

APRIL 2020



JESUIT
CHENNAI PROVINCE



Our Lady of the Way

NEWSLETTER



DO NOT FEAR,
FOR I AM WITH YOU.

- Is 41:10



PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE



Our Easter Response...!

My dear Companions,

We are at a very critical stage in the history of our times. The victims of COVID-19 are increasing exponentially day by day. As on Good Friday of April, more than a lakh have lost their lives to this pandemic all over the world. We are all locked down. Human life has come to a standstill. We do not know where we are moving towards. The future looks hazy and bleak. Will April and May be life-threatening months to our country/world or giving hope that corona would disappear gradually? We live in anxiety.

According to a report compiled by COVID-19 study group, an interdisciplinary team of researchers and scientists, India could see up to thirteen lakh confirmed cases of the novel Coronavirus by mid-May if the current trend in the growing number of COVID-19 cases continues. The report also says that it is essential for India to adopt '*draconian measures*' to act before the growth of COVID-19 infections start to accelerate in the country. It has already started accelerating in our country.

Pope Francis gives us hope through his *Urbi et Orbi* blessings on 28 Mar, as he proclaimed, "*in the midst of isolation when we are suffering from a lack of tenderness and chances to meet up, and we experience the loss of so many things, let us once again listen to the proclamation that saves us: He is risen and is living by our side.*" COVID 19 teaches us many lessons. One impeccable lesson that we would carry on in our hearts is that God is always living by our side. Let us not give up; let us not close the gates of our hearts; God is always by our side.

During the Holy Week, we shall remember that sharing the powerlessness and sufferings of the victims of Coronavirus and being with them as counselors and comforters would be the right way to experience of the real Way of the Cross and taking part in the agony of Jesus at Gethsemane. The death of Jesus on the cross is not an end of everything. He will be risen. This Easter is going to be a different kind of celebration for us. As the disciples were locked down in the house with fear and despair just before the first Easter, we are also going to be at our home, locked down with anxiety and helplessness. But as disciples came out of the house, started celebrating and spreading the good news that Jesus was risen, He will also lead us to experience a taste of hope of what the first Easter was like.

At the Province level, I have formed a **Disaster Management Committee (DMC)** which will come together and plan the strategies immediately. Since it is difficult to travel now, at present, the members of the DMC will be from Loyola Campus: **Frs Francis P Xavier (Convenor), Andrew Francis, Igni, Joe Arun, Thomas Amirtham and Vasanth.** They will regularly meet and come up with concrete plan of actions.

The Province DMC is already addressing the issue in a mega way to provide food material, precautionary health material (such as mask, soap, sanitizer etc) for about 2000+ families of Migrants, Gypsies, and Domestic Employees who are laid off during the lockdown period. Our staff and students offer online counseling and along with the Chennai Corporation authorities, Loyola College, Chennai will be used for those in quarantine. I am happy to note that all the communities of the Province, in your respective places, are involved in helping the people who are affected by Coronavirus. On behalf of all of you, I congratulate Frs Francis P Xavier and Vasanth and all the members of DMC and Loyola College Society (LCS) for their timely, meaningful initiatives and their hard labour.

In whatever possible way, let us support the government in its initiatives to eradicate this deadly virus from the earth. We shall gratefully pray for the welfare of the doctors, nurses, sanitary workers, scavengers, police, social activists-workers and other government officials who are directly involved in this mission of helping the victims.

I wish you, dear Jesuit companions, our Collaborators and Co-workers, a hope filled Easter, to face and respond to this challenge together, by concretely care-acting and compassionately being by the side of the victims of COVID-19.

Jebamalai Irudayaraj

The continuation of the sermon given by Fr Provincial on the second day of the Province Assembly (29 Dec '19) at Loyola College, Chennai.

...The 3rd Expectation is the 'Expectation to face the challenges in reaching out the unreached, God's own People'.

The new Child, Jesuit Chennai Province is now born in the context of the disturbed, distorted and divided world. The first challenge to us is to look at this distorted world *from the eyes, hearts, minds and the perspectives of the people of the periphery.*

In his Apostolic Letter (*Nov, 2014*) to all Consecrated People, Pope Francis emphatically says that a prophet is someone who listens to the words of God, who reads the signs of times, and who knows how to move forward towards the future.

In the meditation on the Incarnation, in the Spiritual Exercises (*Sp. Ex. 106*), St Ignatius invites us to gaze at the reality of the world. Vat II calls us to read the signs of times and do a thorough study before we enter into action.

Our Mission Statement (*Dec, 2018*) explicitly reflects our context and challenges: *"Rampant casteism and corruption, unfettered crony capitalism, fast spreading fascist fundamentalism, alienating technological culture, pervasive criminalization of politics, alarming erosion of moral and spiritual values and gross degradation of the environment in our country stare at us defiantly. Untouchability, discrimination, oppression and violence of varied forms have become almost the order of the day. The commercialization and corporatization of healthcare and education and other basic services and the denial of human rights appal us".*

What we need, to face these challenges is the *creative fidelity* in our apostolic commitment, for the growth of the Chennai Province. It is our owning and serving the unserved and the underserved.

At this critical and historical juncture, we need to focus our energies and resources towards building up of the newly born Chennai Province with utmost fidelity and prophetic audacity. Our Mission Statement reiterates that our commitment to this mission flows from our steadfast faith and hope in God and passionate concern and love for the marginalized people we have chosen to journey with. *Their liberation becomes our goal, their hopes-our inspiration and their struggles-our challenges.*

The End



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Fr Provincial's programme for April and May 2020 will be communicated to you once there is greater clarity regarding the COVID-19 situation.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr General will be visiting Chennai in Feb, 2021 for the 125th Anniversary Celebrations of Satya Nilayam.

On 21 Feb evening, Fr General will address the Jesuits of Chennai Province and have dinner with us and spend the night at Loyola College.

On 22 Feb morning, Fr General and team will leave for Trivandrum to attend the JCSA meeting.

APPOINTMENTS BY FR GENERAL

Consultors of the Jesuit Chennai Province

Fr Francis Xavier Periyannayagam

Fr Marianathan Chinnasamy

Fr Paul Benedict S.

Provincials and Regional Superior

Fr Ajit Kumar Xess as the Provincial of Ranchi

Fr Miguel Nuno Maria de Siqueira de Almeida as the Provincial of Portugal

Fr Michael Zammit Mangion as the Provincial of the Near East and Maghreb

Fr Mieczyslaw Smyda as the Provincial of Brazil

Fr Marc Desmet as the Regional Superior of the European Low Countries

APPOINTMENTS BY FR POSA

Fr Antony Dias (Tony Dias) of BOM as the new Secretary of JESA. His official email address is: <jesa.secretary@gmail.com>. Our thanks to Sannybhai (**Jebamalai Stanislaus**) who has served as JESA Secretary since October 2011.

Fr Sathyabalan Arockiasamy as the Staff at Satya Nilayam, Chennai.

RETREATS: The MDU-CEN Province Retreat with Fr Francis Pudhicherry as Director (2-10 May 2020 at SHC, Shembaganur) and MDU-CEN Young Priests' Retreat with Fr Errol Fernandes as Director (13-21 May 2020 at JMJ Retreat Centre, Sirumalai) stand cancelled.

FORMEES' SUMMER PROGRAMME: The formees of both MDU and CEN Provinces were directed by Fr PCF to join the *LIFE LINE – in solidarity with....* online retreat. They are very well engaged and guided by spiritual directors in their respective places. At the end of the online retreat, they will stay wherever they are unless the government lifts the lockdown or does so may be temporarily only to impose it again. In any case, in order to minimize the travels of scholastics, those who find themselves in the northern part of Tamil Nadu will be accommodated at Dhyana Ashram, Chennai, and those who are in the south will be asked to stay at Beschi Illam, Dindigul. After the online retreat, if the lockdown is extended, it is planned to engage them in online courses supported by LIBA and other online training institutes. The first-year theologians are working on a suitable study package.

If there is abatement of the global crisis, things get better, and freedom of movement is restored, then we plan to have the Formation Meet as usual in May at SHC, Shembag, followed by a three-day triduum and renewal of vows for all the formees.

COVID-19 AND CEN-MDU JUBILARIANS' DAY: We do not know whether it is going to get better or get worse before getting better. Please stay tuned

and you will be told whether the Jubilarians' Day will be celebrated at Beschi, Dindigul, on 29 May 2020.

HEALTH UPDATE

Fr P. S Arul undergoes treatment for his back pain at Kottayam in a hospital run by Italian Sisters. Kindly continue to pray for his speedy recovery.

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK (PWPN)

Freedom from Addiction: In April 2020, we pray with Pope Francis that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

Arun Kumar T., a first year novice, left the Novitiate on 13.03.2020.

STATUS OF FATHERS 2020 TRANSFER LIST- II

NAME	FROM	TO
P Antony Anand S.	SUPAM	JESIM, Tindivanam
P Antony Markus	LC, Vettavalam	Tertianship, Shembag
P Arockia Alton S.	Maduralaya, Dindigul	Studies, LC, Chennai
P Arockia Selvam M.	SUPAM	Minister, Loyola Hr.Sec. School, Kuppayanallur
P Benedict Santosh V.	Sri Lanka	Tertianship, Shembag
P Lourduraj Arokiasamy	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Spiritual Father, Berchmans Illam
P Mag Bay De Lawrence A.	SUPAM	Social Centre, Harur
P Maria Augustine Sundarraj A.	AAC, Karumathur	LC, Chennai
P Maria Viyahappan Gladwin A.	SUPAM	Vocation Promoter, Harur
P Michael Panimaya Raj T.	SUPAM	Socius, Novitiate, Beschi Illam, Dindigul
P Michael Pugazhendhi A.	Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Tertianship, Sri Lanka
P Parthasarathi Narayanaswamy	SJC, Trichy	In charge of AICUF (CEN) and Director of AICUF House, Chennai
P Poondy Rajan Y.	Tertianship, Sri Lanka	Staff, LC, Mettala
P Rayappan Innasi	AHAL, Kilpennathur	Tertianship, Sitagarah
P Richard Hiruthayaraj John	LTI, Madurai	JESCOO, (SJC, Trichy)
P Sahayaraj Vijayan	Clive House, Trichy	Staff, LC, Chennai
P Sathyabalan Arockiasamy	DNC, Pune	Staff, Satya Nilayam, Chennai
P Savarimuthu Xavier	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Beschi, Dindigul (Rest)
P Swaminathan Krishnamurti	Novitiate, Beschi Illam, Dindigul	Common Juniorate, Trivandrum
P Vedanayagam Ignatius	Pondicherry	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
P Vino Selukas A.	SUPAM	Studies, Rome
P Xavier Rajan	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi	Arul Kadal, Chennai
P Wenishraj Rayappan	JESIM, Tindivanam	Ph.D. and Treasurer, Dhyana Ashram, Chennai

CONGRATULATIONS

Fr Joseph Ignaci (Igni), pronounced his Final Vows in the Society of Jesus in the presence of Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial, on 19 Mar in Christ the King Church, Loyola College, Chennai. While we congratulate Fr Igni for having become a full-fledged member of the Society of Jesus, we wish the unique graces he has received on this day to fill him with abundant joy that will overflow into all his services in future.



Ashram which attracted surprisingly 83 volunteers, out of which 47 could donate. Deo Gratias!

Jerry

CHENNAI : JMS



The Jesuit Migrants Service (JMS-Internal) celebrated 'International Women's Day Celebrations 2020' with Migrant and Tribal Women on 8 Mar and 14 Mar respectively. There were 160 migrant women and 130 tribal women from 20 different villages of Chennai, Thiruvallur, Kanchipuram and Chengalpet districts. A special medical camp was also arranged for all women by St. Thomas Hospital during the programme. One of the Chief Guests of the day Mr Sandeep S. Adhau, Advocate from Nagpur enlightened the gathering on rights. The intervention of Loyola Relief and Rehabilitation Service (LRRS), Loyola College, Chennai was highlighted in the women's success in getting basic amenities from local government.

William



NEWS DIGEST

CHENNAI : Dhyana Ashram

Dhanam movement had recently some special programmes promoting human donations : the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Conference organised a day-long schedule for the Provincials and Superiors of 65 Congregations, highlighting how we can be relevant to make the society healthier and happier by coming forward to make one or other of the possible 12 donations of ourselves, while living and also after death. Fr Jerry also addressed on 09 Mar the students of St. Joseph's College at Trichy, and also had a special session for the Women's Nirmala Community College at Chennai, specifically on what can be donated by only women. In the context of the dire need of blood during the COVID-19 outbreak, Fr Jerry quickly organised a special camp at Dhyana

CHENNAI : Loyola College

On 1 Feb, Loyola College of Education (LCE) organized the Annual Sports Meet. Mrs Pramila Ramachandran, the Chief Guest delivered an inspiring talk on, 'Hardwork never fails anyone and keeps moving'. On 10 and 11 Feb, LCE hosted the Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University (TNTEU) District level Cultural and Sports Meet-2020 for the first time. Fr Maria Wenisch and Fr Samuel Jeyaseelan were the Chief Guests for inaugural and concluding ceremonies respectively. LCE has created history by achieving triple championships - overall

championship both for men and for women and individual championship. So far, no other College of Education has achieved this unique distinction in Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University Sports Meet.



On 12 Feb, the first-year student-teachers in two groups were sent to two Special Schools namely Little Flower Convent Hr. Sec. School for the Blind and Little Flower Convent Hr. Sec. School for Deaf and Dumb. On 14 and 17 Feb, they visited two innovative Schools namely, The Indian Public School, Perungudi and Monfort Mat. Hr. Sec. School, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai. Student-teachers visited the classes and were inspired to become inspirational teachers possessing creativity.

The Women Cell of LCE organised a *Food Mela* for all the prospective teachers from 18 to 21 Feb. The purpose of this *Food Mela* was to train the prospective teachers in cooking, serving and selling skills. The proceeds will be spent on the Women's Day celebration. The IQAC Coordinator of LCE organised Placement training programme for the Second-year student-teachers that enabled them to face the interview with confidence. On 29 Feb, a one-day Retreat for the second year Christian students and God experience for Non-Christian students were effectively conducted by Fr Leo Anand and Fr Sahayaraj John Stanley respectively.



Prof CK Prahlad Centre for Emerging India conducted a START-UP MELA at LIBA for aspiring entrepreneurs on 2 Mar. One hundred and ten aspiring entrepreneurs attended the program. Thirty-three teams presented their Innovative Ideas of which twelve were selected for the final presentation. Three teams were adjudged the best and were awarded Rs. 50,000, Rs. 30,000 & Rs. 20,000 respectively.

The BMI session held on 11 Mar was graced by popular speaker Mr Mahadevan, Chairman of Cool Cream Milano Pvt. Ltd. Mr Mahadevan spoke about how he kick-started his career with his mother's blessings having a mere amount of Rs. 400 in his pocket. He shared his belief that the world needs more people who are willing to provide jobs rather than search for one. Being an entrepreneur requires two major assets he said-skill and luck. With around 34 years of experience in his field, he believes that innovation is the key to win in a new venture. Mr Mahadevan emphasized the mantra '*If I can do it, you can do it too*'.

Nineteen participants of LIBA's Executive Diploma in Healthcare Management (EDHM) were taken on a study tour to CMC Vellore from 5 to 7 Mar. The purpose was to enable participants to interact with managers of various hospital departments including Dietary Kitchen, Purchases, Pharmacy, Medical Records, etc. The participants also visited the new state-of-the-art campus specializing in trauma care. Many classroom concepts on Healthcare Management came alive during the trip for the EDHM participants.

NBA Accreditation: *LIBA has been successfully accredited by NBA for another three years.*

Thomas Alwa Edison

HARUR: Arulagam

One day retreat for the Catholic students was conducted in our School by three novices from Beschi, Dindigul along with a staff, Dr Andrews, of our School. The Women's Day was marked with a special procession which was inaugurated by Most Rev Dr Lawrence Pius, the Bishop of Dharmapuri. The procession started from St. Anne's Primary School and ended at the church. During

the procession people enthusiastically participated holding up placards depicting the plight of women in society and promoting their dignity. Our Bishop then celebrated a meaningful Mass followed by a cultural programme geared to create awareness, and delicious lunch for all.



It was a collaborative venture along with the Diocesan women's commission and our Parish. On the third Friday of the Lenten Season, the Way of the Cross was meaningfully led by Most Rev Dr Lawrence Pius. On 15 Mar, a special prayer service and a motivational talk helped X std students from the evening study centres to face board exams confidently. Exam materials were distributed to them. Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, Provincial, had his first official visitation to our Schools, Skill Development Centre and Community on 17 and 18, Mar. The newly built *Loyola Arangam* at St. Mary's Higher Secondary School and 10 newly built toilets at girls' hostel were blessed and opened by him.

Anto S A

KASTHAMBADI: JMMEx

On 3 Mar, JMMEx team met the Collector of Thiruvannamalai and handed over the detailed survey of overseas migrants and the interventions on Thiruvannamalai district, collected by JMMEx during the last 5 years. We made an appeal to pay heed to cries of vulnerable migrants in the rural villages of Thiruvannamalai.

JMMEx extends its collaboration with other NGOs, working for overseas migrants in Tamil Nadu to specifically identify cases of rescued migrants in the recent years and conduct a press meet in June

2020. Three migrants of Thiruvannamalai district, recently rescued by JMMEx, participated in the press meet organized by NDWM in Chennai on 6 Mar and reported the struggles they underwent in the destination countries.



We thank all the Staff of JMMEx, who generously contributed to the successful conduct of MAXI ACADEMY at the Pre-Novitiate, Kasthambadi.

Velz

KILPENNATHUR: AHAL

On 01 Mar, AHAL Team organized '*Zero Discrimination Day*' which is one of our Community Apostolic plans. Article 14 of the Constitution emphasizes no discrimination. That is to say no one is to be treated unfairly or differently or denied one's rights, because of gender, age, race, religion or beliefs, sexual orientation, disability or anything else. Mr Ilankovan, State Treasurer of Aadhi Tamil Party and Mr Karuppaiah, State Secretary General of Dalit Liberation Movement gave awareness on gender equality that is to be instilled in the minds of the young generation.



AHAL Team coordinated Women's Rights Day on 08 Mar. Around 550 women from fifty villages,

leaders of *'Arunthathiyar Makkal Nala Sangam'*, Animators and Cadres took part in this mega event held at AHAL. Mrs Packialakshmi, State Secretary of the All India Democratic Women Association, motivated the gathering by extending their mission to educate girl children. Mr Karuppaiah, State Secretary General of Dalit Liberation Movement, spoke about Women's Rights and encouraged them to make a bright future. Over all, the celebration gave a platform to raise their voices against all the injustices done to women especially Dalit women. Finally, the women engaged the crowd with their scintillating cultural performances which depicted the importance of Women Empowerment cum Education.

MS Amalraj

KUPPAYANALLUR: Loyola Institutes

On 5 Mar, we had women's day celebration which was solely organized and performed by our School girls. Founder and Chief Functionary of OfERR, Mr S.C. Chandrahasan chaired the programme and inaugurated the Solar Power Plant that was sponsored by HCL through, OfERR. Fr Sales and a team of teachers began their canvassing in and around Uthiramerur to increase admission to our School.



Unfortunately, the canvassing is temporarily suspended due to nationwide curfew. On 8 and 15 Mar, our JMAADD's resource team reached out to Manampathy and Palliagaram parishes to give Alcoholism Awareness Programme to the villagers. Ms Hannah, our German Volunteer, was asked to end her service and was called back to Germany immediately by the programme coordinator due

to Corona pandemic. So, she left for Germany and reached home safely on 20 Mar. We gratefully remember her for her presence and service. As a community we had a special half day adoration on 26 Mar to pray for the victims of Corona pandemic and for the speedy recovery of the Corona affected patients.

Bosco

METTALA: Loyola College



Loyola Hostels, had their hostel day on 7 Mar with its customary exhilaration. Dr Chandramohan, a well-known social activist from Salem, was the Chief Guest. *'Right to live'* was the theme for that evening's meaningful entertainment.

Dominic Jeyakumar

TINDIVANAM: JESIM

The JESIM staff had three days of training on Cadre formation at AHAL from 25 to 27 Feb, which was very informative and gave a wide knowledge about saving the environment and forming people to save our Mother Earth. It was a blessing to have our PCF, Fr Stephen Lourdu Pragasam, as he made his annual visit to JESIM on 1 Mar.

For the first time, we planned to have women's day celebration in our contact villages in two phases. Thus, JESIM organized *Women's Day* celebration at Illodu, a contact village of JESIM on 10 Mar. Mrs Malarvizhi, the Revenue Inspector of Olakkur was the Chief Guest of this celebration. She shared the struggles she faced and the success she achieved as a woman. 223 women from 5 Self-Help Groups, children and men participated in this celebration.



The second phase of celebration was organized at Saravanapuram on 15 Mar. Mr N Aravazhi, the BDO of Gingee block, presided over the function and spoke to the women about education being a powerful means to swim against the current of injustice and inequality. Mr M Vimal, the VAO of Sittampoondi and the Chief Guest of this celebration appealed to the women to know their right to defend themselves and beware of the crimes against women. 187 women from 5 Self-Help Groups and other Irular men, women and children participated and 12 cluster level Facilitators were invited as honorary guests for this function. **Women's Day Celebrations** commenced with an awareness rally on both days.

The JESIM staff enjoyed a fun filled and memorable trip to Yercaud on 11 Mar. The trip aimed not only at having relaxation but also at building up team spirit among the staff members and the Jesuits.

Vigash Lawrence

VADAMELPAKKAM: Loyola Academy

Loyola Academy celebrated its 9th Graduation Day for the Upper Kindergarten children on forenoon of 28 Feb. Around 60 students received their graduation diplomas from Ms Majella Philip, Principal, Babaji Vidhyashram, Shollinganallur. Ms Majella delivered the graduation address and gave some useful tips to parents and teachers. She admired the discipline and organizing skills of the Jesuit institution. The kindergarten children immaculately dressed, smartly delivered the welcome speech and the vote of thanks. On the same day after noon, we had the Grand Finale of the Extra Curricular Activities (ECA). The Chief Guest of the programme was Mr Sai Sekar, Film director and Best Awareness Film

awardee. Students showcased their extraordinary talents in Karate, Yoga, Silambam, Parai, Abacus, Keyboard, western and classical dance and Band. The fantabulous performance of the students was really a feast to the eyes. Students who were in arts and crafts, glass painting and embroidery groups exhibited their artefacts, on the corridors on both sides. Chief Guest complimented our curriculum saying that it was not a school but a university, as the children learn something beyond their books.

As a part of our campus ministry, we conducted one day retreat for the staff and the students. Fr A Irudaya Raj, Vis com Dept, Loyola College conducted retreat for the Christian staff members and Ms Christina, Counsellor, Loyola College, Chennai accompanied the Non-Christian staff members in a session geared to self-discovery leading to greater self-confidence. The students were divided into three groups and they were engaged by Schs Fazil, Donic and Francis from Satya Nilayam. It was indeed a fruitful day for all with God and self.



We began our terminal examinations on 9 Mar and completed them on 15 Mar for classes one to nine. The answer papers were evaluated and the promotion list was prepared and published by our Principal on 21 Mar. By the grace of God, we comfortably completed our academic year before the Janata Curfew was clamped.

Frankly

VALLAM: Paathai

On 2 Feb, IACM-Paathai Evening Study Centers and DHRC had organized Teachers Day to appreciate the volunteering spirit of the Animators and the Staff. The participants expressed that Evening Study Centers are helping the poor students very much

to excel in their academics and prepare for future leadership roles.



On 16 Feb, Paathai Hostel invited its alumnae for a gathering. They shared their memories and experiences, which motivated them to strive for a better future for themselves and society. A special workshop was organized for the District Animators along with the Movement Leaders to prepare them for various Educational Camps in the districts.

David Francis

VETTAVALAM: Loyola College



In the month of February and March, a team of Professors headed by Fr Albert William canvassed in 35 Higher Secondary Schools and 3 Arts and Science Colleges to attract more students for admission in Loyola College, Vettavalam, in the forthcoming academic year. On 27 Feb, Fr Antony Markus, Dept. of BBA delivered a lecture on *'Encountering MC Gregor's Theory of X and Theory of Y'* at St. Joseph's College of Arts and Science (Autonomous), Cuddalore. On 29 Feb, Loyola College celebrated 7th College Day with Mr Kandasamy, IAS, Collector of Thiruvannamalai district as the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasized the important need

for the youth to develop self-confidence and work hard to face manifold challenges of life today. Dr Ku. Chinnappan, Registrar, Tamil University, Tanjore, was the Guest of Honour. Citing a number of historical personalities, he motivated the students to set high goal and achieve it through hard work. He released the College Magazine 2018-'19 and distributed certificates and medals to the best outgoing students and academic prize winners. On 6 Mar, we celebrated the International Women's Day to which Dr Uma Devi, the budding lyricist in Tamil feature films, was invited as the Chief Guest.

For the first time, Loyola Men's Hostel and Loyola Women's Hostel jointly celebrated their 5th Hostel Day on 7 Mar. Dr Karunkuyil James, emerging play back singer, was the Chief Guest. He captivated the audience by his pertinent and meaningful message and through his melodious and mellifluous singing. Both the girl and boy students won the appreciation of the spectators for their scintillating cultural performances. We thank Fr A Selvaraj and Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam, the Directors of Loyola Women's Hostel and Men's Hostel respectively for being the chief architects of this program. On 8 Mar, Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, Provincial, blessed the newly built rooms, five in number on the first floor of Loyola Men's Hostel. Thanks to the strenuous efforts of Fr A Selvaraj and Fr Albert William. On 13 Mar, a *Mega Job Fair* was conducted here in which 33 companies from different parts of Tamil Nadu participated. They interviewed 635 aspirants seeking attractive and lucrative jobs. Among them, 305 were from Loyola College, Vettavalam and 330 students were from other colleges. For the first time, this *Mega Job Fair* was jointly organized by Thiruvalluvar University, Don Bosco Vazhikatti Maiyam, Chennai and Loyola College, Vettavalam.

On 14 Mar, the annual retreat for the academic and administrative staff was organized at Periyannayagi Madha Shrine, Konankuppam. Fr George Vincent, ALCP/HSS, and his team from Chengalpet preached a one-day inspiring charismatic retreat on the theme *'Carrying the Cross with Jesus'*. Thanks to Dr Pavithra and Dr Vijayakumar from the Primary Health Centre, Vettavalam, who conducted awareness sessions on COVID-19 and advised the students to take various

preventive measures for protecting themselves from the dreadful Coronavirus infection.

Maria Joseph Mahalingam

FORMATION

KASTHAMBADI: JPLI

On 8 Mar, JPLI celebrated the Maxi Academy 2020. The Pre-novices staged a faith intensifying play **'A GOOD FRIDAY FOR AN EASTER SUNDAY'** - a vivid portrayal of St. Oscar Romero. The Chief Guest, Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, Provincial, commended the community for the excellent programme. Indeed, it was a festival crowd to have about 400 men and women both religious and lay, to witness this Mega Event. It was a blessing and source of inspiration for the JPLI community to have with us Fr Provincial on 9 Mar as he made his visitation.



On 10 Mar, we made our Pilgrimage to Vailankanni to express gratitude to our Mother for all the blessings received throughout the year. On the following day, we made our memorable trip to Pichavaram Mangrove Forest and Pondichery Beach. A two-day course on *Media Awareness* for the Pre-novices was given by Fr Philip on 16 & 17 Mar. It helped them to analyze the media and to understand how it works and how they could use it more effectively for mission.

Velanganni

BESCHI: Novitiate

Thanks to support, generosity and hospitality of the Jesuits in Kodai Hills, on 1, 7 and 8 Mar, our

12 first-year novices visited Sahayapuram, Paalamalai and Savarikkadu in Kodai Hills and gave an hour-long cultural programme highlighting the current socio-political problems in India. After successful completion of pastoral and hospital/hospice experiments, our novices returned to Beschi Illam on 12 Mar. Fr Mariyadass, the would-be Novice Master of Sri Lankan Province visited our novitiate from March 15 to 19, to get an experiential knowledge of our Novitiate Community. On 18 Mar, Sr Smita, PDDM, gave an awareness talk to the novices on the prevention of COVID-19. On 19 Mar, we celebrated the feast of St Joseph. Fr Selva, Editor of *Thoothan*, as Main Celebrant, captivated the congregation with his inspiring homily highlighting how to discern and decide like St. Joseph at crucial situations. On 25 Mar, united in spirit with Pope Francis, the Novitiate Community recited the Lord's Prayer seeking deliverance from the menace of SARS-CoV-2. On 26 Mar, some of the domestic workers in Beschi Illam were asked to stay home, and instead, our novices were asked to take up responsibilities in the house, dairy farm, and in caring for our senior Jesuits in Arrupe Bhavan.

Swaminathan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Vidyaniketan

On 29 Feb, we had monthly recollection and confessions which gave us spiritual nourishment to prepare for all our upcoming activities in the Lenten season. On 10 Mar, we wrote Assistancy Proficiency in English exam. On 14 Mar, we joined with the scholastics from Telugu states to celebrate the *Ugadi* Telugu New Year's Day. To mark the day, we played Kabadi and experienced unity in diversity among all linguistic groups in India. From 18 to 20 Mar, we had three-days of Psycho-Spiritual Integration course by Fr Sunny Kunnapallil. He spoke to us about human awareness and our sustenance for spiritual life. At the moment, we are busy preparing for the annual exams.

Kiran Joseph

CHENNAI: Arul Kadal

On 8 Mar, Arul Kadal organized a one-day Lonergan Seminar on the theme '*Youth and Their Political Involvement*' for the youth of fifteen Parishes where the AK Scholastics go for their weekend ministry. Around 120 youth participated and benefited from it. Arul Kadal in a special way owes a great debt of gratitude to Fr L Yesumarian and his community for having helped us to conduct the seminar fruitfully at Paathai.



On 18 Mar, Arul Kadal had the solidarity lenten visit to the elders and the suffering in Karunalaya run by MC Brothers in Little Mount. We were also happy to meet their General. On 25 Mar, we had a Thanksgiving Eucharist at the tomb of Fr Ignatius Irudayam, the founder of Aikiya Alayam and a pioneer in interreligious dialogue on his 25th death anniversary and thanked God for him.

AK Scholastics prepared the homilies for the season of Lent, under the guidance of Fr Baskar, as part of his course on Homiletics for telecasting in Arputhar Yesu TV. They are also available now on YouTube. It is very encouraging to see a lot of likes for our homilies. As part of the course on Mariology, we had a field visit to Thenpakkam to know more about the Marian devotion to *Oonjal Matha*. Special thanks goes to Fr Philip for having arranged such a fruitful field visit and for having hosted us at Paramankeni. Kudos to Fr Baskar Antony for all his creative initiatives. The six VJ Scholastics returned to AK safely on 21 Mar and they have been properly quarantined before they join the mainstream of AK community.

Lenin

NEWS FROM OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE



Greetings from Sri Lanka.

It is almost two years since I came to Sri Lanka. When I look back, I am very proud of my experiences and feel very grateful to God for having given me a wonderful opportunity to serve the war affected people. My two main missions in Sri Lanka were to teach in the Jesuit Worldwide Learning Center (JWL) and to assist the director of Pre-Novices in Trincomalee, a port city, where three ethnic communities live in peace and harmony.

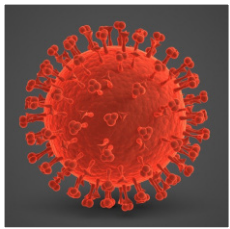
During the day, I spend four hours with JWL students handling English classes. After two years, I feel that I've been able to help enhance the English skills of my students who come from different backgrounds. Most of them are first generation learners since their parents lost the opportunity to study due to the civil war. My students are very joyful and happy, in spite of their hard lives and nagging fear and anxiety about the future. Their future is bleak because of the imposition of unexpected and unfair rules and schemes, that are aimed at depriving the Tamil society as a whole and the Tamil students in particular, of the opportunity to compete with others and excel in their studies. I have learnt from my students to enjoy life as it comes and not to worry too much about the future even amidst fears and problems. I am really grateful to them for having taught me many values for my religious life. As I am at the end of my regency, my heart is filled with joy for having served the needy. I am grateful to Frs Robert, Lazar and Alexis Prem who guided me in many ways.

Living in this community has sustained and fostered

my communion with God. I am going to carry in my heart all these positive experiences as I go back to my newly born Province of the Society.

Zenith Lawrence

IS THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE PANDEMIC?



Be aware and prepare yourself, but don't panic!

MICROBES or microorganisms are tiny living things found all around us and cannot be seen by the naked eyes. Human body

is a Home of Billions of microbes namely bacteria, fungi, protozoan and viruses. Many microbes are vital and essential for human health. However, some bacteria and viruses cause harmful effects on the health of human beings.

VIRUS is smaller than bacteria. The largest virus is smaller than the smallest bacterium. Viruses need other living organisms for their survival and multiplication. CORONAVIRUS is a family of viruses that infect human, cat, rat, camel, bat, dog and birds causing respiratory and gastrointestinal diseases. They cause illness starting from common cold to more severe diseases such as, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) & the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). However, the present infection worldwide is due to a novel coronavirus transmitted human-human. Currently Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) called as a novel virus causes Coronavirus Disease 2019 known as COVID-19. This virus was initially transmitted from bats / pangolins to human in China. COVID-19 causes the respiratory tract disease in people. Be aware, but do not panic. Each one needs to prepare oneself to overcome the coronavirus infection. COVID-19 is pandemic which means the worldwide spread of a new disease.

IMPACT OF COVID-19: As on April 02, 2020, there are 9,36,958 coronavirus cases (1,94,665 recovered & 47,264 deaths) at global level. In India there are

1,649 coronavirus cases (143 recovered & 41 deaths). There are 234 confirmed cases (6 recovered & 1 death) in Tamil Nadu.

SYMPTOMS: The symptoms of COVID-19 may start with mild, then to moderate and severe illness. From onset to clinical recovery for mild cases 2-3 weeks, but 4-6 weeks for severe cases. Some of the common symptoms are: Dry cough, High fever, Sore throat, Difficulty in breathing, Headache and Fatigue.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS: You should contact your family doctor immediately and share your symptoms over phone. Currently the only way to be tested for COVID-19 is to use national or state helpline numbers. Helplines: 1075 / 1800-112-545 / 011-23978046 (National); 044-29510500 (Tamil Nadu) and 104 (Puducherry).

PREVENTION: While the Covid-19 spreads through cough, sneeze, personal contact, contaminated objects and mass gathering, the best ways to protect yourself and others are as follows: **1.** Wash your hands often for 20 seconds with water/soap/sanitizer (60% alcohol); **2.** Drink water/liquid every 30 minutes; **3.** Avoid contact with sick people; **4.** Always cover when you cough or sneeze; **5.** Stay home and self-isolate yourself; **6.** Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth with uncleaned hands; and **7.** Eat nutritious food.

TREATMENT: Currently there is no specific drug for curing the confirmed COVID-19 patients. In India, the guidelines of Union Health Ministry have recommended the use of anti-HIV drug combinations viz. Lopinavir and Ritonavir.

CRY OF THE WORLD - A PROACTIVE RESPONSE:

As we know very well, the entire human community is seriously challenged by coronavirus. The poor, migrants, street children, refugees, beggars, differently-abled and elders who are the most vulnerable of COVID-19 are suffering a lot every minute as our crucified Lord Jesus suffers. With innovative strategies, let us all collectively and individually get involved fully in rebuilding the healthy life of our people.

Maria Packiam

POPE'S HOLY WEEK MESSAGE

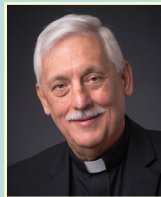


'Creativity of love can overcome isolation'

Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous; let us help those in need in our neighbourhood; let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks; let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty in Italy and in the world. Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today: the creativity of love. This is what is needed today: **the creativity of love.**

FR GENERAL - COVID-19: DISCERNING A PATH TO GOD (24 MAR, 2020)

The current experience of COVID-19 is showing us many things about ourselves and our world. In particular, I want to focus on how it is lighting up various aspects of our path to God and how, even in difficult times, there is consolation to be found.



First of all, it is showing us that we are one humanity. Every human being, every people, each culture that contributes to human diversity is part of this one, varied, rich and interdependent humanity.

It is showing us how overcoming a crisis is possible. It is possible when we become aware of the importance of looking after the Common Good and taking seriously our own individual responsibility.

It is showing us that there is no difference in age, race, religion or social status within our one humanity. Each and every one of us is part of it, no one is left out, no one of us can do without the others.

It is showing us that we want to walk together. We are all concerned, we help each other to overcome fears and anxieties.

It is showing us the competence and generosity of those who are in the front line, caring for those affected. It is showing us the sensitivity of so many

people or organizations and the enormous reserve of solidarity that exists.

It is showing us the power of faith, the strong bonds that unite believers, the love of Jesus Christ that impels us, reconciles us and unites us.

I have been receiving information about the many creative initiatives that have been taken both in the provinces, regions, communities and apostolic works of the Society of Jesus... as well as in collaboration with others. I thank the Lord for all of this. I encourage you to continue looking for the best ways to be close to those in need, in order to continue to walk the common path together.

I join in the prayer of the whole body of the Society of Jesus, of the Catholic Church, of all Christian Churches, of other religions or beliefs and of all those who, with their attitude of solidarity, are looking for and are finding appropriate ways to continue to lend a hand.

We do not know how long this stretch of the road is or what will follow after. So, let us ask for light to see the way forward...

May the Lord bless us and keep us as we walk this journey together. AMEN

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr Dominic Muthedath (85/63 PAT) passed away on 20.03.2020 at Patna.

Fr Valentine De Souza (92/74 GUJ) passed away on 06.04. 2020 at Vadodara, Gujarat.

Fr Jose Javier Aizpun (90/72 GUJ > ARU) passed away on 10.04.2020 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He belonged to GUJ and was later transcribed to ARU.

Mrs Mariapushpam (85), sister-in-law of BrIrudasamy Sebastian, passed away on 26.03.2020 at Sathoor.

Mr Jayaraj (78), brother-in-law of Br. Santiago Arockiam, passed away on 28.03.2020 at Dindigul.

Mrs Mariammal (95) maternal grandmother of Fr. Richard Hiruthayaraj on 03.04.2020 at Udthagamandalam.

Mr Raphael (66) elder brother of Fr Yagoo Y. Sandanam, passed away on 06.04.2020 at Chennai.

KNOW YOUR PROVINCE

Right from the beginning of the Jesuit presence in India, especially in Tamilnadu, and in particular in the Chennai Province area, the Jesuits took up the ministries for the economically and socially marginalized people. In a caste-ridden land, the Jesuits ventured upon moulding the people. It has been and it is even today, a Himalayan struggle to face discrimination, exploitation, and marginalization – One concrete step to address this social evil has been the dream of our forefathers to create mission area in order to empower the people of God. The Chennai Province has its focus on the liberation and empowerment primarily of the Dalits and the other marginalized people

YEARS	MILESTONES
From the Arrival of St. Francis Xavier Till the Society's Suppression	
1542	Arrival of St. Francis Xavier in the Fishery Coast. In 1545, he spent four months at San Thome <i>"in almost continual prayer, severe penances and long vigils"</i> to discern the will of God and decided to proceed to Moluccas.
1547	Fr Alfonso Cyprian, sent at the request of the local people by St. Francis Xavier, lived and died at San Thome in 1559 in the present-day Dhyana Ashram campus. Several early Fishery Coast Jesuits and Old Madurai Mission Jesuits lived in "San Thome College" .
1601	Malabar Mission detached from Province of the East Indies in Goa and made into a Vice-Province, and the following year into a completely distinct Province.
1648-1656	De Nobili lived and worked in Mylapore till his death.
1623-1688	Good news announced and other centres founded (Tiruchirapalli, Salem/Dharmapuri (Moramangalam, Chellamangalam), Erode, Karur, Coimbatore (Sathyamangalam)
1674-1689	St. John De Britto visited Dharmapuri and went all over the Kingdom of Gingee. He visited Pondicherry several times and persuaded his friend François Martin, the first Governor General of Pondicherry, and the French Jesuits who had returned in 1689 from Thailand to start the Carnatic Mission.
1702	With Pondicherry as HQ, the Carnatic Mission would cover the Tamil area north of Palar River and the Telugu country and beyond. Work of Carnatic Mission began in Uthiramerur (Kancheepuram) area. Many Jesuits who worked in this Mission were buried at the Cathedral of Pondicherry Diocese.
1711-1747	Fr Joseph Constantius Beschi (Veeramamuniver) reached India in 1711 and worked till his death in 1747. During the first six years, he worked as a missionary in Elakurichy. He worked in the Thanjavur area till 1738 and settled in 1740 on the Coromandel coast where he remained till the end of his life. He helped build the Poondi Madha Basilica at Poondi near Thanjavur, Vyagula Madha Church at Thanjavur, The Perianayagi Madha Shrine, Konankuppam and Adaikala Madha Shrine at Elakurichi. These churches are now Catholic pilgrim centres. His biggest poetical work is the Thembavani and his contribution to the Tamil Literature is much appreciated by Tamil Scholars.

After Restoration...in 1814	
1925	After a long absence of Jesuit presence in Chennai in 1925 Loyola College was started by Fr Francis Bertram and his companions.
After GC 32, Madurai Province/ (Chennai Province) focused its option: Together Towards Tomorrow (1979) Towards Liberation together with the Poor (1984) Towards Liberation together with Dalits (1987)	
From 1975	<p>The following Jesuits worked in different parishes of the northern part of Tamil Nadu: Frs George Joseph, S M Selvaraj, R S Amalraj, Mark Stephen, Jerry Rosario, George C Joseph – around Uthiramerur, in the Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore (now Chengalpattu diocese). Uthiramerur is the place where once St. John de Britto and Frs Maxmilien de Courbeville and Pierre Mauduit worked. The cemeteries of the latter two (1711) are at Karuveppampoondi near Uthiramerur and the inaugural Mass of the Silver Jubilee of Chennai Mission was celebrated in the year 2015 at these cemeteries.</p> <p>Frs Eronimus, V M Joseph, V S Raju, D F Savari-in Ranipet and Therasapuram, in the Diocese of Vellore.</p> <p>Frs M D John, G Ignacy – in Tindivanam, in the Formation House of the Sisters of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, which is in the Archdiocese of Pondicherry-Cuddalore.</p>
1989	<p>Archbishop G Casimir, S.J., invited the Jesuits of Madurai Province to take up a cluster of parishes in his Archdiocese around Uthiramerur, (it was in Chengai Anna District then) to develop the area as a Jesuit Mission.</p> <p>Chengai Mission commission was formed:</p> <p>Fr Aloysius Irudayam, the then Provincial, constituted “Chengai Mission Commission”. Fr L Yesumarian was appointed as its Convenor and the members were Frs Mark Stephen, Elias, and K Amal.</p>
1990	<p>Chengai Mission Commission report was taken up in the Province Congregation. It was approved by the Congregation and at the same time the A postulate was passed for Chengai dependent region.</p> <p>The Chengai Mission was informally inaugurated in June 1990. Under the leadership of Fr L Yesumarian, a team of Jesuits was sent to the Jesuit Chengai Mission.</p> <p>Placement:</p> <p>Ongur : Fr Joseph Michael - Pastor, Preparing to start Educational Institutions; Malligapuram : Fr A Augustine and Fr Titus - Pastor, Preparing to start a Technical Institute; Palliagaram: Fr I Arul - Pastor and Mission Treasurer; Sch/Fr Dhanapalan (now-Zambia), in charge of Educational Programme; Vedanthangal / Pappanallur: Fr Sagaya Selvan - Pastor; Therasapuram: Fr D F Savari - Pastor; Chengalpattu: L Yesumarian - Team Leader; Legal ministry; involvement and collaboration with Dalit Movements especially Dalit Christian Movements</p>
1990	The first educational institution in Chengai Mission was Loyola Remedial School. It was inaugurated at Palliagaram in July 1990 by Fr James Rodrigues, the Rector of Loyola College, (Madras) Chennai.

L Yesumarian
(to be continued...)