of South India – The revision of the lists of members on 30-6-1917 did not reduce the number of life-members, which is 93; but the numbers of the regular members fell from 1534 to 514. Diwan Bahadur L.D. Samikannu Pillai, Collector of Nellore, resigned the Honorary Secretaryship and has for his successor Mr. Arumainatha Pillai B.A. B.L.

- *From Caritas, 1 Nov 1917*

## Secrets

*for Well-being and Peace*



### Refuse, reduce, reuse

In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis's encyclical on our relationship with the environment, he confronts us with the reality that, 'The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth'. The desire to consume more than what we need has created 'a throwaway culture' – a 'use and throw away logic' – resulting in millions of tons of waste being produced every year.

Most of us don't consider how many times we throw something into a bin every day. Minimising how much waste we produce is known as a zero-waste lifestyle. For Pope Francis, the way forward is based on the conviction that less is more. As much as reducing the amount of waste we generate may seem challenging, it also offers an opportunity for us to become more creative and attentive to how we live.

Here is a useful mantra from one zero-waste advocate: '**Refuse** what you do not need. **Reduce** what you do need. **Reuse** by using whatever is reusable. **Recycle** what you cannot refuse, reduce or reuse. **Rot** (com-post) the rest.

- **Catherine Devitt**

- *in The Sacred Heart Messenger, Aug 2017*

## Just for...



Doctor: So what's troubling you?

Patient: My nose is blocked, Doctor.

Doctor: Did you link your nose with Aadhaar?

Patient: No, Doctor.

Doctor: That's why it is blocked. Nowadays anything not linked to Aadhaar gets blocked.