

May 2021-July 2022



St. Ignatius



Year of



St. Joseph

2020-Dec 8-2021

(For Private Circulation)

APRIL - MAY 2021

MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Given below is Fr. Provincial's Programme incorporating the changes that had to be made in his March 2021 programme.

MARCH 2021

- 01 POSA Consult, Delhi
- 02-04 Patna Jesuit Mission Centenary, XTTI, Patna
- 05 Loyola, Chennai
- 06 Berchmans Illam, Chennai
- 08 Satya Nilayam, Chennai
- 09-10 Arul Kadal, Chennai
- 11 AM Dhyana Ashram, Chennai
- 11 PM Loyola Academy, Vadampakkam
- 12 AM Loyola, Kuppayanallur
- 13 Governing Body: ISI, Bengaluru
- 14 Arulagam, Harur
- 15 Loyola, Mettala
- 16 AM Eraiyur
- 16 PM Vadugarpet
- 17 AM Poondi Matha Basilica, Poondi
- 18-19 Province Office
- 20 LS/TL/Coord. Meeting, Maduralaya (Online)
- 21 LS/TL Meeting, Maduralaya (Online)
- 22-25 Province Office
- 26-27 Consult, Maduralaya
- 28-31 Province Office

APRIL 2021

- 01-06 Province Office
- 07-08 Visitation: De Britto, Devakottai
- 09-10 Visitation: St. Arulanandar, Oriyur
- 11 Golden Jubilee Mass of Br. Xavier Amal (AND), Madurai
- 12-13 Province Office
- 13 Online Meeting of LS/TL with Campus Treasurers and Finance Commission
- 14 Final Vows of Fr. S. Paul Pragash, St. Joseph's, Tiruchi
- 15 Silver Jubilee: LIFE, Loyola College, Chennai
- 16 Berchmans Illam, Chennai
- 17-19 Province Office
- 20-21 Province Consult
- 22-25 *Tempo Forte*, Shembag
- 26-27 Visitation: SHC, Shembag
- 28-29 Visitation: Estates, Kodai Hills
- 30 Province Office

"We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!"

MAY 2021

01	Final Vows of Fr. Selvaraj Soosaimanickam, Beschi, Dindigul
02	Province Office
03-13	Province Office
14	Tindivanam
15	Province Office
16-19	Formation Meet, Shembag
20-31	Province Office
29	Province Jubilarians' Day, Beschi Illam, Dindigul



Announcements

Pope Francis has appointed **Archbishop Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli (67)** Apostolic Nuncio to India.

Appointments by Fr. General:

Fr. Antonysamy Stephenraj (PAT): Regional Director, JRS

Fr. Sunny Jacob (JAM): Asst for Mission and Identity for the Secretariat for Education and Jesuit Education Specialist for 'Educate Magis'

Appointments by Fr. POSA

Fr. Jesu Benjamin (DUM): National Director, AICUF (Subject to CBCI approval)

Fr. Somy Mathew Mannoor (JAM): Editor, IGNIS

Jor Bagh, Delhi

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. 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. Provincial and all at the Province Curia wish the MNL readers peace, hope and joy of Easter!

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

Jnana Deepa, Pune

Fr. Peter Ignatius (PAT): Registrar and Teacher

Fr. George Cordeiro (BOM): Moderator of PG Students and Manager of PG Block

De Nobili College, Pune

Fr. Paul Chemparathy (NEP): Treasurer

Fr. Joji Devara (AND): PhD

Fr. Jagdish Parmar (DAR): PWP Office relocated to DNC, 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

Fr. Edwin Philip Rodrigues (BOM): Teaching

JRS, Afghanistan

Fr. Jerome Sequeira (JAM): 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

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS BY FR. PROVINCIAL STATUS OF FATHERS AND BROTHERS 2021: LIST I

NAME	FROM	TO
P Alphonse William L.	SXC, Palayamkottai	Beschi Illam, Dindigul
P Antony Inico I.	Clive House, Tiruchi	SJC, Tiruchi (Administrator, JIM)
F Arockiasamy Kulandai	SXC, Palayamkottai	Minister & Treasurer, Arulagam, Harur (CEN)
P Arul Ravi S.	St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai	Coordinator, Dalit Commission
P Francis Xavier A.	DACA, Madurai	Maduralaya, Dindigul (House Treasurer & PG Studies at Gandhigram University)
P Francis Xavier Arockiadass	Kalangarai, Nagapattinam	Tertianship, Shembaganur
P Ignatius Britto N.	St. Mary's HS School, Harur	Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari
P Ignatius Sebastian	Xaveriana, Thoothukudi	Beschi Illam, Dindigul
F John Britto Silverius	Minister, SJC, Tiruchi	Continues at SJC, Tiruchi
P John Wilson J.	SJC, Tiruchi	Coordinator, Youth Commission
P Joseph Xavier V.	SJC, Tiruchi	Coordinator, SJ University Committees
F Mariadoss Antonimuthu E.S.	Maduralaya, Dindigul	LAAS, Madurai
P Paulraj Packiam	SJC, Tiruchi	Director, JIM
P Sebastian Thangadurai A.	Loyola, Mettala	Minister & College Staff, SJC, Tiruchi
P Thamburaj James	Clive House, Tiruchi	CIS, Beschi Illam, Dindigul
P Vincent Irudhayaraj M.	SXC, Palayamkottai	Tertianship, Shembaganur
P Wenishraj Rayappan (CEN)	Dhyana Ashram, Chennai	Minister, Treasurer & PhD studies, Clive House, Tiruchi

Easter Message of Fr. General

Father General's Easter message to the whole Society comes in the form of a video "To revive hope" in which, in the face of the Pandemic, he invites us to think and devise different ways of living in the Society that would radically transform our world. The Risen Christ offers us to rediscover the Hope required to promote the radical transformation that our world needs. Click the link to listen to his message

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJeVopiiXAw>

Chennai: Satya Nilayam

Reading the worsening COVID-19 situation, our staff came to a unanimous opinion that II Year Scholastics should be sent back to their Provinces

as early as possible, otherwise they will be stranded like last year. Hence, we have re-scheduled our academic programme. The Scholastics will complete their semester examination on 31 March and within one or two days leave for their Provinces. Online Comprehensive examinations will be held a little later. The dates will be announced soon. Meanwhile, the Scholastics will engage themselves in preparation that implies online guidance from different Professors, online group discussion, etc. Kindly take note of this point and provide suitable atmosphere and facilities to the Scholastics to profit from this important academic exercise. Thank you for your understanding and kind cooperation.

Boniface Panna

Photos Needed

The General Curia would like your help in collecting quality photos (well framed and lit, at least Full HD resolution - 1920px width) that evoke the call to the Jesuit vocation or ways of living the Universal Apostolic Preferences. Can you help us? Send your best photos before Pentecost Sunday (23 May) to infosj-2@sjcuria.org. Make sure these are photos that you or the Society “own”, as they will be considered the property of the Society of Jesus and may be used without restriction by the Society.

Email ID and Mobile Numbers

Fr. B. John Bosco has a new email ID:

bjbosco58@gmail.com

Fr. Tagore Leo Antony has an additional Airtel cell no: 86676-90022

Fr. Michael Pugazhendhi has a Sri Lanka Mobile number (+94-7690-39456) in addition to his WhatsApp number (+91-74483-21477)

Ignatian Year (2021-'22) Music Composition

Both the lyric in Tamil and melody should be ready by the end of April 2021. The best composition will be duly awarded. If someone wants to write only the lyric, let him send it to me at the earliest and anyone can approach me for the available lyrics. The best composition will be sung and live-streamed on 20 May 2021, the Inaugural Day of the Ignatian Year 2021-22, and during the year-long celebrations.

Vincent Sekhar

Propose a name and win a prize!

The Jesuit Madurai Province is launching an e-magazine which will, initially, be a quarterly (once in three months and so four times a year). Without being overtly religious, it will carry articles on all domains of our public life and focus on the Society's apostolic preferences.

As the magazine's editor, I am looking for an attractive name for this online magazine. So we are announcing a contest, which is open to all the MDU Jesuits. In your most creative moments think of a good, appropriate name. It should be just one or two words in English. It must be easily pronounceable. It should reflect hope and positivity. You can come up with any number of proposed names. The one who sends the name that finally gets chosen will win a special prize given by Fr. Provincial. Send it to majoe2703@gmail.com before 25 April 2021.

M.A. Joe Antony

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN) Fundamental Rights

In April 2021, we pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

NEWS DIGEST

Ignatian Year 2021-22 Update

On 16 March 2021, Fr. Vincent Sekhar convened the IGY 21-22 team of MDU Province to give an update on the preparations for the Ignatian Year celebrations at the JCSA and Global levels. After initial clarifications on joint publications, Fr. Sekhar outlined the Inaugural Day celebrations at three different times and in two different (online and offline) modes. The morning programme on 20 May 2021 will comprise of an introduction, prayer, and the Provincial's talk, all online; at mid-day, we will have the Holy Mass, online; and evening will be left to the communities to have their celebrations. The institutions can spend time together in the offline mode during the day. By the end of April, an initial reminder, placing of boards and placards, etc. will have to be done in all our institutions giving awareness of the Ignatian Year to all. A Novena to Saint Ignatius will precede the Inaugural Day.

On March 20, Fr. Vincent Sekhar was invited by Fr. Provincial to address the Superiors/Team Leaders/Commission Coordinators' meeting on the Province IGY plans, online. Joint printing and publications, joint gatherings of the Ignatian Family (IGFA), former Jesuits, and student communities, Province pilgrimage, a rough outline of the Inaugural Day celebration etc. were the highlights of Fr. Sekhar's presentation. The participants welcomed the plans. He was also glad to listen to the efforts made by the communities and institutions in presenting their Ignatian plans for the year. Further details on the Inaugural Day celebrations will be discussed by the team and communicated to all the communities in due course.

Vincent Sekhar

Final Vows at Christ the King Church, Loyola, Chennai

April 10, 2021 was a joyous day for our Mother Society as six of her sons made their final profession. Fr. Ilanko, CEN Socius, welcomed the gathering and highlighted the importance of Final Vows in the Society. The Eucharist with the theme “இயேசுவின் வழியில் இறையாட்சிப் பணியில்” was presided over by Fr. Jebamalai Irudayaraj, CEN Provincial, and was concelebrated by the vovents (Frs. Antony Robinson J., Arokia Dass J., Baskar Antony S., Maria Packiam S., Victor Roch G., and Sahayaraj John Stanley). Barring a few invited guests, the congregation mainly comprised of Jesuits numbering about 100. Fr. Baskar Antony, in his homily, referred to the Jesuit history of New Madura Mission and the need of continuing to hold the people in our heart and remain grateful to God. The vovents offered things signifying the Province Apostolic Preferences and the quality of life the Jesuits should have for the mission. The vows they pronounced reminded us to lead our consecrated life committedly. At the end of the Mass, the traditional “Take and Receive” was sung by all with enthusiasm. The melodious choir headed by Fr. Wenishraj Rayappan put us all in a prayerful mood. On behalf of the vovents, Fr. Sahayaraj John Stanley thanked the gathering. The dinner arranged by Fr. Samuel Jeyaseelan, Director of Loyola Hostel, was sumptuous and Loyola and Berchmans Community members deserve to be appreciated for making all the necessary arrangements under the able coordination of Fr. Sahayaraj Vijayan.

Zenith L.M.

Superiors, Team Leaders & Coordinators meeting: March 20 & 21

The meeting of the Superiors, Team Leaders and Coordinators, which was planned to be held in Maduralaya, had to be held online because of the unexpected surge in COVID cases. Although the meeting was held online, everything went on smoothly as planned. The first session, with Fr. Thomas Alexander as the moderator and Fr. John Peter Arulanandam as the secretary, began with a prayer service conducted by Fr. Vincent Amalraj imploring the grace of God to see all things new in Christ.

Immediately after the prayer, Fr. Provincial explained the dynamics of the day highlighting the salient features of Fr. General’s call to see all things new in Christ in our mission for the poorest of the

poor by promoting a culture of closeness with the Lord and His people. The Superiors, Team Leaders and Coordinators shared elaborately their creative and concrete action plans for celebrating the Ignatian Year in a meaningful way. Fr. Provincial appreciated the participants and invited them to document all the Jubilee Year activities. Encouraging the Commissions to come up with creative ways of collaboration for the celebration, he sought the insights of the members present for enriching the celebration. Indeed, there were many insightful ideas and suggestions such as keeping the poor at the centre of our celebration, using it to promote more vocations to the Society and revive IGFA (Ignatian Family) and CLC (Christian Life Communities) and making it an inclusive celebration in the Province. The forenoon session ended with Examen in common led by Br. P. Arockiasamy. In the afternoon, Fr. Vincent Sekhar, the Convener of the IGY, appreciated and thanked the Superiors, Team Leaders and Coordinators for the many creative ideas and suggestions that emerged in the communities and commissions and he presented the plan of IGY Committee for the celebration at the Province level.

In the evening, we had an important session on Salary Revision moderated by Fr. L. R. Michaelraj with Fr. Francis Xavier Arockiadass as the secretary. This session was made more informative, relevant and useful by the clear and concise presentations by Br. Edward Brunoraj, Frs. Jeyaseelan T. Barnabas, and Mariadoss Siluvaimuthu. There were clarifications and suggestions from the floor. The first day came to a close with a very moving prayer service by Fr. S. Aruldoss.

The second day was only for the Superiors and Team Leaders and it started with a beautiful prayer service by Fr. Arul Oli, seeking the grace of God to interiorly rejoice with Ignatius. With Fr. Henry Jerome moderating the session and Fr. Xavier Raj as the secretary, the first session was on Grievance Cell Document vis-à-vis Province Protocol on Protection and other statutory committees in our institutions. Frs. Thomas Alexander and Joseph P. Xavier made the presentations with Fr. Philomin Raj as the observer. In the final session, Fr. Provincial spoke elaborately on issues, challenges and future directions in South Asia based on the talk of Fr. General. He invited the entire Province to make use of the IGY as an opportune moment for conversion both individually and as a Province. The meeting came to a close with a detailed Examen conducted by Fr. Xavier Antony.

G. S. Thayriam

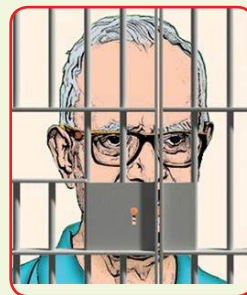
UPDATE ON FR. STAN SWAMY'S CASE

Though normally the NIA courts are not lenient in granting bail, the incomparable legal fight put up by our lawyers, intensive national and international level campaigns and incessant prayers raised our optimism to unprecedented heights. The rejection of bail confirms that the government still feels threatened by human rights defenders and dissenting intellectuals of our country.

After the refusal of bail, there was a meeting of our lawyers in Mumbai – Adv. Sharif, Adv. Kritiga (trial court/NIA court lawyers) and Adv. Mihir Desai with the participation of Fr. A. Joseph Xavier. Mr. Mihir Desai, our High Court advocate stated that he would be preparing the bail petition, appeal against the order of the Sessions Court, in which he would also include the medical bail matter. He might also file a writ challenging Section 43D(5) of UAPA (norms to be followed while granting bail in UAPA cases) and also questioning the legality of frontal organizations but the problem is that the High Court has many holidays in April and it will be on vacation in May. Adv. Mihir Desai will try his best to file the bail petition soon so that the petition is heard before the vacation.

On March 20 and 23, one of our lawyers spoke with Fr. Stan on legal counsel call. Stan was briefed about steps being taken before the bail order as well as after the bail was rejected.

There was a meeting of Nodal Jesuits and Core Team members of Stan Campaign on April 7. It was decided to have varied celebrations on Fr. Stan Swamy's 84th birthday on April 26. Some of the suggestions made are: Sending birthday greeting cards to Fr. Stan, online community prayer, webinar, book with a collection of articles published on Stan, Happy Birthday sung in different languages, programmes with the children of prisoners, organizing blood donation, standing outside the institutions with birthday posters, birthday Twitter eruption etc.



A. Santhanam

Dindigul: Beschi Illam

Despite the surge in the number of COVID positive cases in Tamil Nadu, with restricted entry and exit, we are keeping Beschi campus and its senior Jesuits safe. As a sole exception, Fr. Joseph Srinivasan, ended up in the COVID ward of St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, on April 8. On the same day, Fr. Paul Dominic of AND Province, who was directing a retreat in Tiruchi, was first brought to Dindigul and owing to the severity of infection was referred to Vadamalayan Hospital, Madurai, where he has been put on Intravenous (IV) drips and Oxygen support.

Fr. Dhanaraj directed a month-long Ignatian retreat from 1 to 28 February in Coimbatore for the seminarians hailing from eight northern dioceses of Tamil Nadu. He preached a similar retreat of a shorter duration (4 to 26 March) at Vadipatti for 30 seminarians of eight southern dioceses. Fr. Bastian is directing the Spiritual Exercises for three sisters of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, Tuticorin. They are preparing themselves for their final vows. Frs. Antony Inigo and Dhanaraj are preaching the Spiritual

Exercises to three sisters of the same Congregation who are preparing themselves for their silver jubilee celebrations. They all go to Fr. I. M. Joseph for their personal chat.

Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj conducted a three-day workshop (*Introduction to the Spiritual Exercises and Discernment - A Way of Life*) from 1 to 3 March for the seminarians of Christ Hall, Karumathur.

Our five second-year novices have completed their month-long Socio-Pastoral Experiment from 5 March to 5 April at Harur and Oriyur. From February 22 to March 23, our 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. Since the novices are not yet permitted to go out for weekend ministries, the nine first years had their Holy Week services/ministry within the Beschi campus itself.

Michael Panimaya Raj

Dindigul: Juniorate, Beschi Illam

On March 15, our Juniors had their CDF exam which all of them passed. On March 19, the feast of

St. Joseph, Fr. Louie Doss (AND) celebrated a solemn Mass and gave an inspiring homily touching on the outstanding virtues of St. Joseph. That afternoon, the Juniors had their valedictory function in the CIS building. In the 90 minutes captivating programme, beatbox, skit 'fifty-fifty', orchestra and western dance drew the special attention of the audience. Fr. Thamburaj, the chief guest, congratulated the Juniors for making use of the opportunities given in the Juniorate and transforming all their imagination into creative and concrete realities of artistic delight. On March 21, the results of the essay and short story competitions among Juniorates were announced. While Sch. Jones got the third prize for the essay competition, Sch. Rejoy bagged the first prize for the short story competition. As assured by Fr. Arjen Tete, our CDF, we look forward to our young storyteller's masterpiece being published in JIVAN soon. From March 22 to 27, the Juniors had their third and final term examinations. Fr. Stephen, PCF, was on his official visit to Juniorate on March 24 and 25. With the Passion Sunday Eucharistic celebration, the Juniorate came to an end for this academic year and the Juniors left Beschi for their home visit.

Swaminathan

Dindigul: St. Mary's

On March 13, Fr. P. Joseph Xavier, the Campus Minister, and his team organized the annual pilgrimage to Kavirayapuram for the staff of the Primary and Higher Secondary Schools. On reaching there, we had the Benediction followed by the Holy Eucharist.



On March 14, Fr. V. George, the President of the CRI Dindigul unit, organized a one-day Lenten recollection for about 170 religious priests and sisters. Fr. Mariadoss, CMF, the resource person, preached on St. Joseph and Religious Life.

As we are cautioned about the second wave of COVID pandemic, we did not join Beschi Illam for the monthly recollection. Instead, Fr. Albert William gave the recollection talk to the community.

Amalan

Karumathur: AAC

The Departments of Economics and Computer Science organized separately two-day International seminars on 9th and 18-19th of March, respectively, on "Agricultural Reforms: Challenge or Opportunity" and "Recent Advancements in Machine Learning."

They were well-planned and attracted more than 600 participants. On March 17 and 18, the Department of Human Excellence organized two training programmes, one for Life Skills and the other for Soft Skills. Dr. Mary Lowrencia, Department of English, spoke on the methods in teaching Life Skills with a number of practical exercises. Similarly, Mr. Daniel Vinod Kumar, Senior Programme Manager of the Centre for Advocacy and Research, New Delhi, explained how to manage attitudes, especially at critical times and for special people.

The annual Inter-departmental sports created a contagious sports fever among AAC students. Despite busy academic schedules, the Director of Physical Education, assisted by the Department of Physical Education, organized well Cricket, Volleyball, Football and Kabaddi matches from March 8 to 20. The overall winner and runner-up rolling shields were snatched by the Department of Physical Education and the Department of Philosophy, respectively. Unfortunately, the whole campus became almost empty because of the sudden Government Order, forcing most students to vacate the college premises. And the long-awaited Sports Day became a castle in the air!

On March 20, Fr. Vincent Sekhar took part in the ESADE (Spain)-SCU (USA) discussion and responded to the presentation by Dr. G. Oscar Bulaong from the Department of Philosophy, Ateneo de Manila University. On March 21, Arrupe Illam prayed with the whole of Jesuit Conference of South Asia through the live-streamed "STAND with STAN" prayer service, imploring God for the immediate release of Fr. Stan. The Jesuit community was overjoyed in receiving Sch. Britto and Sch. Pius and a candidate Roxsan from Sri Lanka, after a long and delayed visa issuance process. On March 25, there was a meeting of Rectors of various seminaries around AAC along with the faculty members of the Department of Philosophy to discuss the 3Cs – Cordiality, Common Essentials and Challenges, related to the 140 seminarians studying in the various departments of AAC. The Arrupe Illam Jesuit community hosted lunch for the participants.

Vincent Sekhar

Madurai: DACA

On March 7, International Women's Day, we congratulated our student Sneha, the rank holder in the XII Std public examinations 2020-'21. She had scored 544 out of 600 marks and stood first in the school. She was the chief guest on that day to



share her dreams for the future and the lessons she learnt in our Vidivelli Home. We also had a guest from Japan who highly motivated the students. In the study centres, too, we celebrated Women's Day with a thematic debate on 'Women Empowerment', awareness songs and some cultural items.

On March 8, TN AICUF PAP (Political Awareness Program) team volunteered to perform a street play in eight villages of Muthukulathur Zone to spread awareness regarding the fast-approaching TN legislative assembly election.

On March 14, we organized "Knowledge Fest – QUIZ CONTEST '21" for the students of Tirunelveli Zone. Around 110 students from 12 villages actively took part in it. The winners were given attractive prizes and a certificate, while all the other participants were each offered a consolation prize.

Theophine Michael

Nagapattinam: Kalangarai

Vidhavai Pengal Vazhvurimai Sangam, Nagapattinam, with the assistance of Kalangarai, celebrated International Women's Day - 2021 on March 6 in the premises of Kalangarai; 350 women participated in it. The theme of the day was "The Role of Women in Organic Farming". Ms. J. Pushpa, the President of the Association, presided over the function. Ms. Revathi, CEO of INSPIRE, gave us very helpful ideas on organic farming and assured us of any support in this regard. Ms. Rajeshwari Baskaran, the President of Manjakollai Panchayat, appreciated the widows for their initiatives. As a sign of the empowerment received, all widows came colourfully dressed sporting *bindi* and flowers. The day was filled with thought-provoking cultural programmes



performed by them and the students of St. Joseph's Community College.

Kalangarai offered them training on food preparation and business management. As a result of the training held for four days on non-conventional business training, two women have begun a mushroom food stall in Nagapattinam in the beginning of March. Inspired by their example, we hope to see many more women opting to be entrepreneurs.

On March 12, the foundation stone was laid for the new office building exclusively meant for *Vidhavai Pengal Vazhvurimai Sangam*. Fr. Kulandaisamy prayed for the successful completion of the building. To break the superstitious custom forbidding widows' participation in such auspicious functions, the leaders of the Widows' Association attending this ceremony were treated as VIPs and each leader was asked to place a brick on the foundation.

John Silvester

Palayamkottai: St. Xavier's

Despite the prevailing uncertainty, the government counselling process for SXCE was done between March 8 and 16. It has enabled the management to begin the offline classes to the relief of students who found the online classes boring.

The College of Education "virtually" celebrated the International Science Day, the International Mother Language Day, the International Women's Day and the World Consumer Rights Day on March 3, 5, 8 and 15, respectively. All sessions were handled well by speakers and a lot of satisfaction was expressed by the students.

A special face-to-face seminar on 'Media: what do they do?' was organized with the help of Fr. Ignacy, HoD, Visual Communication, SXC, on 16 March 2021. The sessions made our students aware of the real designs of the corporate world. A two-day seminar on English Language Teaching by Fr. S.M. John Kennedy motivated the first-year students to speak in English

and their enthusiastic participation made the seminar a grand success.

SXCE's unique 'Teacher of the Month' programme, which aims at providing prospective teachers with role models, had Mr. C. Jothimanirajan, the Tamil Nadu's Best Teacher Awardee and an alumnus of SXCE, as the chief guest on March 19. He inspired our trainees urging them to be simple, humble and yet resourceful among the children whose teachers they are going to be. On the same day at 11:00 a.m., the DRDO of Tirunelveli paid a special visit with his team to our college to give to our students a demo on the operation of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) in view of the forthcoming elections.

From March 22 to 27, our students had a 30-hour value-added course on Creative Crafts. This trained them in various skills including calligraphy, glass painting, woollen work, jewel making, flower making and emboss painting.

The faculty and administrative staff are busy preparing the SSR (Self Study Report) to be submitted in April for the forthcoming NAAC visit in May.

XIBA: A three-day placement workshop was conducted for the second year students from February 25 to 27, 2021. The students were trained on Presentation Skills, Team Building and Problem Solving Skills. Around 60% of students of II MBA are placed thanks to placement drives conducted by the following companies: Mahindra Logistics, Kolapasi Food Chain, Face Academy, Reliance Retail, A2S Corporate, Nexus India, Carisma Solutions and HCL. A pooled drive was organized in XIBA on March 12 by Reliance Retail.

The Fine Arts Club of XIBA 'XIART' conducted Talent Hunt - XITAH'2020-21 for the XIBITES, with the aim of identifying their hidden talents. Off-stage events were held on March 1 and 2 and on-stage events were held on March 3. The culmination of club activities "XIBA Carnival" was conducted on March 15 and 16. Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on 22 March with special prayers for all the students of XIBA.

On March 10, we had the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the whole campus. Fr. Jemals of Palayamkottai Diocese animated the service. A good many students from different hostels and people from the neighbourhood turned up for confession. Our SXC community went on a Lenten pilgrimage-cum-recollection to Punnaikayal to pay homage to St. Francis Xavier on March 13. Fr. Henry Jerome



was the resource person for the webinar on 'Cyber Security' to the students of St. Ignatius College of Education on March 18. Some of our senior Jesuits had their first dose of the Covishield vaccine and are hale and hearty now.

Y. Baskar

Thoothukudi: Xaveriana

On the feast of St. John de Britto (February 4), Fr. Provincial, on visitation here, concelebrated a Solemn High Mass along with his Jesuit confreres in Sacred Heart Cathedral and prayed for the welfare of our students and teachers. Fr. Ignacy preached a stirring homily. The teachers' choir was very much appreciated by Fr. Provincial.

Soon after the Mass an e-magazine மேன்மைபின் குரல் was released by Fr. Provincial. Students contributed



articles, poems, cartoons, etc. Congratulations to Br. Arockiadoss, our HM, and the technicians Messrs Leo Perinbaraj and George Bush, and teachers who encouraged the students in this venture.

On February 5, Fr. Provincial inaugurated the Inigo Herbal Garden in Xaveriana campus. Our teachers and the NSS students prepared the ground and assisted us in planting medicinal herbs.

Our staff come together every day at 9.10 a.m. for prayer in the Headmaster's room and when the school closes for the day, *Examen* for the students and staff is conducted and it has proved to be a successful initiative.

Mr. Jeyapaul P. Rayer, a much-loved teacher of mathematics, had a massive heart attack and passed away. Xaveriana Jesuits and the teachers were present at his funeral Mass on February 11.

The Nehru Group of Institutions in Coimbatore received 1,200 applications from Kerala and Tamil Nadu for their Best Teacher award. Mr. Antony Michael Benittan was one among 55 teachers who received the award.

An inner healing prayer service for IX and XI Std students was conducted very well by Babu, Sacro and Mariadoss under the able guidance of Br. Arockiadoss, our HM.

The Science Exhibition for students from VI to IX Stds was conducted virtually and class-wise prizes were distributed. Congratulations to our science teachers! We observed the month of February as எரிபொருள் சிக்கணம் மாதம் (Reduce Fuel use in February). The Jesuits and staff came to school on foot or by bicycles. Congrats to Fr. Victor the focal person of PAP.

சிகரம் தொடு (**Reach the Heights**): In association with the Tuticorin Akshaya Pearl City Lions Club, our PAP 3 Committee, organized a seminar on reaching the heights for the Higher Secondary students. Dr. Sathyamoorthy, the resource person from Coimbatore, motivated the students to aim high and come up in life.

Two associations, Servant of God Antony Soosainathar Vasahar Vattam and Kaalai Amuthu, are providing breakfast to poor students. The காலை அமுது scheme was inaugurated by Bishop Stephen Antony of Thoothukudi who is our former student. Our alumni and teachers have been encouraged to support generously this scheme particularly when celebrating birthdays, wedding anniversaries, etc.

Alumni Day was celebrated on February 28 in a simple way. Mr. Manikandan was the special guest and he thanked the alumni for their services during the pandemic. The novenas to St. Francis Xavier and St. Joseph were organized together by our teachers and students for nine days. Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated on March 19 by Frs. Sales and Victor.

Francis Sales

Tiruchi: Clive House

All of us were energized by the Community Day celebrations held from March 3 to 6 with the theme “FUNVIVA” (Have fun and encourage others). Family spirit and sense of togetherness were the enriching fruits of the celebration. We thank Fr. Wilson from

SJC for his availability for the inaugural Mass of the celebrations. On March 13 and 14, we had the visit of Fr. Stephen, our PCF. On March 30, Tuesday of the Holy Week, Fr. Antony Inigo, gave us a meaningful recollection talk on the theme “The Victim, the Victory and His Way.” His sharing helped us grow in the attitude of gratitude towards God. On March 31, we organized a novena prayer to St. Joseph at the Jesuit residence.

Alex George Jefry

Tiruchi: St. Joseph’s

The Alumni Association of St. Joseph’s organized a mega event, Josephites’ Global Virtual Reunion–2021, on March 13 in live as well as virtual modes. The aim was to network with our alumni/ae and make use of their expertise for the empowerment of their



alma mater. Over 1,500 alumni/ae participated. Fr. Leonard Fernando, Rector, presided over the meeting in the presence of Fr. S. Peter, Secretary and Director, Alumni Association. Fr. M. Arockiasamy Xavier, Principal, offered felicitations. The Chief Guest, Mr. D. Nepoleon, Former Union Minister, Government of India, highlighted the inspiration he had received from his professors - Jesuits and others. Mr. R. Srinivasan, Managing Director, Radha Feathers Group of Hotels, USA, shared his experiences, and extended his support to the college. New SJC Alumni Chapters were inaugurated in Singapore, Middle Eastern Countries and Bangalore. Chennai and Coimbatore Chapters have been reactivated. The successful Josephites’ Global Virtual Reunion-2021 was well-organized and coordinated by Fr. S. Peter. The Executive Council of the Association worked hard to make this event a grand success.

On March 13, the Campus Ministry organized the annual retreat for the III UG Men Students in which 650 of them participated. Ten preachers drawn from Jesuits, Salesians, Capuchins and Diocesans served

as resource persons. To mark the feast of St. Joseph, the Campus Ministry, organized special Masses for the staff and students of Shifts I and II on March 18, presided over by Fr. Rector for Shift-I and Fr. V. Joseph Xavier for Shift-II. All participants were offered a book *Nesamigu Yosepu* authored by Fr. Jerry.

On March 19, the Feast of St. Joseph, the patron of all the institutions in our campus, was celebrated in restricted mode. The SJC Jesuit community along with the Clive's Community offered a concelebrated Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church which was followed by a fellowship meal. No outside guests were invited.

As a new initiative during Lent, the Lourdes Parish conducted six intra-parish pilgrimages to all six sub-stations. This helped all *Anbiam*s strengthen their relationships. *Anbiam*-based family visits and mini-retreats have helped the parishioners renew their Christian life. Using Lent as an opportunity, the Parish Priests administered sacraments such as Baptism and First Holy Communion to adults and rectified the irregular marriages.

The Mullaikudi Parish was absorbed in a series of Lenten programmes such as sub-station level mini-retreats and adoration of Holy Cross, coordinated by Fr. Stanislaus, the Parish Priest. Fr. Leolin Arockiadass, the Assistant PP of Lourdes Parish, gave two mini-retreats in Kovalakudi and Ariyamangalam substations. At the end of every mini-retreat, sharing was fostered by serving *Nonbu Appam* to all people with the generous contributions of the parishioners.

On April 11, the Jesuit community of St. Joseph's celebrated the jubilees of five of its members, namely, Br. S. Arulanandam, Fr. M.A. Joe Antony and Fr. R. Marivalan (50 years in the Society), Br. M. Savarimuthu (60 years in the Society) and Fr. S.M. Selvaraj (50 years of Priesthood). The celebration



opened with a Solemn Thanksgiving Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and was followed by a short and meaningful felicitation function. Fr. Marivalan was the Main Celebrant and Fr. Joe Antony preached an insightful homily. Fr. Rector felicitated the Jubilarians on behalf of the community. Five Jesuits, too, felicitated them, recalling the many facets of their life and ministry over the years. Br. Arulanandam gave the acceptance speech on behalf of the Jubilarians. The celebrations ended with a sumptuous dinner.

Leolin Arockiadass

Vilangudi: VMI

The month of March was filled with preparations for the Pre-novices, both spiritually and academically. They went through a three-day discernment retreat, guided by Fr. I. Arul, from March 11 to 13. It was of great help to them to renew their love for our Lord and the desire to serve Him. On March 19, the Pre-novices, along with the parishioners of Thirumanur, went on a walking pilgrimage to Our Lady's Shrine at Yelakuruchi. Bishop Antonyswamy of Kumbakonam celebrated the Mass for the pilgrims. The Assistancy-level English comprehensive test for the Pre-novices was conducted on March 22.

On March 30, Fr. M. A. Selvam preached a recollection for around 200 priests of the Diocese of Thanjavur. This was to spiritually prepare them for the renewal of their Priesthood during the Chrism Mass held in the evening on the same day at the cathedral.

Maxi Academy 2021 was held on 10 April. It was a simple and meaningful celebration. We were greatly privileged to have Fr. Jerry Rosario as the chief guest and Fr. Stephen L. Pragasam as the guest of honour. Presenting the Annual Report 2020-'21, Fr. Annaraj, the Director, gratefully remembered all those who have contributed to the life and mission of VMI this year. The event had spectacular cultural programmes. But, the most-awaited and much-appreciated one was



the play: "Ballad of Pedro Arrupe". It is a portrayal of important events that shaped the life of Fr. Arrupe, right from the last year of his studies of medicine till his final days. The Pre-novices worked round the clock for this mega event of the year, and their efforts were crowned with success. Fr. Jerry, during his thunderous chief guest address, shared his personal encounters with Fr. Arrupe and challenged the gathering to live life with passion and vision. He also requested them to pray for the canonization of Servant of God Arrupe. The Pre-novices also delivered a powerful declamation on the injustice being perpetrated by our political leaders. Fr. Stephen, during his address, appreciated the Pre-novices and thanked all those who made this day a memorable one. The event came to an end with a sumptuous dinner. We are deeply grateful to all those who graced the occasion with their presence and those who stood by us through their prayers.

S. Joshua

Chennai: Arul Kadal

AK Scholastics went on a vocation drive for Chennai Province to various parishes of Madras-Mylapore Archdiocese during the months of February and March. On 20 March, Aikiya Alayam, in collaboration with IDCR, conducted an online seminar on பல்சமயப் பார்வையில் இயற்கை ஆன்மீகம் - தேடல்-3. Sch. Joseph Alexander (MDU) received a cash award from Bharathidasan University for his Master of Computer



Application studies. Congratulations to Sch. Joseph. Fr. Raj Irudaya, the Superior, led a meaningful prayer service and paid homage along with the community to Fr. S. J. Ignatius Hirudayam, the founder of Aikiya Alayam, on his death anniversary on March 25. On March 24-25, AK Scholastics presented the integration papers on seventeen various issues related to Dalits, farmers, women, migrant workers, corporate-saffron ecology, draconian anti-people legislations and the marginalized. On the 25th evening, we had a quality time with the inmates of Karunai Illam run by the MC Brothers in Little Mount and shared a meal and gifts with them to express our love and solidarity. The Scholastics left for home visit after the fruitful annual evaluation on March 26.

Salomon Antonysamy

POLITICAL AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

ஒரு விரல் புரட்சி, இளைஞர் எழுச்சி
(TN Assembly Election - 2021)

TN - AICUF in collaboration with the Youth Commissions of MDU-CEN Provinces organized a month-long political awareness campaign all over the State. Fr. Parthasarathi (the State Advisor), Mrs. Annirose (the Animator), and Full-timers, Mr. Ranjith, Mr. Manoj, Miss. Bafina, and 10 AICUF student volunteers planned well to spread political awareness among the college students and general public through a street play. On February 26, we started our practice for the streetplay at the Shepherd Herbal Garden, Nagamangalam. The training for the street play was given by Mrs. Annirose. We commenced our Election Awareness Campaign



on February 28 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Melapudhur, Tiruchi, after the Sunday Mass. In the street play, we highlighted various current social evils like ongoing sufferings of farmers, three agricultural Farm Bills, atrocities against women, hike in the prices of basic commodities, privatization, New Education Policy, manipulation of EVM machines, TASMAL alcohol issues, forced unemployment of Tamil youth, etc. At last, we spoke about voting rights and the need to elect responsible leaders to combat fundamentalism.

We performed our political awareness street play in 55 places in Tamil Nadu from February 28 to March 28. We reached out to nearly 70,000 people in 19 districts. There was enormous encouragement for our youth



from the general public for mounting such a wonderful and timely awareness campaign. People also shared that now they have got some clarity to choose apt leaders in this chaotic situation. We could feel a sense of awakening among the people. The college youth expressed their responsibility to exercise their democratic voting right. This raised the awareness level of the people to understand the various social evils that push the poor to the periphery. AICUF has made an indelible mark in the political history of Tamil Nadu. AICUFers cherished the generous hospitality they enjoyed from all the Jesuit communities, colleges, parishes and social action centres they had visited.

Parthasarathi

Léveil Day Celebration – Sarugani

The 48th death anniversary of the Servant of God Louis Marie Léveil was celebrated in a colourful way at Sarugani on 21 March 2021. The memory of the heavenly birth of the Servant of God is observed every year at the place where his mortal remains are preserved.

Very Rev. A. Packianathan, the Administrator of Sivagangai Diocese, presided over the solemn Eucharist at 6 p.m. Almost 50 priests concelebrated the Mass. Among them, there were diocesan priests of Sivagangai, religious priests from various Congregations and also many priests from other dioceses of Tamil Nadu. Nearly 100 religious brothers and nuns participated in the Eucharistic celebration.



The devotees of the Servant of God who participated in the celebration were more than 5,000 from all over Tamil Nadu.

After the Eucharistic celebration, a recorded speech of Fr. Léveil in French was played in the public address system. In 1970, Sr. Mary of Jesus, his niece, had visited Sarugani to attend the celebration of his Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee. At that time, she recorded this speech of Fr. Léveil to his family members in an audio recorder. The audio file was obtained from Fr. Léveil's relatives in France during the diocesan process. The Tamil translation of the speech was read out by the Vice Postulator.



Fr. S. James Anthuvan Dass explained the ongoing Roman phase of the beatification process of the Servant of God. He announced the appointments of ‘Relator’ and ‘External Collaborator’ by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Rome. A poetry book on *Léveil Léveil Vaagai Pookkal* written by Mr. Kalaiaruvi Rasi Xavier was released by the Administrator. The Mizo and Italian translations of the book *Merkathiya Suriyan* by Fr. Yagoo Y. Sandanam were presented by the Administrator. A new song on Léveil, with lyrics by Fr. Yagoo and music by Fr. R. Wenishraj was also released in YouTube.

Following the Eucharistic celebration, the portrait of the Servant of God, was taken in a procession through the streets of Sarugani where the Servant of God went around for 17 years. The people of Sarugani prepared a common meal which they served as *Annathanam* to more than 6,000 people of all religions.

The celebration of Léveil Day was organised well by Fr. C. A. James, Parish Priest of Sarugani, with the collaboration of the parishioners and various committees.

*S. James Anthuvan Dass
Vice-Postulator & External Collaborator*

Talk of Civil War? Ominous Chatter in Myanmar

As our readers may be updated in the media about the conditions of Myanmar, let me give some news and views.

There is a big talk about a civil war between a ‘federal army’ and the military here. The federal army is supposed to be comprised of youth and ethnic armed groups. There are nearly 10 of them that seem to be supporting this idea. Of course, any such move would result in enormous suffering to the ordinary people, whose life is devastatingly impacted by both COVID and the army coup. Food insecurity looms large as jobs are increasingly hard to come by. Prices have gone up by 30 percent. This man-made disaster has aggravated the suffering inflicted on people by COVID. The economy has taken a visceral wound, with banks not functioning normally and rationing/reducing the amount one could withdraw in a day. Long queues are the norm, people waiting from early morning to withdraw an amount under the fixed ceiling. Midnight knocks, arbitrary arrests and torture and detention continue as the army enforces

its will in the streets. Protestors continue their efforts to organize but there has been a decline in protests because of the ruthless violence let loose in the streets. Catholic Church continues to support the peaceful ways of protesting. Cardinal Bo in his strong Easter message, urged the army to respect people’s wish for democracy and appealed to the protestors to seek only peaceful solutions. Pope Francis has made his fourth appeal expressing his support for peace and dialogue in Myanmar and deeply appreciating the youth protestors for continuing to protest peacefully. As things fall apart, we all pray that better sense prevails and a little thought is given to millions of poor whose every meal is becoming a big challenge. The talk of civil war is preposterous since the army is known to love conflict and managed to hold its fort despite 70 years of conflict. But the youth, many of whose companions have been tortured and killed in the streets, see that there are not many non-violent options left. The uncertainty continues to impact our work. Food distribution is a possibility while other works have to be put on hold. The army has revived the old surveillance system by which every ward will have its own agents who keep everything under control. In the past, we did negotiate those spaces once things settled down but things are still unclear. Please continue to pray for this country.

Our special correspondent

Strong Institutional Support for the Jesuits in Myanmar

On 19 March 2021, Father General’s decree announced the new “status” for what was until now the “Myanmar Mission”. This “unit” was under the responsibility of JCAP (Jesuit Conference of Asia-Pacific). Myanmar (MYN) is now considered a Dependent Region of the Philippine Province (PHI). The new Region has 38 Jesuits, 28 of whom are scholastics. A youthful wind is undoubtedly blowing there!

At first glance, one might think that this is just an administrative change. But for the Jesuits working in this Asian country, which is under extreme political tension, it is a sign of confidence given to them by Father General and by their companions in the Philippines. After a serious process of discernment, the major superiors of Myanmar, the Philippines and JCAP suggested this change of status to the General,

who recognized the authenticity of the steps taken in both Myanmar and the Philippines.

In the letter he wrote to his fellow Jesuit confreres on the eve of the change, Fr. Mark Raper, the Superior of the Mission, wrote: “Let us pray together that this initiative of accompaniment and collaboration will, as Fr. General suggests, bring new energy to mission in both the Province and the Region. Fr. General is aware of the tensions faced by the people of Myanmar in our dual crises of the global pandemic and the coup d’état, and he follows closely the current events, joining his prayer in solidarity with ours.”

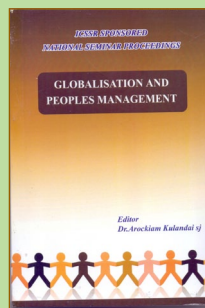
As for the Provincial of the Philippines, Fr. Primitivo Viray, he also published a letter for the occasion. He wrote: “Against the backdrop of escalating tensions and calls for authentic peace and justice in Myanmar, the (Philippine) Province lends its voice and helping hand to sisters and brothers there in their aspirations for a hope-filled future founded on the dignity of each human being and respect for human rights.”

Let us continue to accompany in prayer the people of Myanmar and the Jesuits of that Region.

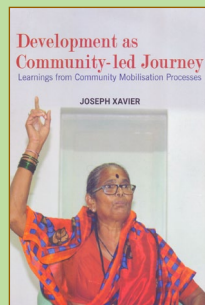
Curia News

New Books

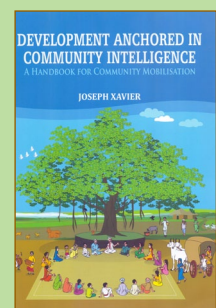
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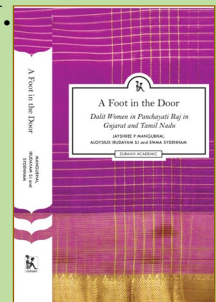
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 Zubaan Publishers
 New Delhi
 2020



Abide with the Lord



Fr. Anil Kishor Tirkey (67/47 RAN) passed away on 27.03.2021 in Ranchi due to a massive cardiac arrest.
 Fr. Philip Crotty (89/71 HAZ) passed away on 06.04.2021 in Sydney, Australia.
 Fr. Varghese Paul Chollamadam (77/56 GUJ) passed away on 10.04.2021 at Vadodara due to illnesses aggravated by COVID-19.
 Fr. John Joseph Amaladoss (75/58 AND) passed away on 14.04.2021 at Guntur.
 Mrs. Vimala Maria Sangeetha (63), sister-in-law of Fr. Arul P. Stanislaus, passed away on 17.03.2021 at Sivakasi.
 Mrs. Jeya Packiam(74), younger sister of Br. Antony Pitchai, passed away on 28.03.2021 at Thalakovoor (Karaikudi).
 Mrs. Arockiam (85), grandmother of Fr. Thayriam, passed away on 02.04.2021 at Solaiyoorani near Suranam.

FR. ARUL JEEVAN, S.J. 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 companion 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 counselling. 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 he retired 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 bedridden and, in March 2021, he gradually developed imbalance and respiratory problems. He was admitted in St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, on 18 March 2021 and breathed his last at 5.30 a.m. on 20 March 2021. It was a peaceful death.

Fr. Danis Ponniah, Provincial, presided over the funeral Mass on March 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.

M. Michael Doss