



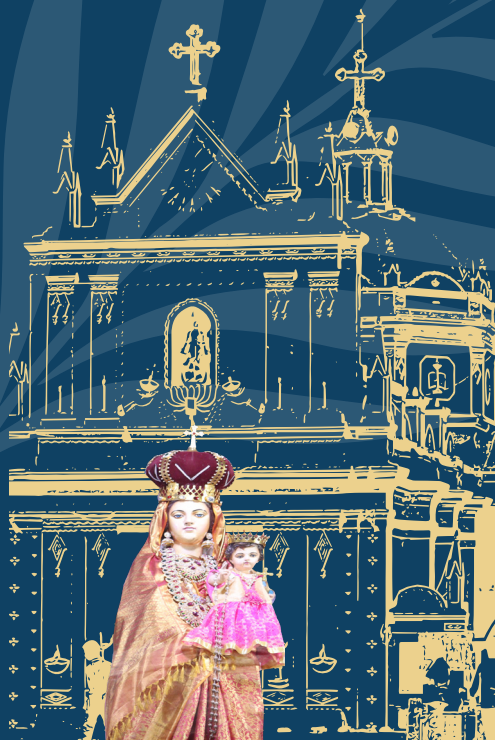
JESUIT

CHENNAI PROVINCE



Our Lady of the Way

NEWSLETTER



PERIYANAYAGI MADHA, KONANKUPPAM



SEASON OF LENT
SEASON OF RECONCILIATION

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE



The continuation of the sermon given by Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj on the second day of the Province Assembly (29 Dec '19) at Loyola College, Chennai. This is his first homily as the first Provincial of the newly established Jesuit Chennai Province.

There are so many people belonging to this holy family of Jesuits who soiled their hands to make this day blossom forth and pack it with pleasant aroma of love and fidelity. They are unknown to all of us. May be, someone in a corner of Chengelpet or Kuppayanallur or Kilpennathur or a person in a hut in Makkampalayam or Tindivanam or any other place, but each one has shared in the success of this history.

I gratefully remember the former Chennai Mission Coordinators, Chennai Mission Animators, Mission Treasurers, Mission Superiors, all the Provincials of Madurai Province and Jesuits who worked in Chennai Mission area in building up the Mission from the beginning till now. I also remember our lay collaborators, co-workers, benefactors, the Jesuit Volunteers from Europe and their coordinators Mary and Turgay who are present here, and thank them from the bottom of my heart for their constant support, labour and collaboration in building the Chennai Province. I express my sincere thanks to all of you for making our long-cherished expectation a reality, the new Jesuit Chennai Province.

The 2nd Expectation is the 'Expectation to be united in belonging and building'

The 'Venice Model' of our Founder St. Ignatius and his first companions is another expectation cherished by me, to be practiced by us in our owning and building the mission of the new Province, and to be united in our life. For being rooted in a discerning community, life and mission were profoundly inter-related for the first companions. They shared their lives together as friends in the Lord, lived very close to the lives of the poor, and preached the Gospel with joy, tending the sick and helping the poor (GC 36, D. 1, Nos. 4 & 5) - in other words: *caring for the souls!*

These signs impel us to respond with Ignatian generosity to the mission of reconciliation with God, with one another and with creation. "The task of reconciliation is always a work of justice, a justice discerned and enacted in local communities and contexts" (GC 36, D. 1, N.21).

It is our duty to ensure that our Jesuit identity must take precedence over other identities and personal interests. Why do the Jesuits, who shine as individuals, fail

to collectively display their united strength? How do you explain their lack of professionalism? These are questions asked by our friends and collaborators.

We all belong to the Society of Jesus, the Jesuit family. Her doctrines, policies and option are ours. Our Vows affirm our fidelity to God the Father. We need to do the will of God. First of all, we need to become loyal to the Society of Jesus. In this critical historical juncture of our country, of our state, we are here to imitate Jesus in order to be part of liberating our target people through our committed involvement. We need to belong to one another and we need to build up our mission.

Our personal life and our community life need to be premised on the Ignatian Discernment through Spiritual Conversation. Ongoing spiritual formation and faith-sharing are its twin complements. When we leave this place, we go home with greater sense of belonging to each other in order to serve. **மகிழ்வோம்! பணியில் ஒன்றிவோம்!** is the second *Expectation* we need to translate into action, following the spirit of our first companions, as members belonging to this great Jesuit family.

(To be continued)

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

MARCH 2020

- 07** Vocation Facilitators' Meet: Dhyana Ashram
- 08-10** Visitation: Kasthambadi
- 12-13** Visitation: Dhyana Ashram
- 13** Eve: College Day, LC, Chennai
- 17-18** Visitation: Harur
- 18** Eve: College Day, LC, Mettala
- 19** Final Vows of Fr Joseph Ignaci G (Igñi), LC, Chennai
- 20-25** Visitation: Loyola College, Social Watch, JMS (Internal), Chennai
- 26** Visitation: Berchmans Illam

27-28 Visitation: Ranipet

30-31 Visitations: Arul Kadal

APRIL 2020

01-03 Visitation: AHAL and JESIM

06 GBM - LIBA, Chennai

06-08 Province (CEN) Consult, Chennai

17-18 Visitation: Makkampalayam

19 Visitation: Mettupalayam

20-22 Visitation: Ooty

30 First Vows of OSM Novices, Dindigul



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Appointments by Fr General

- **Fr Ilanko Xavier** (53) has been appointed as the first Socius to the Provincial of Chennai.
- **Fr Rigobert Kyungu Musenge** (52) has been appointed as the Provincial of Central Africa.
- **Fr Luis Gerardo Moro Madrid** (48) has been appointed as the Provincial of Mexico.

Health Update

Fr P. S Arul has been suffering from complications arising from varicose vein affecting his spinal cord, from January onwards. After having undergone treatment in Preethi Hospital and Meenatchi Hospital, Madurai, he is now at Beschi Illam convalescing. Kindly pray for his speedy recovery.

Seminar

Topic: Emotional Hygiene
Date: 28 Apr (eve) to 30 Apr (eve) 2020
Place: Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
Resource Person: Fr Joe Kokkandathi SDB
Contact: Fr Arul Sivan
+91 94439-27138
arulsivan1950@gmail.com)

Final Vows

NAME	DATE & TIME	PLACE
Fr Joseph Ignaci G (Igni)	19 March 2020 at 6.30 pm	Christ the King Church, Loyola College, Chennai
Fr Amalraj Amirtha Nathan (MDU)	25 March 2020 (Forenoon)	St. Arulanandar Shrine, Oriyur
Fr Leolin Arockia Dass A (MDU)	18 April 2020 (Forenoon)	St. Joseph's, Tiruchi

Let us keep them in our prayers and wish them fruitful and joyful life and ministry as full-fledged Jesuits.

Additional E-mail addresses

PLACE	DESIGNATION	NEW ADDRESS
Makkampalayam	Director, PARAN	dir.paran@censj.org
Makkampalayam	Parish Priest	pp.makkampalayam@censj.org
Thirumanur	Parish Priest	pp.thirumanur@censj.org
Kuppayanallur	Parish Priest	pp.kuppayanallur@censj.org
Kilpennathur	Parish Priest	pp.kilpennathur@censj.org
Porulur	Parish Priest	pp.porulur@censj.org
Harur	Parish Priest	pp.harur@censj.org

Kindly start using the CEN official mail addresses for all your official communications to CEN houses and officials.

FORMEES' TRANSFER LIST-I

NAME	FROM JUNIORATE	TO UG STUDIES
Dhanaventhara Nazareth Raj	Kolkata Juniorate	B.Sc. Chemistry, BI, Chennai
Jeyasachin Jeyaseelan	Kolkata Juniorate	B.Sc. Maths, Loyola, Vettavalam
Titus Gnanaprakasam	Hazaribagh Juniorate	B.A. Sociology, BI, Chennai
Yowan Cyril L.	Kolkata Juniorate	B.Sc. Botany, CH, Tiruchi
	FROM UG STUDIES	TO PHILOSOPHY
Anthony Rex Kumar A.	AAC, Karumathur	SN, Chennai
Samroy Terrence G.	CH, Tiruchi	DNC, Pune
	FROM JUNIORATE	TO PHILOSOPHY
Kiran Joseph P.	Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum	DNC, Pune
	FROM JUNIORATE	TO REGENCY
Prithivi Kumar A.	Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum	LIS, Ranipet
Michael Lourdu Noyal M. (MDU)	Vidyaniketan, Trivandrum	Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur
	FROM PHILOSOPHY	TO REGENCY
Arokia Sundar M.	DNC, Pune	SJIS, Ooty
Hansel Arokiasamy	DNC, Pune	JPLI, Kasthampadi
Tony Ajith A. (MDU)	SN, Chennai	SMHSS, Harur
	FROM REGENCY	TO REGENCY
Michael Sudherson M.	De Britto, Devakottai	JESIM, Tindivanam

Raja Jesu Raj	SJIS, Ooty	AHAL, Kilpennathur
	FROM REGENCY	TO PG STUDIES
Zenith Lawrence M.	JWL, Sri Lanka	M.A., English, Loyola, Chennai
	FROM REGENCY	TO THEOLOGY-YEAR I
Udaya Prakash R.	LIS, Ranipet	Arul Kadal, Chennai
	FROM PG STUDIES	TO THEOLOGY-YEAR I
Gopi Santhosam	SJC, Tiruchi	Arul Kadal, Chennai
John Vimal Felix J.	Loyola, Chennai	Arul Kadal, Chennai
	FROM REGENCY	TO THEOLOGY-YEAR III
Manickam Perianayagaraj S.	JRS, Dindigul	VJ, New Delhi
	FROM THEOLOGY-YEAR II	TO THEOLOGY-YEAR III
Jayaraj Selvaraj	Arul Kadal, Chennai	VJ, New Delhi
Williams Charles	Arul Kadal, Chennai	VJ, New Delhi

MY MAIDEN JCSA MEETING...

Together with Fr General, Fr Vernon D'Cunha and Fr Douglas Marcouiller, the General Assistants, Fr M. K George, our Regional Assistant, 19 Provincials and 2 Regional Superiors gathered for the biannual meeting of JCSA, at Godavari Ashram, Nepal from 23 Feb to 1 Mar, 2020. It was my maiden JCSA meeting and I was extremely happy to be with our Jesuit Major Superiors in the presence of our Fr General to experience the warmth of their companionship. Frs Joe Arun (CEN) and Siji Chacko (PAT) initiated the discussion on *'Alignment of Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) with Conference Apostolic Preferences (CAP)' and the 'Jesuit Networks'*. Their reflections were highly appreciated by all. Presentation on *'Nepal: Socio-Political-Eco Challenges and JCSA response'* by Mr Kanak Mani Dixit, Jesuit alumnus, Journalist and Civil Rights Activist, deepened our understanding of, and broadened our perspectives on the South Asian socio-political and ecological realities and opened up new avenues for networking and collaboration within South Asia.

The address and interactions of Fr General with the members were very inspiring, gave us deeper, broader and sharper perspectives on the mission of the Society and enabled us to understand the future directions in which the Apostolic Body of the Society is called upon to move. What touched our hearts particularly during his interaction with us was the moving delineation of his experiences of being led by the Holy Spirit. *(For the benefit of the reader, Fr General's address accompanies this CEN newsletter as a separate attachment in soft copy only).*



The other short presentations by Fr Franck Janin, President of European Conference (JCEP) on alignment of UAP and CAP at JCEP, Fr Dani Villanueva, on *'Fe y Alegria'* - the international network and Msgr Anthony Corcoran, on Kyrgyzstan Mission gave me a very broad outlook of the Mission of the Society of Jesus. The method of Spiritual Conversation and Discernment in common which were used in all our deliberations brought us all very close to understand and learn from one another. Mr Dixit's reflection on *Southasianism* was a new insight and inspiration to me for further reflection. The discussion on the current situation of India led the JCSA to take a stand against CAA and encourage our men to support and participate in the struggles of the affected people.

A day of relaxation was spent in visiting Chandragiri Hills and knowing the committed activities of Nepal Jesuit Social Institute in the remote villages which were affected by earthquake in 2015. Though it was a bit too cold, Fr Amril Rai, Regional Superior of the Nepal Region, his Socius, the Superior and all the members of Godavari Jesuit Community helped us to keep warm. My sincere appreciation goes to Fr George Pattery and Fr Keith Abranches for making the entire meeting meaningful and relevant.

Jebamalai Irudayaraj



The pilgrimage to Konankuppam Shrine was the very first proposal that the Provincial of Chennai Province came up with in the first Superiors' Meeting held after his installation. It was unanimously accepted, and the Provincial asked Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan, the Superior of Loyola College, Vettavalam, to be the Convener and to organize the entire program on Feb 15, 2020.

Perianayagi Madha Shrine has a great legacy, as far as the Jesuits of Tamil Nadu are concerned, since it was Veeramamunivar, one of the pioneering missionaries among the poor and lower caste Christians in the Old Madurai Mission, who founded this church and invented this beautiful Tamil name for our Lady. Most of the Jesuits of Chennai Province and their collaborators, and some from Madurai Province area, along with the jubilarians of the Province, participated in this historical pilgrimage under the banner “நன்றி சொல்ல... நுண்ணாசி பெற”-(To Thank and to Seek Blessings), a fitting expression of our sentiments of gratitude for the new born child, the Jesuit Chennai Province.

Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan, efficiently coordinated the programme, meticulously planned and executed every detail. The sub-committees which took up various responsibilities added flavor to the event. We started the pilgrimage on foot from the entrance of the village, about a kilometer from the shrine. Fr S. M Selvaraj, invoked the blessings of the Holy Spirit and flagged off the procession, and Fr Gerlin, led us in prayer and singing. It was a moment of grace for all the pilgrims and also for the villagers to see hundreds of priests, brothers and people from our various institutions undertaking this pilgrimage.

With our musical stalwarts, Frs Rajarathinam and Britto Vincent, leading the choir, the whole liturgy put us in the mood of God's presence. The entrance



procession, a *Kummi dance*, performed by the pre-novices of JP Leonard Illam, Kasthambadi, gave a perfect start to the liturgy. Fr Dominic Jeyakumar, the former Treasurer of Jesuit Chennai Mission preached the homily which brought home to all present, the significance of the pilgrimage, the missionary contribution of Veeramamunivar and the future direction of the fledgling Jesuit Chennai Province, couched in chaste Tamil.

After the Mass, four veteran Jesuits Fr Michael Alosanaya, (60 years in the Society), Frs Frederick Xavier Joseph and Jerry Rosario, (50 years in the Society) and Fr Ignatius Viyagappa (50 years in Priesthood) were felicitated. Barring Fr Jerry who was absent, the other three were honoured with shawls by the Provincial, and with mementos by the acting Socius, Fr Devadoss Mudiappasamy. The Provincial thanked them for their long and selfless service in various fields. Fr Michael Alosanaya gave the acceptance speech.

During the Provincial's address to the gathering, he thanked the Rector of the shrine, Fr Devasagayaraj, for his generous co-operation in all respects and especially, for his warm hospitality. To mark this great event, Fr Provincial announced an endowment scholarship, with an amount of Rs.10, 00,000 to be invested as seed money in the name of the Parish of Konankuppam. The annual interest accrued will be given to two Catholic Dalit students, one boy and one girl, from the parish for their education until they complete their college studies. Fr Selvaraj Arulnathan, proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the support and cooperation extended to him by all, especially by the province curia and the various committees. At the end of the programme, Fr Provincial opened the newly constructed *Thembavani Meeting Hall*, and dedicated it to the parishioners and the pilgrims of Konankuppam.

Selvaraj Arulnathan

NEWS DIGEST

CHENNAI : Dhyana Ashram

Fr Jerry conducted a special programme at Dhyana Ashram on CAA, NRC and NPR in which, a petition was dispatched to the Chief Justice of India with over 2630 signatures. He had a week-long teaching assignment at Xavier University of Bhubaneswar (XUB). The Catholic Bishops' Conference of Kerala (KCBC) had invited him to address 165 Provincials and Superiors for 2 days at Ernakulam on *'The Radicality of Religious life in the current Political Scenario'*.

Lawrence Amalraj

CHENNAI : ICRDCE



ICRDCE team conducted the steering committee meeting on the occasion of the commencement of the Community College at Batticaloa on 25 Jan. Fr Xavier Alphonse met the Jesuits of Sri Lanka for exploring the possibility of starting a Community College in Trincomalee. As a follow up of Life Skills workshop conducted in May 2019, we conducted the review meeting. ICRDCE is partnering with United Board for Christian Higher Education for Asia to take the initiative to start two Community Colleges in 2022 in Jaffna. Fr Xavier Alphonse is also involved in the revision of AIACHE Constitution. ICRDCE is busy in assessment of students in NSDC Centres.

Xavier Alphonse

CHENNAI : Loyola College

Fr Francis P Xavier delivered an invited talk for the international conference at AAC (Karumathur) on *'Nano Science Research – a Revisit'*. He was invited by the Xavier Board to deliver the keynote address and a special talk for the national seminar on *Inspirational Leadership for Higher Educational Institutions in India in the 21st Century*. The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was celebrated on 11 Feb with concelebrated Mass followed by candle-light procession. All the catholic staff and students participated.

95th Annual Sports Day of Loyola College of Arts and Science was held on 8 Feb. Mr Dharmaraj Cheraladhan, international Kabaddi Player, Senior Superintendent, South Central Railways, Secunderabad was the Chief Guest. The Department of Service Learning organized a special programme on 11 Feb, 2020 and distributed Rs. 70,000 as a revolving fund to 14 women from outreach areas. A Sports meet for the persons with disabilities was conducted on 12 Feb bringing around 60 persons from our neighbourhood slums where our students do their outreach activities. The 21st Fr L.D Murphy Memorial Football Tournament 2020 was held between 12 and 19 Feb.



Fr Maria Packiam, Director, Entomology Research Institute, Loyola College, conducted a national symposium on *'Insect Diversity and Conservation-2020'* on 13 Feb. There were 240 participants. Shri. Dr Chandish R. Ballal, Director, ICAR- NBAIR, Bengaluru was the keynote speaker. Fr Louis Arockisamy, the Head of the Department of Social Work, in collaboration with

Subaltern's Alliance for Peace (SAP), organized a two-day national conference on 17 and 18 Feb. Resource Centre for the Differently Aabled, Loyola College, organized an intercollegiate cultural and sports meet (THEIA 2020) for the differently-abled students on 21 Feb. During this sports meet 'Thiranaallium Virudhu 2020' was awarded to Thiru. Udhayanidhi Stalin, film actor.



The 92nd Graduation Ceremony of Loyola College was held on 22 Feb. Dr. S. Sundar Manoharan, Director General and Vice Chancellor, Pandit Deendayal, Petroleum University, Gujarat delivered the graduation address. 3230 students received their degrees. 63 toppers were awarded gold medals. 32 differently-abled students were honoured for getting their degrees. *Amalgam'20*, Loyola Hostel Day was celebrated on 29 Feb. The Chief Guest D.R. Balan, Managing Partner, VNMAID firm addressed the students. The Department of Tamil conducted a two-day International Seminar on 'Antiquity of Tamil: Excavations from Keezhadi to Indus Valley' on 27 and 28 Feb. Honourable State Minister Mr Ma Foi Pandiarajan was the Chief Guest.



Full-Time PGDM'19 batch of LIBA students had their village exposure programme at Harur, thanks to

the Jesuits at Harur for generously helping our students. Annual Alumni Meet 2020 was a mega event, held on 8 Feb at Hotel GRT Grand, Chennai, in which more than three hundred alumni took part. Fr Francis Xavier, Rector, Fr Joe Arun, Director, faculty and staff of LIBA attended the Meet. Fr Director spoke about the future plans of LIBA of starting three new verticals in Analytics and Artificial Intelligence, Health Care Management, and Logistics & Supply Chain Management. In his address, Fr Rector said: "*Gratitude is the most beautiful virtue: LIBA was there for you when you needed most for formation as managers – Be there for LIBA to fulfil her desires and dreams.*" LIBAzaar, 'Namma Chennai Thiruvizha' a disguised market research organised by students attracted more than fifty companies. The theme for this year was Earth 2.0 with tagline of Shift-Sustain-Succeed.



The 10th Annual Sports Day of LICET was organized on 22 Feb, 2020. Mr Dharmarajan IPS, The Greater Chennai, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Triplicane, was the Chief Guest. Our Alumnus, Mr K Abbasuddin, an International Swimmer, and at present employed in Southern Railways, was the Guest of Honour. The Department of Information and Technology emerged as the Overall Champions.

Fr Michael Amaladoss engaged the International scholars with his theological insight on 'Inter-religious Dialogue' to serve the agenda of *Laudato Si* during the Conference convened by SIGNIS and conducted by Xavier University, Bhubaneswar on 11-14 Feb. His presentation on 'Theology as Experience' explored new

grounds of theologization from the perspectives of Truth, Goodness and Beauty in Vidyajyoti, Delhi. Fr Maria Arul Raja presented a research paper on 'Subaltern Negotiations with Globalization' which stimulated new avenues in the field of the religio-cultural studies on the marginalized during the National Seminar convened by Sanskruti- Institute of Dravidian Studies in Secunderabad (31 Jan – 01 Feb).

Justin Prabhu

CHENNAI : JMS



The Jesuit Migrants Service (JMS) conducted 'Bal Mela 2020' for Migrant and Tribal Children on the theme "Children are meant to learn, not to earn" on 16 Feb in Loyola Hostel premises, Chennai. The children from the age of 6 to 16 were gathered from Kadambathur, Gummidipoondi, Arakkonam, Perambur and Perungalathur areas. These children are from Bihar, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Assam and Tamil Nadu. 280 children and 20 animators attended the programme. The celebration was inaugurated by Fr Igny. There were 15 stalls for children to play and snatch away the prizes. "Vijay TV fame", Mr Honest Raj, India Book of Record Holder was the Chief Guest who stole the show with his speech, wherein he encouraged the children to study hard and to achieve their dreams in life. It was a grand success because of the marvellous team work of JMS and the volunteers of Loyola College and its hostellers.

William

HARUR: Arulagam



On 2 Feb, we celebrated Pongal along with cultural competitions at Loyola Skill Development Centre. All the evening study centre staff and the participants of the Skill Development Centre participated in the celebration. 137 first year students and 4 staff from LIBA came to Arulagam, Harur, to have village exposure from 4 Feb to 7 Feb. They visited the neighbouring villages, interacted with our students at St. Mary's Higher Secondary School and spent time in both the boys' and girls' hostels. At the end of their exposure visit, many of them were able to understand the ground realities of the rural poor. On 26 Feb, Fr Jain conducted half a day special prayer service for the X, XI and XII students at Sacred Heart Church, Harur. It was a time of grace for our students to receive God's blessings as well as that of all the teachers. On 28 Feb, Mr Sampath Kumar, MLA of Harur, distributed free bicycles to the students of class XI.

Anto S A

KASTHAMBADI: JMMEx



The Government of TN has recognized the works of JMMEEx to overseas migrants. JMMEEx was the resource team for 12 pre-departure awareness campaigns conducted by the Department of Welfare of Non-Resident Tamils in 12 Taluks of Thiruvannamalai district. JMMEEx along with NDWM and NRT rescued 6 more migrants, trapped illegally for domestic and menial jobs from Kuwait and Dubai in January and February.

Velx

KILPENNATHUR: AHAL



On 23 Feb, AHAL Team celebrated the 17th Arrupe Boys' Hostel Day, Parents' Meet and Fr Vedanayagam's 60 years in the Society. AHAL Cultural Troupe, students of Arrupe Boys' Hostel, computer and tailoring units with inexhaustible energy, engaged the audience by their scintillating performances. From 25 to 27, Feb AHAL Team and ISI, Bangalore jointly organized cadre formation and capacity building on Ecological concerns. Mr Arul from ISI, Bangalore, Mr Baskar from 'Namaalvar Ecological Foundation Institution', Fr Selva, the Superior of Loyola College, Vettavalam were the resource persons. In the evening, we, the cadres, went to one of the contact villages of AHAL centre *Nallan Pillai Petral* where awareness was created through cultural events to promote healthy and ecologically friendly lifestyle.

Amalraj

KUPPAYANALLUR: Loyola Institutes

On 3 Feb, we celebrated the feast of St. John de Britto at J P Nagar, one of our substations. As a culmination of our ELT programme, we had ELT Mela in our School

on 10 Feb, when students actively participated in all the off stage and on-stage competitions. The Chief Guest, Ms Sumathy, the Principal of Global School, was highly impressed by the fantastic performance of our students. From 9 to 12 Feb, a special course was arranged for the slow learners from 8th and 9th standards. Mr Perumal, students' trainer, trained selected students and helped them to read well. On 13 Feb, JMAADD team gave an awareness programme to Loyola ITI students in Ranipet and to students in St. Mary's H.S. School, Harur and to LIBA students who were in Harur for their rural exposure programme. 6 of our students won medals in the state level competitions organized by Adhiparasakthi Institutes, Melmaruvathur. On 27 and 28 Feb, to seek the blessings of God, special prayer services were organized for 10th, 11th and 12th standard students with the help of our teachers. Our community is grateful to HCL for sponsoring solar panels in our school. On 26 Feb, Fr Jerome, the Head Master, organized a special assembly to appreciate the best performers and to encourage the slow learners.

Amal Bosco

MAKKAMPALAYAM: PARAN



The parishioners of Makkampalayam went on a pilgrimage to Oriyur and Rameshwaram on 30 Jan. Fr James and Sch Naveen attended a 'Training of Trainers' on Constitutional democracy at Maduralaya from 3 to 5 Feb. Fr James directed a five-day retreat to Holy Cross nursing students at Kothamangalam, Sathyamangalam. On 7 and 9 Feb, we conducted training session for the staff of our Evening Study Centers in Sathy and Asanur, on 'Right to Information Act' and gave them awareness on

Fundamentalism'. PARAN staff and some volunteers from our tribal villages participated in ISI Leadership Training on Environment at Kodaikanal from 14 to 16 Feb. On 22 Feb, 13 Community Leaders had training on recent development in the country and fundamentalism followed by Urali Makkal Sangam meeting.

Naveen Kumar

METTALA: Loyola College



The College organized a three-day state level Inter-Collegiate and Inter-School Basketball Tournament from 07 Feb to 09 Feb. Fr Victor's Trophy, an annual sports event, was organized to identify and encourage the rural sporting talents. On Feb 7, Inter-Collegiate matches were kick-started. Totally 17 teams participated from all over Tamil Nadu. In the finals, Loyola College, Chennai defeated G.R. Dhamodaran (GRD) College, Coimbatore and bagged the Fr Victor's Trophy, and the cash prize of Rs 10,000. Cash prizes and medals were given to the runners, and the teams that got 3rd and 4th places. On 9 Feb, the Inter-School matches were organized. Of the 11 teams, St. Mary's School, A N Mangalam lifted the Fr Victor's Rolling Trophy and the cash prize of Rs 10,000 by beating the unstoppable Kamala Subramaniam School, Tanjore. We were very happy to have Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, our Provincial and Fr Igni, the Province Treasurer to grace the occasion. Fr Provincial fondly recalled the services of Fr Victor for the growth and development of Chennai Mission.

Loyola tournament was successfully organized under the able guidance of Fr Dominic Jeyakumar. We

gratefully acknowledge the support of the office-bearers of Tamil Nadu Basket ball Association, Chennai and Mr Koodalingam, our coach. On Ash Wednesday, the Holy Eucharist was organised for the Catholics. Fr Raj SDB, Rector, Salesian Institute of Philosophy was the Main Celebrant. On the same day, Fr Bernard gave a talk on stress management to the non-catholic students.

On 29 Feb, the Second Graduation Day was celebrated for the 149 graduates who had passed out during the academic year 2018-19. They received their graduation certificates from the Chief Guest Prof. Dr P Kolandaivel, Vice-Chancellor, Periyar University, Salem. The Vice Chancellor in his address, underlined the importance and the need of quality education that transforms a raw human into a civilized citizen. Fr B John Bosco, the Principal of the College, presided over the ceremony and Fr Boniface Jayaraj, the Secretary of the College, felicitated the new graduates.

Dominic Jeyakumar

TINDIVANAM: JESIM



Parish Priest of Vikravandi, received the salute of the impressive March Past of the students and declared the sports day open. Mr K Chinnappan, the Registrar of Tanjore Tamil University was our Chief Guest. Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial of Chennai Province released the annual magazine named, *"PALAVAI"*. In order to motivate children to go to school regularly, only regular school going children were allowed to participate in this mega event. On 16 Feb, animators' meeting was organized to evaluate the process and the execution of the Sports Day. We are happy that one of our staff Mr Siva participated in the

Para-legal training programme at IDEAS, Madurai from 17 to 19 Feb.

Vigash Lawrence

VADAMELPAKKAM: Loyola Academy



Three staff members took part in the leadership training programme organised for the South Zone Jesuit schools at Loyola School, Trivandrum on 1 and 2 Feb. They enjoyed the Jesuit hospitality and learnt some leadership techniques from the training programme. End of January 2020 saw the German donors from Anbaham Society, Germany visit us. The long-awaited dream for building a new hostel for boys and girls came true when the foundation stone was unveiled by Fr Jebamalai Irudhayaraj on 30 Jan, and blessed by Fr Peter Bulowski, the President of German Anbaham Society, in the presence of Mr Gergen and Mr Thomas, Germany, the Management Jesuits, Fr Igni, Fr Vasanth and surrounded by a small group of staff and students. The German visitors were honoured during the assembly and on the following day they celebrated Mass for the hostellers in the community chapel. They also held fruitful discussions with the management Jesuits on issues connected with the construction and the future needs of the Hostel.

Five teaching and a non-teaching staff together with the Jesuit community participated in the province pilgrimage to Konankuppam shrine. There was a short prayer service for the students who were appearing for the X Board exams which was followed by the issue of hall tickets. The school Jesuits and their teachers shared some valuable tips to crack the examinations. On the occasion of World Thinking day/ Founder's Day, one-day scout camp was conducted in our campus for

the Pallava Mandalam District. Various competitions like tribal makeup, cooking without fire, drawing competitions, storytelling, best out of waste and activities like planting tree saplings were conducted on this special day. Nearly 190 students from five different schools participated and benefitted by this camp.

Frank

VETTAVALAM: Loyola College

On 29 Jan, the Department of Business Administration organized a one-day International Seminar on "*Towards Becoming Successful Entrepreneurs*". Mrs Annick Renaud-Coulon, President, Univencis/ Global Council of Corporate Universities, Paris, France, delivered the Chief Guest address. Besides students and staff of the Dept. of BBA of Loyola College, Vettavalam, 292 students and 19 academicians from other Colleges participated in this interesting seminar.



'*Success is Ours*', an orientation cum motivation programme for the 12th standard students who are preparing for the public examinations, was organized under the able leadership of Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam, Director, Outreach Programme. 550 students and 39 staff members from five Government and private Higher Secondary Schools attended this useful event.

To strengthen our relationship with the neighbourhood parish and religious priests, the Jesuit Community hosted a sumptuous dinner on 20 Feb in which 33 priests from the dioceses of Pondicherry-Cuddalore and Vellore participated. Extending a hearty welcome to all, Fr Selvaraj, our Superior, earnestly solicited all of them to become active partners in

developing Loyola College and empowering the poor catholic students through quality education. Fr Vincent Britto, Principal, enthralled the guest priests by his extraordinary presentation of the vision, mission and the laudable best practices of Loyola College, Vettavalam. Fr Maria Joseph Mahalingam appealed to all the diocesan priests to encourage the aspiring XII boy students to join Jesuit Chennai Province. Kudos to Fr Tony Markus who left no stone unturned to make this get-together a grand success.

Maria Joseph Mahalingam

FORMATION

KASTHAMBADI: JPLI Pre-Novitiate

The JPLI community joined the CEN Province Pilgrimage to Konankuppam on Feb 15. The Kummi dance by the Pre-novices added colour and significance to the solemn Mass and it was well appreciated by all.



Fr Darwin preached a Triduum for the Pre-novices from 17-19 Feb. These days were moments of grace for them to be strengthened by the Lord in their call to the Society of Jesus and to discern and decide sincerely before getting into the Novitiate. On Feb 16, the JPLI community organized *Balamela* for about 120 children from 6 substations of 3 different parishes. 'To Care for the Common Home', one of the apostolic preferences of our Province was the theme for this mega event. They put up a meaningful cultural programme at the end and they were all gifted with a sapling each.

Velanganni

BESCHI: Novitiate

On 30 Jan, the feast of St John Bosco, our novices went to Don Bosco Pre-Novitiate in Marianathapuram, Dindigul to witness the cultural fest of the Salesian pre-novices and partake in the festive joy of the Salesians. On 10 Feb, the first-year novices gave a cultural programme based on the ongoing socio-political issues in India to the Community. On 11 Feb, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in Beschi campus, began with a solemn car procession from Sacred Heart Residence to the grotto and ended with a solemn concelebrated Holy Mass at the grotto. Fr Leo Pereira preached an inspiring homily. On 12 Feb, our 12 first-year novices went to Perumalmalai for work experiment. On 16 Feb, they attended an eco-awareness programme on managing carbon emissions at Kodaikanal International School. On 18 Feb, 3 second-year novices were sent to Harur for pastoral experiment. While 2 second-year novices assist the senior Jesuits in Arrupe Bhavan, Beschi Illam, 9 second-year novices were missioned to Shanti Bhavan, St Joseph's Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospice in Kanyakumari, Tuticorin and Kodai Road respectively for hospital/hospice experiment. On 18 and 19 Feb, Frs Inigo and Swaminathan participated in the second biannual two-day TNPCRI Formators Forum Meet held at the Retreat Centre, Poondi Shrine. On 23 Feb, the first-year novices visited Satya colony, Vilpatti, Kodai Hills and gave an hour-long cultural programme highlighting the current socio-political problems in India.

Swaminathan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Vidyaniketan

We had three days of Ecological Awareness Course by Fr John Britto Bonaventure (MDU) at Shembaganur from 31 Jan to 2 Feb. This program was intense as well as interesting, interspersed with discussion and interaction. Moreover, it was a useful change from our daily routine. On our way back to Vidyaniketan, we visited Meenakshi Amman temple and Thirumalai Nayakar Mahal in Madurai. We gratefully remember

Shembaganur, LTI and St. Mary's communities for their hospitality. On 3 Feb, we began our intense practice for the Academy Day which was celebrated on 23 Feb. Our Chief Guest, Fr Lenin, spoke on religious formation. We experienced a variety not only in the programme, which consisted of folk, tribal, contemporary dances and polyphony, but also with our guests who were from different neighbouring communities.

Kiran Joseph

HAZARIBAG: Juniorate

We, the Juniors and all the Hazaribag Jesuits bubbled with joy to participate in the inauguration of Xavier College of Education. This brand new B.Ed College was inaugurated by Bishop Anand Jojo. We were also glad to have a three-day seminar on homiletics, given by Fr Francis. His input was very simple and effective. The Provincial of Hazaribag visited our SSC community. It was indeed a grace-filled occasion for all of us.

Titus Gnanaprakasam

CHENNAI: Arul Kadal



The first week of February brought special graces to Arul Kadal in the official visit of Fr Stephen Lourdu Pragasam, PCF. He spent enough and more time to listen to us and guide us. We are blessed with new and rich source of water right in the quadrangle (garden) of ours to solve our water problem. Fr Christiane from

Innsbruck, Austria gave us a talk on European history and culture. He also explained how the Church in Europe faces a crisis in faith formation. The community recollection on *'The Pioneering Jesuits of Madurai Mission'* served as a fruitful preparation to make Chennai Province pilgrimage to Konankuppam on 15 Feb. The Arul Kadal Staff, Frs Raj Irudaya and Sahayaraj along with Sch Paulraj, representing the student community, participated in the national seminar and academic council meeting held in VJ, Delhi between 17 Feb and 20 Feb. They also participated in the diaconate ordination of ours on 22 Feb. The highlight of this month was that Arul kadal had yet another opportunity on 19 Feb to express their solidarity with the women in their continual protest against CAA at Old Washermanpet, now christened as Chennai's Shaheen Bagh.

Lenin

DELHI: Vidyajyoti



The month of February was filled with great memories and events. The third-year scholastics successfully completed their *Ad auct* exam after much preparation and rigorous study. The Preliminary Academic Council (PAC) meeting was held in Vidyajyoti from 17-20 Feb with the theme *"Our Concerns and Perspectives of a New Evangelization"*. On 22 Feb, 28 Jesuit Scholastics from 11 different provinces in India were ordained Deacons by Most Rev Anil Joseph Thomas Couto, Metropolitan Archbishop of Delhi. It was a grace-filled moment for

all of us. All the five Deacons of our provinces, both CEN and MDU, are charged with the spirit of service and ministration.

Vijin Antony

SUPAM

On 05 Feb, the Supamites along with Fr Raj Irudaya, Superior, Arul Kadal and Fr Baskar Antony, Co-ordinator, gathered at St. Joseph's Church in Tirupur for the fourth theologizing meet. The Supamites shared their profound pastoral experiences based on the guidelines. The insights and the challenges infused in us clarity and mutually helped us all to be aware of Jesuit charism and our way of serving. The group felt privileged to listen to the sharing of Mr Anandha Kumar, one of the renowned parishioners about the host parish, his faith sharing and the expectations from the clergy today. The sharing with challenges and expectations helped us further to shape our focus in the call and commit ourselves in return in the ministry effectively. We are indeed thankful to the host parish for all the arrangements with their cordial hospitality. The group departed with a sense of gratitude, joy and apostolic audacity.

Antony Anand

COMMON VENTURES

JESCOM TN MEET

In addition to six Commission members, ten invitees attended the Communication Commission Meeting on 16 Feb. The 33rd issue of Silambam featuring a debate by the hostel boys of St. Mary's, Madurai, on the positive and negative impacts of mobile phones, was released by Fr Arulanantham, SATHANGAI Director; 5,000 copies must have reached the students of all our schools by now.

Fr Xavier Antony, JESCOM TN Coordinator, presented a report on eight Silambam issues published this year, release of a series of documentary films joining hands with Marupakkam, the income

generated by our professional studio nearing Rs. 4 lakh, *ThiraiPada Kondattam* event where three actors and two directors of KD and Irendam Ulaga Porin Kadaisi Gundu were present in LENS campus and six videos of professional quality recently uploaded in YouTube.

LENS Equipment audit report was presented by Fr L R Michaelraj along with the new equipment to be purchased this year. All unanimously applauded LENS for achieving visibility beyond the local and regional levels, which gives hope to Jesuits in media and felt that LENS should slowly become self-sufficient financially for its permanent sustainability.

It was decided that LENS would continue to handle all media services like Silambam, film appreciation, documentary film festivals, media training courses to scholastics, archiving of videos related to justice issues and Jesuit Online TV as visualized in PAP, where as the newly evolved Loyola Media Madurai (LMM) would handle all the commercial activities and professional productions including uploads. Audio dramas for sound and light shows in schools, ad films for small commercial concerns for use in local cable networks and hiring equipment (Camera & Lights) could be its sources of income. In this connection, Mr. Leonidoss, Founder Director, MAGIC MEDIA, advised us to invest on lights to the height of UNIT II as per film industry requirements.

LENS, for its part, could focus on content creators and drama theatre persons, taking Silambam little more broader, revival of ISAIYARUVI hits, getting a regent for a better media formation, likewise thinking of a mini team of Jesuits in LENS transcending the present one man show now.

Starting of a JESUIT TV or LOYOLA TV is the need of the hour and perhaps we are too late. A team has been constituted to finalize its structure, content along with the financial plan to be submitted to the Province in the hope that our own TV could take off on the feast day of St. Ignatius in 2020.

Xavier Antony

SPIRITUALITY AND DIALOGUE COMMISSION

On 22 and 23 Feb, Beschi Illam hosted a two-day seminar on Ignatian Spirituality organized by the Spirituality and Dialogue Commission; 54 Jesuits of Chennai and Madurai Provinces involved in Higher Education participated in the seminar. Thanks to Fr. Joseph Lobo (KAR), the resource person, the seminar was well received and much appreciated.

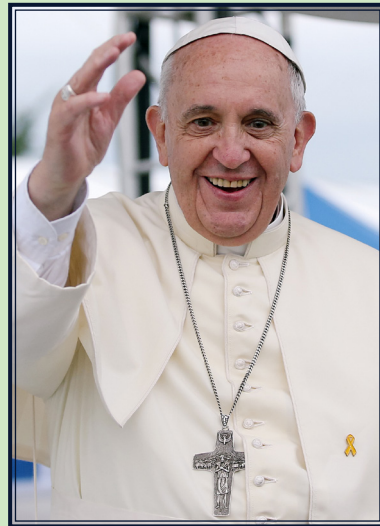
THE IGNATIAN YEAR 2021-2022



The Ignatian Year 2021-2022 already has an official logo to be used in all activities and information about this event. It was designed by the Spanish architect Emilio Ortiz Zaforas.

It presents in Latin the name of the Founder of the Society of Jesus, "Ignatius", which Iñigo de Loyola adopted years after his conversion in 1521. The cross is visible in the center of the word, and it also points to the classic emblem of the Society, "IHS". The S at the end of the name doubles as the figure 5 at the beginning of the number 500 in a logo that, in a contemporary graphic, connects Ignatius' old signature with our days by means of a new design. Thus, it wants to combine the epoch of Ignatius' conversion with the motto chosen for this celebration: "To see all things new in Christ".

GLIMPSES OF "HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS" on Ash Wednesday, 26 Feb 2020

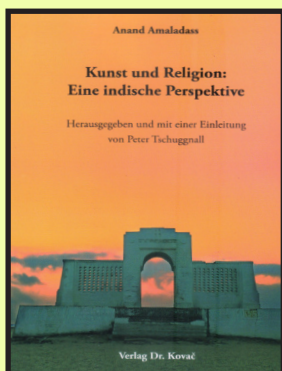


1: We need to purify and renew our lives during the period of Lent by repentance, which means expressing sorrow for sins by turning away from occasions of sins and making a right turn to God. We need to express our repentance by becoming reconciled with God daily, by asking for forgiveness

from those whom we have offended and by giving unconditional forgiveness to those who have offended us.

2: We need to do prayerful fasting and little acts of penance for our sins, following the example of Jesus before his public ministry. Fasting reduces our "spiritual obesity" or the excessive accumulation of "fat" in our soul in the form of evil tendencies, evil habits and evil addictions. It also gives us additional moral and spiritual strength and encourages us to share our blessings with the needy.

NEW BOOK



Fr Anand Amaladass
Art and religion
Hamburg,
Germany 2020

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr Edwin Rasquinha (91/60 BOM) passed away on 20.02.2020 at Andheri, Mumbai.

Fr Felix Tirkey (52/28 DUM) passed away on 02.03.2020 in Bathbanga, Jharkhand.

Fr Geoffrey Michael Meagher (77/59 HAZ) passed away on 05.03.2020, in Kolkata.

Fr Arakal Jacob (96/75 AND) passed away on 12.03.2020, in Hyderabad.

Ms Sadhuvika Shamshitha (06), niece of Fr Vasanthakumar passed away on 23.02.2020 at Mehta Nagar, Chennai.

KNOW OUR PROVINCE

The history of the Society of Jesus in Tamil Nadu traces back its origin to the arrival of St. Francis Xavier. Having set his foot in the Indian soil in 1542, he vigorously preached the Good News, in the southern part of the country, in the south of Tamil Nadu in particular. It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the Church of Tamil Nadu owes a lot to this first Jesuit missionary, who laboured to plant the faith and nurture it.

Following the footsteps of this great missionary, quite a lot of Jesuits came from Europe and continued the work of evangelization. Notable among them are Fr Antony Criminali (1520-1549), Fr Henrique Henriques (1520-1600) and Fr Robert de Nobili (1577-1656). There were also a few other extraordinary Jesuit missionaries like St John de Britto (1647-1693) and Fr Constantine Joseph Beschi (1680-1747), known as '*Veeramamuvivar*' who rendered remarkable service in the Madura Mission. Whilst the former gave his life for the sake of the Good News at Oriyur, the latter became a scholar par excellence in the field of Tamil literature. Their period is known as the '*Old Madura Mission*' which was taken care of by the Portuguese Jesuits. In the wake of the universal suppression of the Society of Jesus by Pope Clement XVI in 1773, the Madura Mission faced a terrible ordeal in the form of closure of the Mission.

Years later, when the Society was restored by Pope Pius VII in 1814, Fr Roothann, the then Superior General entrusted the Madura Mission to the care of the Jesuits of Lyon in France. A group of four French Jesuits arrived in Pondicherry in 1837 and moved to Tiruchi. Madurai was the headquarters for the '*Old Madura Mission*', and Tiruchi replaced it for the newly founded '*New Madura Mission*'. Thanks to the selfless works of these French missionaries, we have a solid mission base. Territorially speaking, the whole of Tamil Nadu has been known as the Jesuit Madurai Province (drawn from the name-*Madura Mission*) since 1952, when it was carved out of its mother Province of Toulouse in France and made into an independent Province.

Thus, the history of Jesuit Madurai Province is long and rich. With its glorious galaxy of missionaries and their enviable record of indefatigable activities among the poor and the oppressed, the Jesuit Madurai Province has also been always in the vanguard of the history of the Society of Jesus. Sensing the need of the hour, the Madurai Province, gave birth to two other Provinces in South India, namely Kerala and Andhra Jesuit Provinces.

Espousing this pioneering spirit and with a focused interest to serve and empower the Dalits and the other marginalized people in the northern Tamil Nadu, a new Chengai Mission was started in 1990, comprising a handful of civil districts in the northern Tamil Nadu. In 2002, the *Chengai Mission* was rechristened as the *Chennai Mission* in order to widen its missionary base and scope. In 2007, Fr Adolfo Nicolas, the then General, officially promulgated the creation of *Chennai Mission*, with Fr A Victor as its first Mission Superior, followed by Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj as its Second Mission Superior from 2013 to Dec, 2019. After its steady growth and development in various spheres for the last 29 years, the Chennai Mission is promoted to the status of an independent '*Jesuit Chennai Province*', with the motto "*Imitating Jesus in Liberating Humanity*", in December 2019, with Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj as its first Provincial. The Chennai Province comprises the nine Ecclesiastical Dioceses of the North and West parts of Tamil Nadu, namely, Madras-Mylapore, Chengelpet, Vellore, Pondy-Cuddalore, Kumbakonam, Salem, Dharmapuri, Coimbatore and Ooty.

In an effort to eradicate discrimination and bring about the needed transformation in the caste-ridden society, the Jesuits in Tamil Nadu have discerned the signs of the time and come forward to create an independent entity for greater apostolic efficacy in their services among the needy. May God Almighty continue to journey with us in this brave new world, with all the members and collaborators of this newly created Jesuit Chennai Province (CEN).

Sabayaraj Vijayan

(to be continued)