



Our Lady of the Way



Provincial's Message



EASTER: Joy Emerges from Struggle

Dear Friends, Easter Greetings!

We are in the season of Easter, a time we ought to realise that all our sufferings would transform into joy. The darkness that continues to create death is defeated by the victory of life in Jesus. That is the incredible truth of Easter. Complete hopelessness was won over by total hopefulness. Good Friday does not stay long. Sunday comes over. Easter reminds us that we cannot remain in darkness anymore, as Jesus has come back to life and that too in its fullness. It is hope that drives us into the season of Easter. In his encyclical on Hope (2007), Pope Benedict XVI states that “it is important to know that I can always continue to hope, even if in my own life, or the historical period in which I am living, there seems to be nothing left to hope for”. Easter is an invitation to travel from the darkness of suffering, despair, misery, anguish, pain and hopelessness to the hope to see the brightness of light.

I feel that the Joy of Easter brings forth three ‘types of hope’ to all of us.

Celebration of Hope: Easter itself is a celebration of hope. Jesus’ death is followed by resurrection, the celebration of life and hope. Death is not an end; it is a door to resurrection. The confused political situation of the State Assembly elections and the continuing Corona threats, have worsened the prevailing state of uncertainty. The Risen Christ signals the victory over these evils and assures us that He leads and guides us to overcome the present uncertainty and confusion. We have all the reasons to celebrate the Risen Lord as He comes back to break the Word among us. We stop with outward celebrations most of the time. Easter calls us for a deep inward celebration of hope in our life and mission.

Conversion of Hope: The Risen Christ shows us the victory over prevailing evils and assures us that He leads us and guides us on the way which will change our powerlessness into powerfulness, but the process is painful and full of struggle. It is natural that we have the tendency to hope for a better future

and we want to convert our sufferings and struggles. The Risen Christ sends His Spirit into our lives so that we love like him, become like him and act like him in all that we do. Each individual becomes an 'alter Christus' – another Christ. Jesus went through excruciating suffering till his death. He became an embodiment of hope for the remaining generations. The celebration of Easter implants in us the deeper conversion of hope in our life and mission.

Commitment of Hope: Hope leads us towards making the world a better place of God's love which leads us to commit ourselves to convert the distorted and divided world into God's Kingdom imbued with social

justice, equality and peace. At the time of declaring the year of St. Joseph (Dec 8, 2020 to Dec 8, 2021), Pope Francis speaks of 'Creative courage' that we find in St. Joseph. Commitment is this creative courage. One who is not creative is not actually committed. And the one who is not courageous ceases to be committed. Easter inspires us, combining both creativity and courage, to have a commitment of hope in our life and mission. Let us celebrate the Risen Christ. Happy Easter to all of you!

Jebamalai Irudayaraj

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

APRIL, 2021

- 04 Easter Sunday, Shembaganur.
- 06 Voting: St. Mary's, Madurai
- 08-09 Superiors / Coordinators Meeting - Online
- 10 Final Vows of Frs. Antony Robinson, Arokia Dass, Baskar Antony, Maria Packiam, Sahayaaraj Stanley (MDU) and Victor Roch
- 11 Maxi Academy, Pre-Novitiate, Kasthambadi
- 15 Silver Jubilee Celebrations - LIFE, Loyola, Chennai
- 16 Visitation: Thirumanur Parish
- 17 Final Vows of Fr. Arockiasamy, Shembaganur
- 22 CTC Province Chapter: Chengalpattu
- 24 PM: Inaugural Ceremony of 'Servant of God' – Fr. Michael Ansaldo SJ, the Founder of Gonzaga Congregation, Pondy
- 26-28 Tempo Forte - Consultors and Curia Members

MAY 2021

- 01 Golden Jubilee of Br. Joseph, Dindigul
- 09 Final Vows of Fr. Paul Benedict, Harur
- 17-18 Formation and Young Priests Meetings, Dhyana Ashram
- 20 **Province Celebrations:** 09 am - Inaugural Mass of Ignatian Jubilee Year at Santhome Cathedral, followed by Province Jubilee Celebrations at Dhyana Ashram

POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK UNIVERSAL INTENTION - FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental-rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FR. GENERAL HAS APPOINTED :

Fr. Joe Mathew Kunnathoor (KER), Socius and Admonitor to the Provincial of Kerala.

Fr. Stephen K.C. (DUM), new Provincial of Dumka.

Fr. Zbigniew Leczkowski, Superior of the Province of Greater Poland and Mazovia.

PROVINCE RETREATS

Retreat announced for the formed Jesuits from 9 to 17 May 2021 remains cancelled.

Retreat for the young priests will be on virtual mode, due to the second wave of corona. Thank you for your understanding. Thanks to Fr. S. Arockiam (MDU) who has consented to preach this retreat before he leaves for Guyana.

BIG THANKS!

From 15-31 Mar, a team comprised of Fr. Vasanthakumar, PDD, Fr. Antony Prabhu (AND) and students of VisCom visited our communities, centres and parishes to video document all our activities. Thanks to all the communities and teams for your full cooperation! Congratulation to Fr. Vasanthakumar and the Team!

Curia

Congratulations!

On 11 Mar 2021, Fr. Victor Roch G. successfully defended his Ph.D. thesis on Millets. His thesis was highly commended. We wish him all the best for future research.

ADDITIONAL MOBILE NUMBER

Fr. Tagore Leo Antony Airtel cell no: 8667690022

Fr. Michael Pugazhendhi A. Mobile number (Sri Lanka) +94 769039456. whatsapp number 7448321477.

EVENTS TO BE REMEMBERED AND PRAYED FOR

FINAL VOWS		
NAME	DATE	PLACE
Fr. Antony Robinson J.	10.04.21	Christ the King Church, Loyola College
Fr. Arokia Dass J.		
Fr. Baskar Antony S.		
Fr. Maria Packiam S.		
Fr. Sahayaraj Stanley (MDU)		
Fr. Victor Roch G.		
Fr. Arockiasamy Antony S.	17.04.21	Shembaganur
Fr. Paul Benedict S.	09.05.21	Harur

PROVINCE EVENTS

Maxi Academy will be celebrated on 11 April at JPLI. Kindly encourage our budding Jesuits.

Scholastics Meet : 17-19 May, at Dhyana Ashram

Young Priests Meet : 17-18 May, at Dhyana Ashram

Ignatian Year Inauguration and Province Jubilarians

Day : 20 May, at Dhyana Ashram

LOYOLA ACADEMY ANNOUNCES...

Loyola Academy, Vadampakkam is bracing itself to provide hostel facilities for boys and girls separately from the next academic year (2021-22) on the school campus. The new hostel buildings under construction will be ready to admit students from Grades VI to XII from the month of June, 2021. All Catholic students seeking admissions to the school and hostel should apply with the letter from their Parish priests.

A Summer Camp will be held, for the students aspiring to join the school for the next academic year 21-22, on the school premises from 04 to 13 May 2021. All Catholic Dalit students and other poor Catholic students studying in Classes 5, 6, 7 & 8 through English medium are eligible to attend the Camp. Jesuits who know such deserving students who want to join the school as hostel inmates, may write to the Team Leader, Fr. Tagore or Principal, Fr. M.S. Arockiasamy.

Fr. Leo A Tagore, S.J.

JCSA APPOINTMENTS AS ON 25 MARCH 2021

NAME	DESIGNATION
BY FR. GENERAL	
Fr. Antonysamy Stephenraj, SJ (PAT)	Regional Director, JRS
Fr. Francis Pudhicherry (GUJ)	Rector of De Nobili College, Pune
Fr. Nirmal Raj Arulanandu (DUM)	Rector of Vidyajyoti College of Theology, Delhi
Fr. Sunny Jacob (JAM)	Asst for Mission and Identity for the Secretariat for Education and Jesuit Education Specialist for 'Educate Magis'
BY FR. POSA	
Fr. Jesu Benjamin (DUM)	National Director, AICUF (Subject to the appointment by CBCI)
JOR BAGH, DELHI	
Fr. Shajumon C.K. (DAR)	Superior
Fr. James Arjen Tete (CCU)	Secretary, Formation
Fr. Arun Kumar (KAR)	Secretary of Faith
Fr. John Ravi Selvan (DEL)	Secretary, JEA
Fr. Nelson Gonsalves (GOA)	Asst Finance Officer, JRS

ISI, BANGALORE	
Fr. Francis Balaraj (KAR)	Administrator and Program Head of Social Inclusion and Democracy
ISI, DELHI	
Fr. Thomas Perumalil (PAT)	Acting Superior
Fr. Siji Chacko (PAT)	Director MAIN (Additional responsibility)
Fr. Shin Kallungal (KER)	Asst Director, MAIN
Fr. Franklin Rex (CEN)	JRS
Fr. Alwyn D'Souza (KAR)	Research Scholar
Fr. Lancy Lobo (GUJ)	Research Scholar
SATYA NILAYAM, CHENNAI	
Fr. Francis D' Souza (KAR)	Registrar & Treasurer
Fr. Arul P Stanislaus (CEN)	Minister and Spiritual Director
Fr. Benedict Lakra (RAN)	Spiritual Director
Fr. Lindsay Lobo (GOA)	Trial teaching and Asst Program Coordinator of SNRI
Fr. Martin Gnanapragasam (AND)	Trial teaching
PAPAL SEMINARY, PUNE	
Fr. Antony Raj R. (JAM)	Moderator of Philosophers & Spiritual Director
Fr. Rocha Rozario (GOA)	Spiritual Director
Fr. Linus Dabre (Pune Diocese)	Trial teaching at Jnana Deepa
JNANA DEEPA, PUNE	
Fr. Peter Ignatius (PAT)	Registrar and Teacher
Fr. George Cordeiro (BOM)	Moderator of PG Students and Manager of PG Block
Fr. Biju Vadakkumchery (KER)	Change of residence to PG Block
DE NOBILI COLLEGE, PUNE	
Fr. Paul Chemparathy (NEP)	Treasurer
Fr. Joji Devara (AND)	PhD
Fr. Jagdish Parmar (DAR)	PWPN Office relocated to De Nobili College, Pune
Fr. Clement Jesudoss (MDU)	Teaching at Jnana Deepa
VIDYAJYOTI, DELHI	
Fr. Hector Pinto (GUJ)	Registrar & Treasurer, Vidyajyoti, Delhi
Fr. Anthony D' Souza (KAR)	Trial Teaching, VJ

Fr. Edwin Philip Rodrigues (BOM)	Teaching, VJ
JRS, AFGHANISTAN	
Fr. Jerome Sequeira	Country Director
TERTIANSHIP	
Fr. Irudayaraj Manickam (GUJ)	Tertian Instructor, Sitagarha
Fr. William Sequeira (KAR)	Tertian Instructor, Kandy
Fr. Jose Jacob M. (KER)	Tertian Instructor, Shembaganur
Fr. Valerian Mendonca (JAM)	Tertianship at Shembaganur
IGNIS	
Fr. Somy Mathew Mannoor (JAM)	Editor, IGNIS

GRATITUDE FOR THE SERVICES RENDERED TO COMMON HOUSES AND WORKS OF SOUTH ASIA

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Fr. Edward Mudavaserry (HAZ) | 8. Fr. Chandy Kumblankal (KER) |
| 2. Fr. Michael Thanaraj (JAM) | 9. Fr. Louie Albert (CEN) |
| 3. Br. Christuraj A. (CCU) | 10. Fr. Stanislaus Fernandes (PUN) |
| 4. Fr. Jose Thayil (PAT) | 11. Fr. Linto Kanichai (KER) |
| 5. Fr. George Karuvelil (PAT) | 12. Fr. Stephen K.C. (DUM) |
| 6. Fr. Paul D'Souza (GUJ) | 13. Fr. Keith Abranches (GUJ) |
| 7. Fr. Alex Gnanapragasam (JAM) | |

TRANSFER LIST-II

TRANSFER LIST (MISSED OUT) OF THE SCHOLASTICS 2021-2022

NO.	NAME	FROM	TO
1	Alexander Gnanapragasam	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi
2	Anto Arputha Raja P.	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi
3	Jeyaseelan Saminathan	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi
4	Manojkumar Tharmam	Arul Kadal, Chennai	Vidyajyoti, Delhi

TRANSFER LIST-II

TRANSFER LIST – APOSTOLIC 2021-2022

NAME	FROM	TO
Fr. Albert Joseph S.	Kohima	Team Leader, Harur
Fr. Antony Markus	Tertianship	PhD at SHC, Thiruppathur (Attached to Harur)
Fr. Arockia Selvam M.	Minister Kuppayanallur	Treasurer and Principal EM School, Kuppayanallur
Br. Arockiasamy Kulandai (MDU)	SXC, Palayamkottai	Minister and Treasurer, Harur

Fr. Berkman Kasparaj	SUPAM	Principal and Treasurer, Ranipet
Fr. Christu Raj M.	MBA, Taiwan	PhD, Taiwan
Fr. Devadhas Muthiah	Mettupalayam	Programme Director, Mettupalayam
Fr. Eugene Sebastine Rosario A.	PP, Kuppayanallur	Minister – Teaching, Kuppayanallur
Fr. Fernando Wellington G.	SXC, Palayamkottai	JMMAAD, Kuppayanallur
Fr. Frederick Xavier Joseph S.	SJIS, Ooty	Team Leader, Ranipet
Fr. Gerlin Amaladoss	LC Vattavalam	PP, Porulur
Fr. Gunasekaran Rajaiah	LIS, Ranipet	Minister & Dir LIFE Engineering Works, Ranipet
Fr. James Antonyswamy	PP, Thirumanur	Estate, Manalur
Fr. James Raja P.	Makkampalayam	LC, Mettala
Fr. Jesudoss Irudayam	St. Mary's, Dindigul	Loyola College, Williamnagar, Meghalaya (Kohima)
Fr. John Paul K.	PP, Harur	Campus Treasurer, LC, Vattavalam
Fr. John Peter Bellarmine	PP, Pourlur	PP, Harur
Fr. Josephraj Savarimuthu	VMI, Vilankudi	Spiritual Father, Berchmans Illam, Chennai
Fr. Louie Albert A.	JRS, Delhi	Teaching, Loyola College, Chennai
Fr. Mag Bay De Lawrence A.	LIFT, Harur	Vocation Promoter, Harur
Fr. Maria Then Amirtharaj G.	SUPAM	Treasurer and In charge of Production unit, Ooty.
Fr. Maria Viyahappan Gladwin A.	Arulagam, Harur	Minister - Treasurer – Teaching, LA Vadamelakkam
Fr. Michael Pugazhedhi A.	Beschi, Dindigul	Tertianship, Sri Lanka from April 2021
Fr. Philip Kumar G.	ARCALI	Tertianship, USA from Jan 2022
Fr. Pon Ruban C.	SUPAM	PARAN - Makkampalayam
Fr. Richard Hiruthayaraj John	JESCO, St Joseph's, Trichy	PhD, Loyola University Chicago
Fr. Richard Lourdhudass A.	LIS, Ranipet	Actin Superior, Principal, Ooty
Fr. Sahayaraj Vijayan	LC, Chennai	Tertianship, Shembaganur
Fr. Soosai Raj A.	Manalur Estate	Team Leader, Mettupalayam
Fr. Wenishraj Rayappan	Dhyana Ashram	PhD - Clives, Trichy
Fr. Xavier Gnanasekaran M.	SJIS, Ooty	PP, Kuppayanallur
Fr. Xavier Rajan	Arul Kadal	Beschi Illam, Dindigul

REPORTS

REGENTS RECOLLECTION & PAP ACTIVITY

Regent's Recollection was preached on theme 'Perspectives Get it Right' by Fr. Louis Arockiaraj A. through Google Meet on 26 Mar 2021. The preacher led the regents to imbibe the subaltern perspectives of Jesus.

On 27 Mar, Regents had a session on 'Legal Matters' by Adv. Sr. Amala, Sisters of St. Joseph's Lyons, elaborating on the case and court proceedings and legal requirements for a trust, as a part of Integral Jesuit Formation.

David Francis

NEWS DIGEST

CHENNAI: AICUF

POLITICAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

“ஒரு விரல் புரட்சி, இளைஞர் எழுச்சி”

Tamil Nadu All India Catholic University Federation (TN - AICUF) in collaboration with MDU-CEN Province Youth Commissions organized a month long political awareness campaign all over the State to reach the college students and general public through street-play. On 26 Feb, Fr. Parthasarathi, the State Advisor, Mrs. Anne Rose, the Animator, and the Full-Timers Mr. Ranjith, Mr. Manoj, Miss. Bafina, and ten



AICUF student-volunteers started street-play practice in Nagamangalam.

On 28 Feb, they commenced their Political Awareness Campaign 2021 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Tiruchi. Through street-play they highlighted various current social evils like ongoing sufferings of farmers, three Farm Bills, atrocities against women, price-hike in basic commodities, privatization, National Education Policy - 2020, manipulation of EVM machine, TASMAL and alcoholic issues and forced unemployment for Tamil youth. They spoke about the importance of voting rights to combat the fundamentalist groups.

From 28 Feb to 28 Mar 2021, they staged street-play in 55 places covering nearly 70,000 people of 19 districts. The troupe received enormous amount of encouragement from the people who also expressed determination to choose an apt leader. Troupe could

feel a sense of awakening among the people. The college youth expressed their responsibility to exercise their democratic voting right. This raised the cognition level of the people to understand the various social evils that push the poor to the periphery. AICUF has made an indelible mark in political history. AICUFers cherished the generous hospitality they enjoyed from all the Jesuit Communities, Colleges, Parishes and Social Actions centres they had visited.

Parthasarathi

CHENNAI: ARUL KADAL

AK Scholastics went on vocation drive to various parishes of Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese in the months of February and March. On 20 Mar, Aikiya Alayam, in collaboration with IDCR conducted an online seminar on பல்சமயப் பார்வையில் இயற்கை ஆதிக்கம் : தேடல் - 3. Fr. Raj Irudaya, the Superior, led a meaningful prayer service and paid homage along with the community to Fr. Ignatius Irudayam, the founder of Aikiya Alayam on his death anniversary on 25 Mar.

On 24-25 Mar, our Scholastics presented integration papers on themes related to Dalits, farmers, women, migrant workers, the marginalized, corporate-kavi fascism, ecology and draconian anti-people legislations. On 25 Mar evening, we had a quality time



with the inmates of Karunai Illam, Little Mount run by MC Brothers and shared a meal and gifts with them.

Sch. Joseph Alexander (MDU) was awarded a cash prize by the Bharathidasan University for his studies on Master of Computer Application. Congratulations! On 26 Mar, after the fruitful annual evaluation, the Scholastics left for home visit.

Salomon

CHENNAI: DHYANA ASHRAM

On 6 & 7 Mar 2021, Fr. Lawrence Amalraj conducted a two-day programme on 'Aging Gracefully' for 20 Senior Citizens aged between 60 and 70 years. On 17 Mar, Fr. Basil Xavier (MDU) was the speaker on the cultural day organised by SAMANVAYA, Satya Nilayam, Chennai.

G Lawrence Amalraj

CHENNAI: ICRDCE

On 27 Feb 2021, St Joseph's Institute of Skills, Bangalore an initiative of Archdiocese of Bangalore was inaugurated by the Archbishop Most Rev. Peter Machodo. It has admitted 300 students for this year. It



is a Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has renewed the recognition for the NSDC Non Funding Skill Certification Program for next three years (2021-2024) with a training target of 300 Students. It is a rare distinction for any skill development agency in India to get renewed for 10,000 students as training target. During the 1st phase (2018 to 2021) our target was 5,500. We have achieved the target with 90% placement. Our Jesuit Skill Development Centres, AHAL, Kilpennathur and LIFT, Harur have successfully completed the 2nd batch of students.

Xavier Alphonse

CHENNAI: LOYOLA COLLEGE

LCC: On 19 Mar an MoU was signed between the Loyola College Society and SIGA (Salesian Institute of Graphic Arts), Chennai, to set printing machines in



our IDCRC. The printing centre would be of great help to our students. We gratefully remember all those who have worked tirelessly for this new venture.

The book review of '*Jesuit Education: Formation for Transformation*' by Francis Xavier P. was held online. The panel members were Prof. A. Marx, Dr. Caroline Maria, and Fr. Joye James. Fr. Francis Xavier P. gave a talk to the VisCom students on time management and he also delivered a webinar on the same theme to the

professors of engineering college organized jointly by AICTE and Easwari Engineering College.

On 16 Mar, Fr. Sahayaraj Vijayan moderated the first-ever '*Fireside Chat*' in Loyola Campus with Mr. M. P. Azhagu Pandian Raja, the first innovation officer of Greater Chennai Corporation, organised by the Loyola Inclusive Innovation Impact Centre.

On 06 Mar, the Campus Ministry organised the annual Lenten penitential walk to St. Thomas Mount. The enthusiastic participation of the Jesuits, the Catholic staff and the students in the walk, the Way of the Cross and the Eucharistic Celebration at the National Shrine of St. Thomas were a matter of joy and satisfaction for all.

LCAS: The English Access Micro Scholarship Program offered by the US Department of State through the Regional English Language Office (RELO), India, is an intensive training program for students from underprivileged communities. On 26 Feb, the graduation ceremony for the Batch of 2018-21 graduates was held online. Fr. Francis Xavier P. delivered the keynote address. Fr. Thomas Amirtham, Principal, Loyola College, Chennai and Fr. V. Y. Dasappan (KER), Principal, St. Xavier's College, Thiruvananthapuram shared their thoughts on the unique methodology, as the program was offered at both the colleges. The ceremony showcased the talents of the access students. Fr. Victor Roch G., Director, LSSS expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the partners of the program for their contribution.

On 27 Feb, Loyola research day was celebrated wherein Fr. S. Ignacimuthu (MDU), Director, Xavier Research Foundation, Palayamkottai was the resource person.

On 8 Mar, Forum for Loyola Women Students celebrated International Women's Day. Mrs. P. Ramana Saraswathi, IAS was the chief guest. On 12 Mar, Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, Provincial released the book titled '*MUNNATHI*' a socio-historical novel written by Fr. Mark Stephen, S.J. On 17 Mar, Loyola College Society organized a Tree Plantation to honour the presence of the Provincial of South Asia Fr. Stanislaus D' Souza.

On 22 Mar, Department of Visual Communication, BMM, DDU KAUSHAL Kendra & LIVE of Loyola College arranged a fitting tribute to the legendary filmmaker SP Jananathan. The speakers highlighted how SP Jananathan (1959-2021) brought humanistic values to the masses with his films.

LICET: On 8 Mar, International Women's Day SHE (See Her Empowered), the forum for Women

Students of LICET organized a Session on 'Breakthrough Women' to celebrate the infinite possibilities among women. Ms. Bhavna Jain, Breakthrough Consultant and Leadership Coach was the resource person. Around 300 girls participated. An open talent contest was conducted on the theme 'Wonder Woman'.

On 12 Mar, LICET organized an awareness program in collaboration with Space Zone India on Femto Satellite Design (small satellite) to students in order to motivate them in satellite designing and launching. LICET's "Team Excelsior" from ECE department has made it to the finalist of start-up idea on Locust Attack Detection and Warder at the Pre-incubation program conducted by the Anna University Incubation Foundation.

On 18 Mar, LICET conducted an award ceremony for the Batch 2017-21 to honour the Best outgoing student of each department, Valedictorian, LICET STAR, Good Samaritan etc. The chief guest for the occasion was Fr. Francis Xavier P.



LICET organized an "Industry-Academia Conclave" addressing various topics like Industry 5.0, Future Trends and Opportunities, Challenges & Prospects etc. LICET lifted Anna University Zone 3 Cricket tournament cup beating SSN Engg College, for the consecutive 5th time.

On 25 Mar, LICET welcomed a team of 10 members from Urbaser Sumeet (Global Environmental Management Company) currently involved in Chennai Corporation Waste Management and had an extensive discussion for the possible collaboration.

LCE: From March 23-26, a four-day workshop was conducted on "Hand-Holding the student: Training for the Mentors" for all our teaching staff. The resource persons were Dr. Melchias Gabriel, Deputy Principal, Loyola College and Ms. D. Anitha Yazhini, Academic Counsellor, Loyola College, Chennai.

LIBA: on 27 Feb, "Annual Convocation 2020" was conducted at Bertram Hall at which Chief guest Mr. S. Murali, Business Head – South, Vodafone Idea



Ltd., conferred diplomas on 186 graduands. Fr. Francis Xavier P., felicitated the new graduates urging them to go out into the world as proud and successful ambassadors of LIBA.

On 28 Feb, "Graduation 2020" ceremony for the Executive Diploma program 2019-20 was held at Bertram Hall, presided over by Dr. Xavier Britto, Chairman, Kerry Indev Logistics Pvt. Ltd., who emphasized that excellence should become the habit of every LIBA graduate. He also stressed the importance of being healthy and happy amidst life's challenges and obstacles.

LIBA has designed a One Year Executive Diploma Program in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Deep Learning (AI/ML/DL) for graduates, structured into three modules. This 'weekends only' program is the brainchild of Fr. Joe Arun, Director who has made Artificial Intelligence (AI) the thrust area for LIBA in the coming academic year.

On 13 and 14 Mar, two signature events of LIBA 'Chrysalis 2021 - Phoenix -Rising to the Future' and 'BEACON -Annual Business Ethics Conference', were held. Dr. A. Amalraj, IPS, Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP), was the chief guest at the Chrysalis. Fr. Francis Xavier P. gave an orientation on ethics followed by Mr. Arjun Ananth, CEO Medall Healthcare Pvt. Ltd and Mr. Sujith Kumar, AVP and HR Business Leader, Infosys Ltd and Founder, Maatram Foundation at the BEACON.

ERI: On 3 Mar, the President of the Society for Biocontrol Advancement (SBA), Bengaluru admitted Fr. S. Maria Packiam as Fellow of SBA (FSBA) for his outstanding contribution in the field of entomology.

IDCR: From 15 to 18 Mar, Fr. Maria Arul Raj A. conducted a seminar on "Leadership for Healing the Broken World" for 25 Superiors of MC Brothers of South-Central Province at Navajeevan Benedictine Monastery, Jakkumpudy- Vijayawada. He also gave online lecture on "St Joseph: The Zestful Just Man- Theo-perspectives" for the staff and students of

Vidyajyoti College of Theology- Delhi. On 23 Mar, he lectured on “*Interfacing the Subaltern Inquiries with Christian Studies: So Far and Hereafter*” in the National Seminar organized by the Department of Christian Studies, University of Madras. On 27 Mar, he spoke on ‘*The Cross with Intention*’ for the CRI Unit of Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese. On 31 Mar, he gave a one-day online workshop on ‘*Subaltern Biblical Interpretation*’.

Zenith

JESUIT MIGRANTS SERVICE (JMS) & LOYOLA RELIEF AND REHABILITATION SERVICE (LRRS)

On 27 & 28 Feb, a training programme was organized for 17 Animators of three evening study centers, at AICUF House. The trainers, Prof. Magesh Daniel, Loyola College, Chennai and Fr. Vasanthakumar, PDD, Jesuit Chennai Province, facilitated the animators



to have a free mind to nurture the children to become enhanced citizens of the society. The inaugural and the valedictory addresses by Fr. Sahayaraj Vijayan, Campus Minister, Loyola College, Chennai and Fr. Samuel Jayaseelan, Vice Principal, Loyola College, Chennai respectively, oriented the participants to have a right perspective to handle the migrant children.

On 7, 13 & 14 Mar, in collaboration with Sisters of the congregations SJL, FSJ and FMM, we organized International Women’s Day Celebrations in St Thomas Mount, Kadambathur and Gummidipoondi. Six women experts from the city graced the occasion along with Dr. Manivalan, the state nodal officer at



DMS. At all the celebrations the migrant women had meaningful sharing. More than 350 migrant women participated with enthusiasm.

On 15 Mar, the staff of JMS & LRRS had a rejuvenating trip to ARCALI, Paramankeni. Our gratitude to Fr. Philip, the Director, ARCALI for his warm hospitality.

On 20 Mar, JMS arranged a consultation meeting with its collaborators and possible partners in Tamil Nadu State for setting up a helpline in order to cater to the needs of the distressed migrants as envisaged by MAIN (Migrant Assistance and Information Network). Fr. Shin, Asst. Director, MAIN and Mr. Martin, Migration Unit, ISI, Bangalore initiated and directed the consultation. All participants expressed their willingness to be part of the state hub to accompany the migrants in need.

On 21 Mar, our migrants had a penitential walk to St. Thomas Mount Shrine. Most Rev. Dr. Neethinathan, Bishop of Chengalpattu, celebrated the Holy Mass and



blessed all the migrants. On 22 Mar, to raise awareness of the global water crisis, Loyola Shelter Homes at Chepauk and Koyambedu celebrated World Water Day. The chief guests of the day Frs. Arockia Alton, Deputy Director, Loyola Hostel, Chennai and Henry Albert, Asst Director, JMS inaugurated the terrace garden in the shelter homes and emphasized the importance of water and our duty to use it cautiously. There were 35 new admissions to our Loyola Shelter Homes last month.

William

HARUR: ARULAGAM

Community: On 07 Mar, the World Women’s Day was celebrated in a grand manner where nearly the 700 participants were from Parish, LIFT Centre, Social Service and School. Mr. Kulandai Francis, the Ramon Magsaysay Awardee of 2012, the founder and director of Integrated Village Development Project (IVDP), Krishnagiri, was the chief guest of the program. By his inspirational speech, he motivated the women and promised to sponsor a generator for the School and Education fee for one of our hostel students for her realistic performance in the drama. Keerthana, who

received Rs. 4000 from the chief guest in appreciation for her performance in the drama, spontaneously donated Rs. 2000 for the educational scholarship of a poor student.

Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, our Provincial was the president of the function. Ms. Tamilmani, DSP, Harur, Mrs. Lakshmi, the inspector of Harur Police Station graced the occasion. As part of PAP 4, the



Arulagam community identified three women who have contributed remarkably to the welfare of the people through their services and honoured them with MAGIS award. Seven other women who have excelled in different fields were also appreciated. This program paved the way for the Jesuits to develop a rapport with the public and people of other faiths.

On 8 Mar, the Provincial's Visitation energised and rejuvenated the spirit of the Jesuits in Harur and our collaborators.

Parish: On 05 Mar, three novices from Beschi Novitiate started their pastoral experience under the guidance of Fr. John Paul, the parish priest. On 8 Mar, Fr. Provincial blessed and opened the new main gate



for the Church. On 20 Mar, the parish priest organised Lenten pilgrimage to St. Antony's grotto at Chellampatty. It culminated in the Eucharistic celebration and followed by meals served by one of our parishioners. On 28 Mar, Lenten retreat for the parishioners was conducted by Fr. Linson CFM, Soogathur.

School: The district board exam was conducted for the class 10,11 and 12 students. Following the instructions of the government, we have stopped offline classes for the 9th, 10th, 11th Stds.

Tony Ajit

KASTHAMBADI: J P LEONARD ILLAM (JPLI)

PRE-NOVIATE

March was a busy month at JPLI. Several activities in the run-up to the Maxi-Academy scheduled for 11 April 2021 packed the month. Frs. Marianathan Swamikannu (MDU), Antony Inigo (MDU), Antony Robinson and Michael Panimaya Raj visited the Pre-novices for the four sheet examination. On 7 Mar, Mr. Praveen and Mr. Edwin gave the pre-novices one-day training in playing flute. Also the pre-novices had a two-day workshop on street-play by Fr. Philip Kumar G. From 15 to 17 Mar, Fr. Darwin S. Michael preached



Triduum to the pre-novices in view of discerning their vocation.

On 19 Mar, the feast of St. Joseph, the pre-novices participated in the Way of the Cross organized at vicariate level at Polur. On 22 Mar, the Assistency level English Exam was conducted by Fr. Xavier Antony Selvam (MDU). It gives us immense joy to have harvested the groundnuts from our field.

Hansel

JMMEx

The staff of JMMEx newly identified and documented 70 repatriated migrants in February and March 2021 from the districts of Villupuram, Kallakurichi and Cuddalore. Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA) distributed each of them 25 kg of rice and 15 kg of grocery worth Rs.2500/-. JMMEx is grateful to the province for the new BOLERO received on 10 Mar.

On 11 Mar, our exposure visit with our migrants to organic farm and poultry, preserved by Fr. Vinoth SDB in Jawadhu hills has inspired us to become organic in our approach and products. The interaction also encouraged them to go for multitasking in their entrepreneurial efforts. On 18 Mar, JPLI family and JMMEx Staff with their family made a tour to Ooty which cemented the feeling of oneness.

Our presence in Valuthalampattu and Kovilanoor in Cuddalore district is acknowledged through Migrant Self-Help Groups (MSHG), initiated on 15 March. With persistent and tireless efforts by JMMEx,



Sr. Valarmathi ICM of NDWM and Mr. Alwin Jose for about two and a half months, we were able to successfully rescue Mrs. Asia Begam of Karur from Kuwait on 17 March 2021.

Velz

KILPENNATHUR: AHAL CENTRE

Parish: Many parishioners, including those drawn from substations, participated in Lenten pilgrimage to Kattukovil on 13 Mar, and also at the Diocesan level Way of the Cross at Chetpet on 21 Mar.

AHAL: All the first batch students of Tailoring and Computer course, AHAL Skill Development Centre, passed in the government exam with good grade – Congrats! On 7 Mar, training for the Animators’ was held at AHAL in order to draft Arunthathiyar Makkal’s election manifesto. It was also decided to vote to the party whose election promises reflected theirs.

AHAL Centre celebrated Women’s day in a series at different clusters. Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram districts are divided into seven clusters namely Pulipattu, Ponpathi, Karungalikuppam, Kulputhupattu, Mangalam, Azhagananthal and Chetpet. This time Arunthathiyar Makkal Nala Sangams and Social Education Centre Animators together organized the celebration in their respective clusters and AHAL gave hand holding support. The title of the celebration



was “அருந்ததியர் மக்கள் நலச்சங்கங்கள் இணைந்து நடக்கும் புதுமைப் பெண்களின் எழுச்சி நாள் 2021”. The purpose is to make them socially responsible, self-reliant; to involve Arunthathiyar women’s leadership; to unite their villages developing cordial relationship with other groups; and to attain their basic rights and dignity

CHEMMADAL

through local body elections. They collected money from different sources to celebrate the day. Their own local leaders were called for the function in their clusters.

AHAL cultural troupe performed variety of events beginning from 14 Mar and ended 30 Mar. On 22 Mar, AICUF students gave election awareness in Kilputhupattu and Aarpakkam villages. The people appreciated their efforts and ensured that they will elect a right leader for Tamil Nadu.

Raja Jesu Raj

PALAVAI (JESIM): TINDIVANAM

On 08 Mar, International Universal Women’s Day was celebrated at Fr. Ceyrac Children’s Hostel (FCCH), Singanur. Srs. Agnes, Sophia, Mary of Cluny Novitiate,



Tindivanam and Mr. Pugazh, the Founder of Ahaoli Foundation inspired our people through their talks. On 14 Mar, Mr. Bose from PALAVAI team gave awareness to our animators on election. From 18 to 20 Mar, a team of AICUFers led by Fr. Parthasarathi, performed a street-play on ‘State Election’ in the nearby parishes and in our villages. On 19 Mar, Lok Manch meeting of Tindivanam Unit was held at FCCH. Members from five organizations participated in the meeting in which they discussed on the ‘Approaches to the State Election’.

On 26 and 27 Mar, a two-day training on dance and social awareness was given to the girls in FCCH by Mr. Sathya and team from Karur. On 28 Mar, Writing Workshop was organized for about eighty students of Evening Study Centres. Mr. Aadhirai, the Director of the movie Aandal, led the workshop along with Mr. Samathuvan.

Michael Sudharson

KUPPAYANALLUR: LOYOLA H.S. SCHOOL

On 20 Mar, we had Food Festival Day for the first time in our School as proposed by Fr. Dominic Jayakumar. The whole institution accepted the idea of ‘உணவு திருவிழா, ஏழைகளுக்கே உதவும் திருவிழா’ and laboured for its success. Mr. Vinoth, the Director of Magic Bus,

presided over the function, and explained the meaning of 'The Joy of Giving'. The students were immensely happy to take part in the games and enjoyed the food items set on eight stalls. A sum of Rs 80,000/- was collected from our students and benefactors. The Food Festival sent a positive vibration in the campus.

Catholics numbering 48 from Kuppayanallur, Puliur, J. P. Nagar and Theetalam went on a pilgrimage to Oriyur, as a part of their Lenten spiritual preparation.



They were happy to meet Frs. Joeseeph Michael, Maria Bastin Durai and Anthony Samy M. who had a long-lasting connection with the people of Kuppayanallur.

On 21 Mar, Fr. Wellington was admitted in Muhil for treatment.

Noyal

METTALA: LOYOLA COLLEGE

On 2 Mar, we organised a one-day National Seminar on "Challenges in Protecting Secularism, Democracy, Human Rights and Gender Equality". Fr. Sahaya Philomin Raj, IDEAS, Madurai, Mr. C.J. Rajan, Advocate & President, Samam Kudi Makkal Iyyakkam, Madurai, Mrs. Semmalar Selvi, Loyola College, Chennai and Fr. Maria Joseph Mahalingam, our Principal, served as resource persons. The inputs of the resource persons kept the students and the staff receptive throughout the day. The Jesuit Management appreciated the dynamic involvement of the staff and the students in this useful conscientisation programme.

From 5 to 7 Mar, Fr. Jebamalai, our Provincial was in the community for annual visitation. His stay and his words of encouragement worked like tonic on our community members. On 15 Mar, Fr. Danis Ponniah, Provincial of Madurai Province was here for his visitation. Both the visits were grace-filled moments for the community.

On 14 Mar, we organised a Free Eye & Dental Care Camp at Thirumanur Parish and 104 patients got benefited. The print media gave a good coverage. Credit goes to Mr. George, Coordinator, NSS and



Mr. Manikandan, Coordinator, YRC. On 21 Mar, we organised the First Loyola Alumni Meet. About 246 alumni participated. Every one appreciated Fr. Rajarathinam the organiser for this historic event. The persuasive and enchanting interaction of all the Heads of Departments and the teaching staff was a salient feature of the event. Accompanied and guided by Fr. Jeyaraj Boniface Secretary, and Fr. Thangadurai, Director of Loyola Men's Hostel, our non-teaching staff went on a one-day tour to Dhanushkodi, Rameshwarm and Madurai. It was a memorable day for them as they visited these places for the first time.

Maria Joseph Mahalingam

METTUPALAYAM: ARRUPPE IILAM

PARAN MAKKAMPALAYAM

Parish: On 7 Feb, Fr. James Raja and the parishioners of Makkampalayam organized Province Vocation promotion day and celebrated the feast of St. John De Britto. On 17 Feb, Ash Wednesday, parishioners of St. Antony the Hermit's Church, Makkampalyam participated in the Mass and wore the Rosaries as a sign of the ensuing Lenten practice of penance.

PARAN: On 7 Feb, we organized online training programme and monthly meeting for the staff of Evening Study Centres in three zones. Sch. Casimir (DUM), and Fr. Packiaraj motivated the staff with their talks on 'Deeper love and care for students'. On 13 Feb, we organized sports day for the two Evening Study Centres at Sathy zone and 18 students participated. On 13 and 14 Feb, two-day skills development training camp was organized for 21 youths at Kadambur. Mr. Jebamalai, the Founder director of Y-Thinking Learning Annex trained the youth.

On 17 Feb, one-day camp was organized for 64 students at Bejjalatti for Thalavadi area by Mr. Mathan, the PARAN staff and Sch. Naveen. On 21 Feb, we organized a training programme for the community leaders to strengthen the *Urali Makkal Sangam*.



On 24 Feb, all members with unity hoisted *Urali Makkal Sangam flag* and installed a name board of Sangam at Kadambur.

On 6 Mar, we organized orientation for Evening Study Centre Staff with Sch. Antony David via google meet. On 14 Mar, Fr. Packiaraj celebrated Women's Day at Gundri parish. On 14 Mar, we bade farewell to Sch. Naveen Kumar, the first Regent. We appreciate and thank him for his service to the Tribal community for the last two years.

On 20 and 21 Mar, Fr. Provincial visited Makkamplayam along with Fr. Socius. On 20 Mar, we organized the Women's Federation Team (*Thenkoodu Magalir Kootamaipu*) meeting to plan out for the future at Kadambur. From PARAN Revolving Funds Rs. 40,000/- was distributed to four women's groups. We gratefully remember Mr. Michael from Chennai, who has completed the Bell Tower construction successfully.

Naveen Kumar



of the Girls' Hostel, Kitchen & Boys' Hostel, is completed. We hope to open the hostel for admission of students by June 2021.

Frankly

VALLAM: PAATHAI CENTRE

On 16 Mar, we as a community went on a pilgrimage to Mazhai Malai Matha Shrine, Acharappakkam. It was to celebrate the Ignatian Year and to pray for the intentions of the new Jesuit Chennai Province. During the pilgrimage we prayed for an increase of Jesuit vocation and appealed to the faithful gathered there to pray for the same intention.

David Francis

VETTAVALAM: LOYOLA COLLEGE

On 8 Mar, we celebrated the International Women's Day. Ms. Mahalakshmi, the Best Teacher awardee, a govt residential primary school teacher and social activist, as the chief guest invited all gathered to take



responsibility for the plight of women in India. She exhorted the women to study and equip themselves adequately so that they become change agents.

On 13 Mar, Dr. Kumaran and his associates from Amritha University, Bangalore – all experienced counsellors, spent a day with our students giving an orientation to them on how to cope with the pressures of life especially in the adolescent age. They were also available for individual and personal guidance and counselling. It was a day of rejuvenation for the entire student community, thanks to the tireless efforts of Fr. Britto Vincent, our Principal.

VADAMELPAKKAM: LOYOLA ACADEMY

It is indeed an unusual academic year with a lot of uncertainties and challenges but it is through the divine grace that we have turned them into opportunities for learning and developing digital teaching-learning skills. We have completed the academic year through online and offline examinations for the students of kindergarten to class 9 and 11. Our Senior Secondary Students have performed exceptionally well in the Board Practical examinations. The 10th and 12th students are coming to school on alternative days for the revision tests during the COVID-19.

On 14 Mar, we celebrated the 79th birthday of Fr. Leo A. Tagore. A day later on Monday the teaching and non-teaching staff members felicitated him with poems, songs and gifts.

The Hostel construction work is going on under the watchful eyes of our Treasurer, Fr. Deva A. Stephen. The roof-concreting of the ground floors

On 16 Mar, tutors from Shankar IAS Academy gave an orientation program to the final year UG and PG students. It was mainly intended to motivate the students to face the competitive exams conducted by UPSC and TNPSC. The students were provided with a booklet, containing information on the syllabus, materials and time of various exams. The academy gifted the institution with a set of preparatory materials for facing UPSC and TNPSC exams.

On 18 Mar, a team of AICUF students, under the guidance of the state advisor Fr. Parthasarathi and Ms. Anne Rose, performed a political awareness street play. The street play brought out the reality of Bonded Labour, Child Abuse, Farmers' Protest in Delhi, Political Status and the upcoming Elections.

On 19 and 20 Mar, Fr. Gerlin, the Head, Department of Physical Education, encouraged the students to take part in the two day webinar on 'Digital Layout and Marking of Track and Field' conducted by MS University, Tirunelveli. The students learnt the updates and technologies in track and field at the international sports arena, as given by the resource persons.

We place on record our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Kulandai Francis, a Social Activist and the Ramon Magsaysay award winner, for his generous contributions to 51 orphan and semi-orphan students of our college towards paying their academic fees.

Justine Emma

THIRUMANUR – ST JOHN DE BRITTO CHURCH

On 7 Mar, more than our 30 youth (boys and girls) were sensitized on several themes like: the unjust social structure, the sex based discrimination against women, the corrupt political system, the constitutional



values, the role of the youth today, etc., by Fr. Philip Kumar, the director of ARCALI.

On 14 Mar, the Lenten Pilgrimage to Oriyur, Idaikattur, Madurai and Vadipatti was arranged for the parishioners. People have been spiritually energized and nourished by the Lenten trip. On 19 Mar, a Pilgrimage

was organized from Thirumanur to Elakurichi Shrine. The Pilgrimage concluded with the Way of the Cross and Solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rt. Rev. Bishop Antonysamay, Kumbakonam Diocese. The devotees of neighbouring parishes (Punalvasal, Pudukottai, Kulamanickam, Vilagam and Kokudi) VMI Jesuits & Pre-Novices were present.

James

COMMON HOUSES / ABROAD

NOVITIATE

On 11 Feb, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was celebrated with a candle-light procession from St. Mary's press followed by a solemn mass at the grotto by Fr. Yagoo (MDU). Novices had prepared the car procession and organized it meticulously.

On 13 Feb, Novitiate community organized a 'Family gathering' for the parents and siblings of nine first-year novices. The theme was 'United in love and prayer'. The family members were all excited to be in our campus and to witness the talents and growth of our novices.

On 18 Feb, we organized a Games Meet with a theme, **இணைந்த கிளைகள்** (Branches of the Same vine) at our campus for the Salesian Pre-novices from Marianathapuram and our novices. Fr. Inigo, Novice master, welcomed the gathering. Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj gave a pep talk on Apostolic ingenuity. In the basketball match conducted on the occasion, each team had a mixture of both Salesians and Jesuits. This gathering reinforced a bond of friendship.

From 22 Feb to 23 Mar, nine first year Novices had their work experiment at Palamalai to have a deeper understanding of the Lord, as Creator and Labourer, and of the life and struggles of the farm labourers. From 5 Mar to 5 April, five second year novices were sent to Oriyur and Harur for their Socio-Pastoral experiment.

Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj gave a three-day workshop on 'Introduction to Spiritual Exercises and Discernment- A way of Life' for the seminarians at Christ Hall, Karumathur.

JUNIORATE

On 15 Mar, our Juniors had their CDF exam where all came out successful. On 19 Mar, Fr. Louie Doss (AND) celebrated solemn Mass and gave an inspiring homily touching upon the outstanding virtues of St. Joseph. That afternoon, the Juniors had their valedictory function in the CIS building. In the 90-minute captivating programme, beat box, skit 'fifty-fifty', orchestra and western dance drew the special attention of the audience. Fr. Thamburaj (MDU), the

chief guest, congratulated the Juniors on making use of all the opportunities provided in the Juniorate and transforming all their imaginations into creative and concrete realities of artistic delight.

Essay and short story competitions organised at the Assistancy level among Juniorates, Sch. Jones (MDU) got the third prize for the essay competition, and Sch. Rejoy (MDU) bagged the first prize for the short story competition. Both will be published in JIVAN. From 22 to 27 Mar, the Juniors had their annual examinations. Fr. Stephen, PCF (MDU), made his visitation of Juniors on 24 and 25 Mar. With the Palm Sunday Eucharistic celebration, the Juniorate came to a close for this academic year. The Juniors are now in their home visit.

Swaminathan

HOLY TRIDUUM ENKINDLES MISSIONARY PASSION IN AFGHAN JESUITS

In Afghanistan, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) is a mission of JCSA that operates in four different provinces namely – Bamyan, Daikundi, Herat and Kabul. Jesuits are based in two locations, Bamyan and Kabul, and travel now and then to other provinces to monitor and evaluate all our programs. Due to security reasons, sometimes it is quite risky to come together in a single location.

Being on a mission in Afghanistan, regular gatherings for celebrations and nourishing festivities like Christmas and Easter is a luxury. This year triduum during the Holy week was an exception. Irrespective of various challenges, the Lord gathered us together to enrich our spirit, mind and body through spiritual experiences and companionship with our fellow Jesuits.

As Holy Week is a regular working week here, our commitment to the mission takes priority. However, understanding the need for such a break, that is to rejuvenate ourselves for the greater mission, and the Society's effort to entrust a few Jesuits to serve 200 staffs and about 20,000 beneficiaries spread across the country, we discerned to come together and celebrate the mission companionship. After the visit, **Fr. Jerome** (JAM) returned from Tashkent, Uzbekistan, **Fr. Robert** (KAR), **Jesu** (MDU) and **Sch. Ronald** (CEN) travelled from Bamyan to Kabul and **Br. Sandesh** (GUJ) returned from Herat.

On Good Friday, when the whole Christian world was reflecting on the Passion of Christ and gazing at the Crucified Lord, we sat and shared our deep spiritual experiences in the mission where the practice of faith openly is not possible. The sharing revealed that irrespective of the challenges and void of external

factors, such as surrounded by the faith community and the religious ambience of the Church, each one of us experience God deeply in our mission. The finger of God is deeply experienced in struggles, uncertainties and helplessness in the shared mission of Afghanistan. **Fr. Jesu** expressed how he missed a few important family events as a newly ordained priest, lack of opportunities for sacramental ministry and some other challenges due to adverse climatic conditions. Irrespective of these experiences, he shared the consolation he receives in prayer and his optimism towards the mission for which he is called.

God has been revealing himself in our lives in the mission through the people around us who share their trust and hopes with us. **Sch. Ronald** shared a few experiences where he felt the meaning and value of our presence and the work we do. He quoted the words of a young girl from Nowjok, a village in Daikundi, which showed the trust and hope we are giving to the young of Afghanistan: *"Dear brother, we have many dreams, and all our dreams are possible through JRS."* We felt deeper consolation from the way God has been helping this mission through the Fathers and Brothers who worked in this mission and through us now who are in the mission irrespective of our limitations. **Fr. Jerome** felt that such a mission is true to the charism of the Society of Jesus. The years of his work in Afghanistan have been a meaningful experience in his life. The voice of the Lord and voice of Jesuit vocation as to be heard in the midst of dark clouds over violent and insecure context of Afghanistan. His relationship with God and his reflections have been shaped by the deeper experiences in Afghanistan which is further reflected in his spiritual and pastoral ministry.

The challenges and uncertainties that we face every day have been ironically transformed into opportunities to step ahead with apostolic creativity and to open ourselves to new perspectives. **Br. Sandesh** noted that though he enjoys fieldwork more than the work he is involved in, he feels greater satisfaction in the work he does as he witnesses the impact of the JRS in the lives of the people and in understanding the context and expectations of the Society. We all felt the hands of God in this mission and his plans have been beyond our imaginations. When we look back, everything looks wonderful and miraculous.

We shared our consolations in witnessing the ineffable joy in the eyes of the young boys and girls when they find hope and access to their dreams through our works. **Fr. Robert** narrated his experience of meeting families of girls who have been selected for

the scholarship program in Bamyan, *"It was wonderful to see the joy of a girl who got the approval from her parents to go for higher education with the support of JRS."* United with hearts and minds and overwhelmed with deep consolations and gratitude, we concluded our sharing with prayer.

The Holy week Triduum was enriched with the services in the Italian Embassy Church in Kabul, sharing the fellowship with Msgr. Giovanni, the Apostolic Prefect, Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity and PBK sisters. On Easter eve, we had a special Mass within our community praying for peace and hope for this broken nation. However, in the presence of the Lord, our hearts were engulfed with gratitude. We shared the Easter joy with the 20 expatriates in a Holy Mass at the UN campus in the evening. We enjoyed our togetherness in festive dinner, friendly conversations and prayers as an Easter community. Then with gratitude we departed to continue our mission with energized hearts, hoping to meet again.

Ronald Antony

GETTING A PRIZE VS BECOMING A PRIZE

Getting an award is always joyful. This is the moment where one realizes concretely what the Psalmist says: Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy (Ps 126:5). Your sustained hard work and commitment to the cause have brought you the award of excellence; and your patience and resilience have offered you recognition.

Achievements are rewarded with prize; and prize boosts one's morale, giving confidence to do better things in life. It gives better social visibility and recognition to the winner (which would invite more opportunity to do greater things); and it being a motivating factor, makes one aim for more ambitious targets, to do ever better and ever more.

One cannot get all the prizes and all cannot get prizes all the time. Let us ask ourselves two questions: Is winning a prize, everything? Is it necessary to win prizes and awards in life? Winning is great but we do not win all the time. In fact, to be a champion, we need to fight every round and only tireless pursuits can create success. And, we need to have a heart to face and accept occasional failures. Abdul Kalam would say that we learn more from failure than from success. When success forms a person to gain confidence; failure transforms a person with courage to go ahead. Remember, with each fall, one rises higher.

At times, we tend to overlook seemingly easy prize-winning for greater good in our lives. You might remember the story of the tortoise and the rabbit with the moral: *slow and steady win the race*. Someone

asked the rabbit why he did not win the race. The rabbit recounted how he got enlightened about the race and how he made way for the tortoise to win the race.

The rabbit initially ran fast and was well ahead of the tortoise. On the way, the rabbit met a sage in meditation. He asked the rabbit why he was restless. The rabbit replied: *"I am a rabbit and I am running a race."* The wise man questioned the rabbit: *"Today you have been challenged by a tortoise; tomorrow, it might be a snake; on the following day, it might be a zebra. Are you going to race all your life to prove that you are the fastest?"* He added: *"Be peaceful and do what gives you contentment of heart."* The rabbit replied: *"I want to sleep under the banyan tree on a makeshift pillow while the leaves rustle and the bees buzz."* The sage smilingly said: *"You can do all these things this very moment; forget the race."* The rabbit was happy and followed the advice of the wise man. The rabbit realized that he had lost the race but had gained his life.

You may win accolades and awards, but what is important is that you should become a prize to all you encounter in life. You should become the precious gift and the costliest prize to your near and dear ones. The best and precious gifts you can create for yourself are capability, creativity, and credibility. Capability is to upskill yourself; creativity is your courage to think out of box; and credibility is your building meaningful and lasting relationships with others. Then, your service to humankind is the prize you give to the society you come from.

So, work diligently and work to enrich your life. In a running race, it might be good to win the race, but what is even more important is to complete the race. Winning prizes and awards is a by-product of your sustained hard work or smart work for the good of yourself and of our fellow human beings.

Francis Xavier P.

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr. Edward Kerketta (RAN 69/46), passed away on 8 Mar 2021 at Samford Hospital, Ranchi.

Br. Victor Campos (GOA 87/20), passed away on 10 Mar 2021 in Goa.

Fr. Arul Jeevan (MDU 73/50), passed away on 22 Mar 2021 at St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul.

Fr. Anil Kishor Tirkey (RAN 67/47), passed away on 27 Mar 2021 at C. Lievens Hospital & Research Centre, Mandar, Ranchi.

Mrs. Vimala Maria Sangeetha (63), sister-in-law of Fr. Arul P. Stanislaus, passed away on 17 Mar 2021 at Sivakasi.

Mrs. Jaya Packiam (74), Sister of Br. Antony Pitchai (MDU), passed away at Thalakkavoor, Karaikudi.

FR. ARUL JEEVAN (1947-2021)

Fr. Arul Jeevan was born the seventh of nine children to Mr. Jeevanandam and Mrs. Masilla Mary on 19 November 1947 at Rajakembiram in the Diocese of Sivagangai. He finished his undergraduate studies in Mathematics at Sivagangai before joining the Novitiate at Beschi, Dindigul, in 1970. I was his novitiate companions and we were one of the largest batches with 19 Novices in the first year. Although he was the senior most in our batch, he accepted himself as he was with all his strengths and limitations. After his theological studies in Jnana Deepa, Pune, he was ordained a Priest on 26 April 1981.

Soon after his Ordination, he served as Pastor for a year at Sindalacherry (1981) and another year at Oriyur (1982). Then for more than two decades he served as Teacher/ Asst. Head Master in our schools [St. Xavier's, Thoothukudi (1984-1989), St. Mary's, Madurai (1989-1992), St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai (1994-1999) and St. Joseph's, Tiruchi (1999-2006)]. As Acting Head Master of St. Mary's, Dindigul (1992-1994), he came up with SUPAM (Student Uplift Animation Movement), an innovative income generation project to help poor students.

On the occasion of Fr. Arul Jeevan completing 50 years of devoted service in the Society of Jesus, Rev. Fr. Arturo Sosa, our Superior General, expressed his appreciation in the following words: *"During those years you involved yourself not merely in teaching but also in character formation of students with your added interest in counseling. Your alumni carry good memories of your accompaniment. Your insistence on discipline among staff and students and your promotion of the Ignatian pedagogical paradigm with its focus on accompanying the learners in their growth and development have left indelible footprints in the Secondary Education sector of Madurai Province."*

After his retirement from service in Secondary Education, Fr. Arul Jeevan served as Librarian of Jnana Deepa, Pune, from 2006 to 2011. During those years, he also got involved in weekend pastoral and youth ministries in the neighbouring parishes.



Fr. Arul Jeevan's much appreciated work in Pune came to an abrupt halt when illness struck and he was brought to St. Mary's, Madurai. He had to undergo craniotomy twice and in 2016, because of adrenal cancer, he underwent also right nephrectomy. In 2018, he moved to Beschi Illam, Dindigul, where despite the care given by the infirmary team of PDDM Sisters, attendants and co-workers, serious health problems continued but as Fr. General mentions in his Golden Jubilee letter he *"not only accepted medical options but also dared to accept God's invitation to live a life of pain and suffering."*

In 2019-'20, he experienced chronic back pain. Scans and other investigations were done and he was diagnosed with colon cancer and he willingly underwent colectomy at Vadamalayan Hospital, Madurai, in October 2020 followed by chemotherapy. He responded well to the treatment but became so weak that he was not able to carry on with the physical exercises prescribed by the surgeons; he was bed-ridden and, in Mar 2021, he gradually developed imbalance and respiratory problems. He was admitted in St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, on 18 Mar 2021, and breathed his last at 5.30 a.m. on 20 Mar 2021. It was a peaceful death.

Fr. Danis Ponniah, Provincial, presided over the funeral Mass on Mar 23 with restricted attendance of Jesuits and family members. In my homily, as Beschi Superior and Fr. Arul Jeevan's Novitiate companion, I spoke comparing his suffering to the patient suffering of Job in the Bible and how the Risen Lord Jesus relieved him from all pain, suffering and illness and called him to Himself and has given him a share in His glory. All the family members returned home praising God and thanking the Society of Jesus and Beschi community for the care given to Fr. Arul Jeevan over the years, and his meaningful and solemn obsequies despite COVID-related restrictions. May God grant unto Fr. Arul Jeevan eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon him, and may he rest in peace.

L. Michael Doss