



SEPTEMBER 2016

## Message from the Provincial



### Sanctifying Fragrance around Us

Dear Brothers,

It is indeed a moment of joy for all of us in India, as **Blessed Mother Teresa** has been elevated to the status of a **Saint**. Many of us have seen her, a good number of us have met her personally, a few of us would have even interacted with her and received her blessings. At this moment all of us can justifiably feel proud that someone known so much to us is elevated to the status of a Saint.

Mother Teresa was fragile physically but very strong in her deep faith in God. After leaving her Congregation, she jumped into the dark, looking for light and direction. She found light and direction in the darkness, because what appeared to be dark for her as a human being, proved to be the right direction and a sure source of light and true joy. She found her real joy in the gutters, on the road sides, in garbage cans. She found her life's fulfillment by serving the most neglected and the most unwanted men, women and babies. Her faith in God was so deep that she would not hesitate to do anything, which may sound or appear impossible from a human point of view. She had the true spirit of a pioneer, taking risks and facing obstacles, amidst loneliness and helplessness.

Very soon, God's presence in her life, in her mission and in her efforts were so visible, that the neighbours, the city, the nation and the entire world began to take note of her. The rest of the story all of us are aware. It is indeed a privilege for

us, to have had the opportunity to know her, or meet her or to have interacted with her.

Another fragrance of saintliness has now come to our door steps. We are proud that one of our own province-men, **Fr. Louis Leveil, SJ**, has been declared a **Servant of God** by the Holy See. Our people, particularly in the districts of Ramnad and Sivagangai remember him fondly, with great respect and love. He was a man of deep commitment. He was the one who, as a novice, asked permission from his Superiors in France: *"Please allow me to go India to work there and to die there"*. As per his desire, he was sent to India, he worked in our soil and he died in our soil. Now we are glad that he has been declared a Servant of God.

May St Teresa be a true source of inspiration to each one of us – in our life, in our mission, in our faith in the Lord of history, in our commitment to the service of the poor, the marginalized, the Dalits – the people of our option. May the Servant of God, Fr. Louis Leveil, the holy man, who walked, toiled and soiled his hands and feet mainly in the mission fields of Sivagangai and Ramnad, be a source of spiritual strength to all of us as we prepare ourselves for GC36, which will review seriously our life and mission and take steps to renew our governance system to suit modern needs and challenges.



Fraternally,  
*Sebastien L. Raj, SJ*  
Provincial



(For Private Circulation)

## Provincial's Programme



### SEPTEMBER

- 03 Ordination – SJC, Trichy
- 06 GBM: Institute of the Heart of Jesus -- Maduralaya
- 07-09 Visitation: AAC, Karumathur
- 08 Last Vows:  
Frs. Godwin Rufus U. and Anbarasu Maria Raj
- 10 Consult
- 12-14 Visitation: Arul Kadal, Chennai
- 15-17 Visitation: Delhi (Vidya Jyoti, ISI, Jaipur)
- 17-18 Visit to XIDAS, Jabalpur
- 24 Last Vows of Fr. Gerlin Amaladoss –  
Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 25-27 Visitation of MDU Jesuits in London
- 27-29 Visitation of MDU Jesuits in Paris
- 30 Visitation of MDU Jesuit in Madrid

### OCTOBER

- 01 Visitation of MDU Jesuit in Madrid
- 01-31 Participation in GC36, Jesuit Curia, Rome



## Announcements

### Fr Leveil: Servant of God

Fr James Anthuvan of the Sivagangai Dioces, Postulator for the Cause of Fr Leveil, through an email dated 02 Sep '16, conveyed the good news that the Vatican Congregation for the Cause of Saints, has declared Fr Louis Leveil a Servant of God and a 'nihil obstat' to further efforts to promote his Cause.

### Acting Provincial

In view of his participation in GC36, Fr. Provincial has appointed Fr. M.A. Joe Antony (Socius) the Acting Provincial, with effect from 25 September 2016.

### SAP Programme

All the members of the Province are strongly recommended to participate in the SAP programmes

being organized in the Assistancy. Those who are yet to attend any of these programmes are asked to look for this programme in different locations and participate in that. Those who will participate in the SAP Programme or retreat in Sri Lanka have been already informed and additional members will NOT be able to go to Sri Lanka for this programme.

### Retreat

Province's Spirituality-Dialogue Commission is organizing a special Retreat on 'Processing through Ignatian Psycho Spirituality' - with inputs, time for personal inner work and sharing in groups. Dates: 09.00 am on 30 Sep to 4.30 pm on 09 Oct '16. Venue: Dhyana Ashram, 25 Madha Church Road, Chennai – 600028. Retreat fee: Rs. 5000 (Registration, board and lodge)

Resource Person: Fr. Dr. Dudley Mendonca, SJ (DEL). Contact: Fr Devadhas, Co-ordinator, before 25 Sep at 9487580952 / 9940340147 or devadhasm@gmail.com or cc.spirituality@mdusj.org

### POSA's Circular

Fr. George Pattery, POSA, has sent a circular to the entire Assistancy regarding the steps being taken to renew the province structures for greater apostolic effectiveness, as desired by Fr. General. All the members are encouraged to read this circular, reflect and pray over the content and familiarize themselves with the developments in the Assistancy.

### Congrats, Stephen!

Sch. Deva Arockia Stephen, Arul Kadal, has won the prize for the best logo for GCSA (Green and Clean South Asia) in an Assistancy-level competition held to honour Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*.



### New phone number

Fr George Vedamuthu, St Mary's, Madurai has a new cell number: 8903494914.

### Status: Fr. Provincial has made the following appointments/assignments:

Fr. Jeyaraj Elankeswaran	Acting Superior & Acting Parish Priest of Oriyur (Additional responsibility)
Fr. Richard Hiruthyaraj	LTI, Madurai, Staff of JESCCO



## They met, they celebrated...

*Celebrations, Functions, Courses...*

Meticulous planning and direction of Fr. Albert William, the president of Sports of our college made the 47th Sports Day of **AAC**, Karumathur, held on 24 Aug '16 a memorable one. Mr. Om Prakash Meena, the ASP of Madurai District and Mr VVR Raj Satyen, President of TN Basket Ball & Rugby Association were the chief guests of the day.

**Beschi Illam, Maduralaya and St Mary's, Dindigul** celebrated the feast of St Ignatius with a Mass presided over by Fr Provincial. Fr P. Arokiaraj, in his homily, spoke on the rare qualities of St Ignatius as revealed in his letters. More than 300 priests and Sisters attended the celebration in the evening at St Mary's grounds, organized by the Maduralaya community. Fr Provincial presided over the function and Bishop Thomas Paulsamy of Dindigul was the Chief Guest. The Bishop said he was a Jesuit product, recalling his Jesuit professors, spiritual guides and mentors, and thanked them for their services to the Church in Tamil Nadu and Dindigul diocese. The function that included dances by Sakthi Kalaikuzhu run by the ICM Sisters, and videos on JRS's work, ended with a delicious dinner organized by Fr L.V. Kumar and his team.

**CIS**, Beschi and the **Spirituality and Dialogue Commission** organized a 5-day course on "the Dynamics of the Ignatian Spirituality" on 01-05 Aug by **Fr Pavul Raj**, Gregorian University. On 15 Aug Beschi celebrated joyfully the Jubilees of **Frs John Meepillikavi and Arockiaraj and Br I. Antony**. On 26 Aug before the community gathered for a group photograph in front of the statue of Beschi, **Fr Amaldas (DEL)**, garlanded the saintly scholar's statue. Recovering from the serious injuries he suffered in a road accident, Amal went to Delhi for his Last Vows and has returned to resume his studies at Gandhigram.

At **Carmel School**, Nagercoil, **Bishop Jerome Das** of Kuzhithurai was the Chief Guest at the Sports Day celebrations.

**Fr Jerry, Dhyana Ashram**, gave a 30 minute presentation on St Ignatius in Madha TV and 3 talks on the Jubilee of Mercy in Jaya Plus TV. He gave 2 sessions on leadership for Provincials of different congregations at NBCLC, Bangalore. **Fr. Anand Amaladoss**, on the occasion of 'Madras Week 2016' organized two lectures on "Chennai History through Architectural Styles" and "Jesuits' Participation in Chennai History" on 19, 20 Aug.





In **France: Sch. Sathyabalan** did his Pre-Ordination Programme last month, with 11 other scholastics from 8 different provinces. **Sch. Vasanthakumar** took part in the 12-day MAGIS programme, organized by the Polish Jesuits and attended by 2000 youth. It had a range of 'Ignatian Experiments' in various fields like Faith and Culture, Social Service, Arts, Ecology etc. Mixed groups of youth from different countries were sent out on their experiments where they learnt to encounter God in their daily chores of life. He attended also the World Youth Day celebrations at Krakow, Poland, on 14-31 July. **Schs. Annaraj and Michael Panimaya Raj** have just finished their two months of intensive French learning and are now all set to begin the new academic year.

**Fr M.S. Jacob, ICRDCE**, was the Chief Guest at the First Graduation Ceremony of Andavan Community College, Arakonam and called on the students to become ambassadors for the Community College System in India through their character and competence.

**IDCR** organized a National Seminar on 28-30 July on "Religions in Society in India Today" with 15 paper presenters and respondents. The rich interaction between participants flowered in a Statement that stressed social harmony amidst fundamentalism and violence.

Province's **Higher Education Commission (HEC)** and IACHE, New Delhi and Xavier Board organized the Tamil Nadu Convention of Catholic, Christian and Muslim Colleges at St Joseph's, Trichy on 12 Aug. More than 125 participants from 37 Colleges deliberated on NEP Draft and sent their response to MHRD. **Frs. Pushparaj and Xavier Alphonse** were invited by the Andhra Jesuit Province to initiate a discussion on NEP on 25 Aug in which 230 participants from 60 institutions from all over Andhra and Telegana took part.

**JCERT**, in collaboration with SEC and Tamil Nadu Science Forum, brought together on 30 July at Loyola, Chennai around 800 participants from 23 organizations of college and school teachers for a seminar on NEP and further planning of action programmes that will conscientize more people on the dangers of the proposed NEP. **Fr John Kennedy** of JCERT spoke to 200 educationists on NEP on 13 Aug at Christu Raja School, Palayamkottai and on 20 Aug to the 108 HMs of the Coimbatore Presentation Sisters.

Two JRS staff, Ms Jane from Czech Republic and Ms Cathy from England, visited **JRS-TN** office. They helped in documentation and trained JRS staff and Girihini students at Mullaikudi.

**Fr Anto** writes from **London**: "From the day I landed in London I was with the two men from our province, Fr Richard and Sch Thayriam, who were conducting a summer camp for the youth of St. Anselm's Parish. More than 70 students participated and I could see how effectively our two dynamic men established a rapport with the students and encouraged them to develop their skills and talents. The two welcomed me and made me feel at home. When Richard left for India from Heathrow airport almost the entire youth group was there to say goodbye. It was a moving scene."

**Loyola College of Education (LCE)** bade farewell to **Dr Rajakumari Amirthagowri**, who was its Principal for the past four years and welcomed the new Principal, **Dr Kulandai Theresal**, who assumed office on 01 Aug. LCE organized an eight-day 'Theatre Pedagogy' Workshop, that presented teaching as performance for the first year B.Ed. Students on 20-27 Aug. Mr Shanmugaraja of Nigah Theatre Centre, Madurai and his team were the resource persons.

**Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR)**, with the support of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), organized a workshop on 'Forced Migration' on 17 – 28 Aug at Loyola, Chennai. Forty participants from different parts of India found the workshop very useful.

**Loyola College of Arts and Sciences (LCAS)**, Chennai organized a one-day seminar on 'New Education Policy-2016 (NEP)' on 06 Aug at the LICET Auditorium. A number of prominent speakers addressed the gathering. The seminar helped Loyola,



#### Correspondents:

*G. Arockia Raj, Benitto, Donic, Franklin Rex, Jacob, John, John Vimal, Jothy, Lawrence, Leo Anand, Manoj, G. Packiaraj, Richard, Ronald, Sekhar, Tagore, Viji Bose, Joe Xavier and Justin Prabu.*



LCV



LCV



Loyola, Kuppayanalloor



Loyola, Kuppayanalloor



SHC, Shembag

Chennai formulate its own suggestions on NEP and send them to MHRD. A four-day workshop on 'Theatre for Transformation' was conducted for I year Social Work students on 17-20 Aug at Navalur, Chennai.

66 students of **LICET** went to France and another 14 went to Spain for their one month summer and project making programme as part of the international collaboration programme.

**Loyola College, Vettavalam** had its fourth graduation ceremony on 14 Aug. Dr Murugan, Vice-Chancellor of Thiruvalluvar University, was the chief guest. On 20 Aug **Fr Dominic Jeyakumar** got a group of HR personnel from different companies in Chennai to come to LCV for a day-long Career Development Program for the first and the final year UG students.

While **Fr M.S. Jacob, SJ** was the chief guest at the sports day celebrations at **Loyola High School, Kuppayanalloor** on 12 Aug, **Fr Jebamalai Raja** was the chief guest for the annual day on 26 Aug.

In solidarity with the mourning Munjikkal parishioners who lost their APP and three other parish council members in a tragic road accident, **SHC, Shembaganur**, had a very simple celebration of the feast of St Ignatius, inviting only the Hill Jesuits. **Fr J.M. Das**, Superior, was the Chief Guest for the cultural programmes presented by the students of Inigo Siruvar Illam and Boys Home. **Fr Edward** co-ordinated the CRI meet held at SHC on 06 Aug. The SHC Jesuits celebrated the Novena Mass on 11 Aug at the La Salette Shrine and, along with the Tertians, joined in the exuberance of whole Kodai Hills in celebrating the feast day Mass of La Salette on 14 Aug. On 15 Aug **Fr Leo Anand** gave the Independence Day message. More than 130 people participated in the two-day seminar on 21-22 Aug, organized by PEAK on 'Leadership for the Unorganized Labourers'.

On 12 Aug the new building at **St Mary's, Dindigul**, 'Prosper Bertran Block' was inaugurated with a Eucharistic celebration, presided over by **Fr Provincial**. The new building was blessed by Fr. Provincial, Fr. Marianathan, Mr. Xavier Britto, Chairman, Indev Groups, and Mr Ratthinam Chairman, Tharani Groups, Dindigul. **Fr. Joseph Michael**, Superior, thanked the donors and the Alumni Association. At the 93<sup>rd</sup> annual day celebration in the evening, the chief guests were Mr. Xavier Britto and Mr. Ratthinam.

**Fr V. George**, Director, and the Alumni Association, **St Mary's, Madurai** organized on 19-21 Aug a grand State-level Basketball Tournament for high schools.

In order to prepare Arul Kadal students for their 'immersion experience' the Folklore Resources and Research Centre, **St Xavier's**, Palayamkottai organized a Workshop on "Subaltern People and their Socio-cultural Meaning Systems" on 8-13 Aug. Twenty Scholars from various Research Institutions of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry attended along with 13 Scholastics from Arul Kadal. At the 94<sup>th</sup> Sports Day held on 26 Aug the Chief Guest, Mr Sivasubramanian, Commissioner of Tirunelveli Corporation, gratefully acknowledged that it is St Xavier's College which helped him become a Municipal Commissioner in many places and Corporation Commissioner of Tirunelveli. He appealed to the students to support him in his mission of avoiding the use of plastics and promoting proper disposal of waste.

On 13 Aug **St Xavier's H.S. School** organized a programme for the staff at which Mr Prince Kajendra Babu, Director, State Platform for Common School System, explained how the staff should offer understanding and accompaniment to the students for the sake of their holistic formation. He spoke also of the negative consequences of corporal punishment and verbal abuse and explained how to deal with the students positively. The theme of the 137<sup>th</sup> School Annual Day on 24 Aug was: 'The welfare of family is the wealth of the society.' The Chief Guests were Dr.A.John de Britto, Registrar, MSU and Mr.T.M. Selvakani, an alumnus.

**Fr V. Joseph Xavier** was the resource person at a workshop organized by **Thozhamai Illam** on 'Emotional Integration' on 13- 15 Aug. Twenty Religious participated.

We, the Juniors at **Vidyaniketan**, Trivandrum, had a 3-day course on Time Management given by **Fr Francis P. Xavier**. At the feast day Mass of St Ignatius the choir sang hymns in six different languages, many new ones taught by **Fr Devadoss**, the Superior. The cover design for the Vidyaniketan calendar, done by **Sch John Silvester**, was much appreciated by all.



PEAK, SHC, Shembag



St Xavier's



St Xavier's

## Abide with the Lord

Br Ambrose Parappuram, SJ (KER), 83/54, on 31 July '16 in Kerala.

Fr Sebastian Manucheril, SJ (GUJ), 93/74, on 21 Aug '16 at Vadodara, Gujarat.

Mrs Mariyayi, 89, mother of Fr Joseph Xavier A. on 25 July '16 at Rajakambeeram.



## They have done it!

Something new, something good...

**Amuthu**, St Mary's, Dindigul, has conducted cultural programme in 35 villages to create social awareness. It has conducted coaching classes for candidates for Group 3 and 4 jobs.

'Velicham Kalaikuzhu' - an initiative of **JESIM**, AHAL, performed its first awareness programme in Solankunam, an Irular village on 13 Aug. To help Irular youth use their talents and form a cultural troupe JESIM organized a training programme for them in Tindivanam. 'Velicham', an Irular volleyball team' participated in the Chennai Mission silver jubilee memorial tournament organized by Loyola College, Vettavalam. Animators of Irular villages had a one-day workshop learning how to apply for community certificates, old age pension and widows' pension.

Ten **French students** built three houses in Kilpennathur parish, staying at AHAL for a month.

On 08 Aug the renovation of St John Berchmans (Superior's) block of **Beschi** commenced with the groundbreaking ceremony at which Fr Provincial said a prayer. On 17 Aug **representatives of the three communities in Dindigul** attended the blessing of the renovated house of Mr Jeyaram, who has been the hairdresser to our three communities in Dindigul for a very long time. The cost was borne by the three communities. **Fr Selvanayagam**, the Province Treasurer, unveiled the commemorative stone, **Fr Joe Mike** cut the ribbon and opened the house, and **Fr Leo Tagore** blessed the house.

**K. Satheesh**, a student of **Carmel**, Nagercoil, has won the State-level Taekwondo championship.

**Dhyana Ashram** has begun to focus on a particular theme each month. Last month's focus was on Pope Francis's *The Joy of Love* on which Fr Jerry has published a booklet (*See 'New Books'*)

**ICRDCE**, Chennai has selected seven trainers for the English Access Program sponsored by U.S. Consulate. 150 students have been selected to undergo this English Access Microscholarship Program for the next 2 years.

Province **Secondary Education Commission** (SEC) and **JCERT** played a role in bringing together 23 organizations of professors and teachers, which formed a federation for the protection of education rights (Kalvi Urimai Paathukaapu Koottamaipu).







On 17 Aug 2016, **JMAADD**, Nagercoil, has duly been licensed as De-addiction cum Rehabilitation Centre by the Institute of Mental Health, Chennai. The license is valid till 16 Aug 2021. With this licence, JMAADD has moved a notch higher in its quest for professionalism. Since April, 2016, 144 alcoholics have been treated in 6 camps, 5194 school and college students have been given an alcohol awareness programme, 83 group meetings have been held, 218 families have been visited and 2894 persons have been contacted over phone for recovery support.

**JRS-TN** organized interface meetings with 87 Government officials in 5 districts - Dindigul, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Kanyakumari. These meetings gave the people in Sri Lankan Refugee Camps a rare opportunity to express their grievances. The interface has been an effective advocacy tool, as many of their grievances have been addressed and their demands met. It has also strengthened the liaison between the Government officials and the JRS team.

On 27 Aug the Coimbatore chapter of **Loyola Alumni Association** was inaugurated. Mr A.K.Vishwanathan, the Additional DGP Of Police, was the Chief Guest. **Fr Thomas Amirtham**, Director, invited the alumni to visit Loyola and participate in every campus activity.

Guided by the Rector, Fr Jayapathy, **LIBA** administration has been revamped by **Fr M.J. Christie**, Director, with a new organizational structure. **Fr Maria Wenisch** is now the Dean - Administration. For the past two months the LIBA faculty have been undergoing marathon strategic planning exercises with the intention of making LIBA one of the top business schools in the country. LIBA has taken the lead in starting an 'Incubation Centre' at LIBA premises in order to help social entrepreneurs successfully launch their social enterprises. It has taken a new avatar as the CSR initiative of LIBA to impart employment skills to the underprivileged and the refugees and to assist the small and tiny entrepreneurs among them to succeed in their enterprises.

In this year's Bertram Tournament **LCAS** (Loyola College of Arts & Sciences), Chennai won the Volleyball shield after a gap of nine years. In basketball they ran a close second. Loyola retained the overall championship of the tournament.

Nearly 5,000 students from all over Tamil Nadu attended on 27 Aug a Technical Symposium organized by **LICET**, and LICET students won the first place in the paper contest on Smart Home Control using IOT. A team of LICET students has been selected for the next level competition in all terrain vehicle design. Abbasudin, a third year student of



Ordinations - 2016

03 Sep '16 was the day of **Ordinations – 2016**, when the priesthood dreams of 10 MDU Deacons - Arockia Alton, Benedict Santhosh, Christu Raj, John Michael, Michael Pugazhendhi, Prabhu Francis, Rayappan Innasi, Sahayaraj Vijayan, Stephen Robert, Vargheesh Antony, one PAT Deacon Praksh Antony and another DUM Deacon Jacob Chinnappan – were fulfilled. Bishop Thomas Aquinas of Coimbatore was accompanied by Fr Provincial, The Chennai Mission Superior, ADF, Socius and representatives from France and Patna and Dumka provinces. Fr M.A. Joe Antony, Socius, introduced the Bishop and gave an apt introduction to the event. Bishop Thomas preached a solid homily, explaining what the new priests are called to – with inspiring examples. The hymns were elevating. As they lay prostrate before the altar, the new priests were touched to hear the whole assembly invoking the saints to bless them.

It turned out to be a joyful occasion for all those who had accompanied the deacons in their journey toward priesthood, especially their parents, relatives, and fellow Jesuits. The new priests expressed their gratitude to Fr Joe Xavier, PCF, Fr Rector, Br Minister, Fr Jesu Nesa Raju, Fr Viji Bose and the St Joseph's and Arul Kadal communities for making it a memorable day. They thanked also Fr. Raj Irudaya, ADF who edited the book they had written - *Punitharhalin Vazhiyil*.



Ordinations - 2016



Ordinations - 2016

*continued from p.9*

LICET, was the runner up at the State level swimming competition and received a cash award of Rs.50,000 from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

**Fr A. Arulanandam** and his team at the **Archives, SHC**, have digitalized all the issues of *Caritas*, which will soon be available online for easy access.

**St Mary's HSS, Dindigul**, guided by its Physical Director, **Fr S. Marianathan**, continues its victorious march in sports and games. Mr. Kanimuthu, the district physical director, and Mr Ramkumar were the Chief Guests at its 106<sup>th</sup> sports day. The School's sports team won in all the competitions - except senior badminton - at the zonal level sports meet. The super senior volley ball team bagged the third prize in Isha volley ball tournament. The football team won the championship in GS football tournament.

Thanks to the efforts of **Fr Antonysamy**, Secretary, the second floor of the College Library, **St Xavier's**, has been made conducive for research with several air conditioned cabins for research guides and students. Several students have won prizes at State-level sports and quiz competitions.

After the fruitful completion of the Spiritual Exercises, the **Tertians, SHC**, prepared retreats for different groups. After participating in the joyful celebration of the La Salette feast, the Tertians have now gone to various parts of the country for the month-long Ignatian Experiment.

It is nothing but the grace of God that made the celebration of the annual feast at **St John de Britto Shrine, Oriyur** possible this year. After several efforts the village heads of 13 substations of Oriyur agreed to give peace a chance. The agreement to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Good Health was signed by all the village leaders just a day before the actual flag hoisting on 29 Sep '16. Later the leaders themselves spearheaded all the preparations and arrangements for the celebration.

On the occasion of the flag hoisting, several pilgrims thanked God with joyous tears, for making it possible. All through the novena people came to make their confession, pray and ponder on various topics related to Our Lady. Grateful pilgrims came to thank God and his saint for the favours they had received during the year. There was a musical and a play on St John de Britto on the last two days. Fr Joe Arun was the chief celebrant on the last day of the novena on 07 Sep. The Jesuits at Oriyur are grateful to fellow Jesuits, other diocesan and religious priests, religious and Catholics from the neighbouring dioceses and non-Christian pilgrims. Indeed, it was an experience of grace that made us see that if you focus on spiritual services that mean so much to our people, God will make everything possible.



## New Books



*A Mighty Tree with Birds of Different Hues*, edited by Frs X. Irudayaraj and Leo Tagore, and dedicated to the memory of Fr (Annan) G. Ignaci, SJ, Vaigarai Publishing House, pp. 216. Price: Rs 110.

*Anubhava Siddha Maruthuva Muraigal*, S. Ignacimuthu, SJ & Co. B.Rathina Nayagar & Sons. pp.347. Price: Rs 300.

*Caste Victimization – A Study on the Dalits of Dalits (Arunthathiyars)*, Jebamalai Raja, SJ, Asian Trading Corporation, Bangaluru. pp. 365. Price: Rs 350.

*Falling in Love, Flourishing in Life*, Jerry Rosario, SJ, New Leader Publications, pp.44. Price: Rs 20.

*Blurred, yet Bright – Journey into the Self in Jaina Tradition*, Vincent Sekhar, SJ, Sri Satguru Publications, New Delhi. Price: Rs 400.

## Memories

### In the land of the Maravas

*(From the memoirs of Mr Francois Martin, the Frenchman who became the first Governor of Pondicherry)*

The Very Reverend Father John Britto belonged to a noble family, and had in his youth been brought up with King Pedro. However as God destined him to a higher position than he could ever have attained in that court by his own merit, he joined the Reverend Jesuit Fathers, and a few years later, impelled by his zeal and piety, he sailed to India, in spite of great opposition both from his noble mother and relatives, and from King Pedro himself. Shortly after reaching Goa, he entered the famous Madura Mission, which was in so flourishing a condition, owing to the blessings which Heaven bestowed on the zeal and fervor of so many illustrious missionaries, who had been laboring in it ever since it was founded by the Reverend Father Robert de Nobili in the year 1606.

Father John de Britto, having spent fourteen or fifteen years in that laborious work, and having achieved a surprising success in the conversion of several thousands of people in the land of the Maravas, where so far no missionary had penetrated, the brahmans accused the Reverend Father before the Nayak or lord of the country. He was therefore arrested, imprisoned, ill-treated, several times beaten, and on the point of crowning his beautiful life with martyrdom. He was snatched, however, from the clutches of death, set free, driven out of the Marava land, and forbidden to return thither, under pain of death.

*(from Caritas, March 1935)*

## Just for...



Employee: Sir, I got married last month. You should increase my salary.

Boss: Sorry. The factory is not responsible for the accidents that take place outside the factory.

## Secrets

*for Well-being and Peace*



### How does your garden grow?

When I was little I listened to nursery rhymes and I was struck by “Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow?” I assumed it was about the Mary, the mother of Jesus. I even looked up the word ‘contrary’ and found that it meant “opposed to, doing what was not expected, and will ful.” So Mary, in my small head, was strong and unusual and routinely the unexpected. Years later I was chagrined to find out that this phrase was not about Mary at all. But somehow it has stayed with me, and now it seems to have more truth than ever.

Mary - a contrary lady, certainly - has been made into the image of opposites: mother, ever-virgin, yet neither mother or virgin as anyone else would experience those states of being.

Mary, Mary, how does your garden grow? These days her garden is in trouble through pollution, the devastation of war, bombs, stockpiled nuclear weapons, lands burned into desert by greed and economic systems that serve only to encourage consumerism, cities barely inhabitable, a thinning ozone layer, and waters and ground poisoned by chemicals and radioactivity. It is a garden that is fast losing some of its best plants and creatures, with ancient trees felled, and the escalating demise of endangered species. The children have forgotten how to be gardeners of food for survival (justice) and cultivators of beauty (mercy).

- **Megan McKenna**  
(in *Mary, Shadow of Grace*)