



Our Lady of the Way



OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION

Pray for our struggling India!



SAINT PETER FABER (1506-1546)

Take Care, Take Care,
Never to close your heart to anyone!

PROVINCIAL'S MESSAGE

VOCATION PROMOTION

A Collaborative Endeavour between Divine Initiative and Human Means



Pope Francis in his address to the Audience with the Plenary Assembly of the Congregation for the Clergy on 3rd Oct, 2014 asserts that vocations aren't the result of planning, but an encounter with God that changes our life.

We thank God for His perpetual accompaniment in getting good vocations in the past. Though the number is dwindling, we are proud of our young vocations. They are quality people with great sense of the Society of Jesus. We praise God for this gift. At the same time, we also find today's youth getting deeply impacted by the values and culture of the modern world, a phenomenon that has adversely affected the vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in particular. With the growing influence of globalization, including the breakdown of traditional family structures, the isolating effects of modern technology, and the individualism and self-centeredness at the heart of global culture, we are more than ever in need to be resourceful for effective vocation promotion and discernment. With utmost care, we need to choose them and take care of them so that they will form themselves stronger in the Society. Each senior member shoulders the responsibility of helping and supporting the younger ones to understand and analyse the push and pull factors in the vocation. Thus, we mutually strengthen our vocations in Christ.

It is not uncommon that many of our candidates today come from small nuclear families where they are pampered and overprotected by their parents and relatives. Therefore, when they join the religious order, some of them find it difficult to cope with hardships, discipline, failures, opposition, and physical and emotional stress. As a result, they easily become discouraged, and suffer from fear, inferiority/superiority complex or active/passive aggression. All through our formation, we realise that inner conflicts need not always cost our vocation. I earnestly appeal to the younger members

who are in formation to be open to these conflicts, take them in prayer, talk to the spiritual fathers for clarity and thus strengthen their vocation.

While acknowledging the gift of consecrated life to the universal Church and society at large, we cannot deny that not only inner conflicts but also some of the challenges from the larger society haunt our younger generation. They are sometimes so heavy that priesthood and religious life start to lose much of their credibility. The widespread malaises of individualism, consumerism, and careerism have considerably weakened the spirit of commitment and availability among many religious. There is also a lack of humility and willingness to go down to the poorest of the poor and serve them rather than remaining in one's comfort zones of security. Too much administrative work has left us with no time to interact with the people to listen to their stories and experiences and to pray with and for them. Such outside challenges are always defeated by our personal attachment to our Lord Jesus Christ. We cherish our vocation not because of our human qualities and characters but because it comes from God.

God leads us in our vocation, so the various challenges of the priesthood and religious life offer opportunities to walk new roads, explore new possibilities, move from mediocrity to excellence, pose new questions and respond with new strategies. Let us remain open to the Spirit of God, who transforms our human weaknesses into divine strengths.

In his first communication to me, on 16 Jan 2020, Fr Arturo Sosa SJ, our Superior General has invited the New Jesuit Chennai Province to

concentrate on 'promoting quality vocations' to the Society of Jesus.

By God's grace and the hard labour of our former Vocation Promoter Fr Alton and all the other vocation facilitators of Chennai Province, we have 19 candidates at present in our Pre-Novitiate at Kasthambadi. This year, we have a new and energetic fulltime Vocation Promoter in the person of Fr Gladwin, who has already plunged into the mission of vocation promotion with the group of vocation facilitators in the Province. But still, what Fr Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, our former Superior General, in his response to the Annual Letters of 2010, said emphatically holds good even today: "Every Jesuit, every Jesuit community, every Jesuit apostolate or work is or should be a promoter of vocations."

I would like to extend the same invitation to you, my dear companions in the Province and request you to follow the following guidelines. (i) We should deeply realise that every member of the Society of Jesus is a Vocation Promoter; (ii) Each one of us needs to take steps to have constant and continuous touch with potential youngsters; (iii) We need to identify and appoint lay vocation facilitators in all our institutions and parishes; (iv) To the maximum extent possible, we need to make use of the social media to facilitate the vocation promotion.

May the Lord of history continue to pour His power to realise the beauty of our vocations, and may we labour with Him to find more vocations to carry on His mission.

Jebamalai Irudayaraj



PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

AUGUST

03 *Schola Brevis* at Satya Nilayam, Chennai (Online)

29 GBM of Higher Education Commission (Online)

SEPTEMBER

06 GBM of Secondary Education Commission (Online)

12 Superiors/Team Leaders and Coordinators Meeting (Online)

15 Province Consult (Online)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPOINTMENTS

The Congregation for Catholic Education has appointed **Fr Francis Gonsalves** as President of Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune.

FR GENERAL HAS APPOINTED

Fr Soosai Mani as Provincial of Delhi.

Fr Herman Rodríguez Osorio as Provincial of Colombia.

Fr Victor Hugo Miranda Tarazona as Provincial of Peru.

Fr Kizito Kiyimba as Provincial of Eastern Africa.

Fr Joseph O'Keefe as the first Provincial of the most recently created Jesuit Province of United States East (UEA).

NEW/CHANGE OF PHONE NUMBERS/EMAIL IDs

Fr Britto Vincent - 97866 38900

Fr Ignacy Arockiasamy - viscomignacy@gmail.com

KNOW OUR NEW MISSION

ARCALI (Accompaniment for the Rights of Coastal Areas through Leadership Initiatives).



In June 2019, Fr Philip was assigned to do a feasibility study for starting a mission for the fisher folk communities in the area of Chennai Province. Paramankeni near Marakanam, on the East Coast Road, was selected for the study, since a building which could be used as the centre was available with the then Chennai Mission. A general study was done from August 2019 to March 2020. The study included visiting the villages of the fisher folk, meeting the organizations, movements and individuals working among them, gathering and analysing materials and documents available on them.

Based on the study, we have chosen Chengalpattu, Kancheepuram and Vizhupuram districts as our working area, as fishing communities in these areas are found to be more backward compared to other districts.

Our Vision: Building self-reliant, just and dignified communities and safeguarding the Coastal Environment.

Our Beneficiaries: Fishing communities of

North Tamil Nadu - Pazhaverkadu to Pitchavaram; Dalits and Tribals who are involved in fishing related works in the same area - inland fishers.

Our Mission: Our centre engages in cultural identity formation, coastal and land rights, and the improved access to entitlements of the fishing communities.

Our Objectives: 1. Improving knowledge and enhancing access to entitlements on housing, health, pensions and basic amenities of 20 villages. 2. Improving their access to quality education and job placement. 3. Networking with NGOs and likeminded organisations and movements to initiate environmental activities and also to work towards policy level changes. 4. Sowing the seeds of Constitutional values and preserving the coastal belt from infiltration of fundamentalist ideologies. 5. Documenting and propagating unique elements of coastal lives and important issues etc. through print and visual media. 6. Taking care of the neglected elders in the coastal villages. 7. Organising the '*inland fishing community*' into one strong forum.

In June 2020, we appointed three part time staff. They started visiting the villages. But due to Covid 19 restrictions now, they could not visit many villages. We hope to make a steady and gradual impact among our target fishing villages, once the situation returns to normalcy.

Since the place is also conducive for retreats, in January 2019, the Regents from both Chennai and Madurai Provinces made their triduum here. A good number of Jesuits and others have already visited this place and the I year PG students of Viscom, Loyola College, Chennai, had a day of exposure to this place.

Philip

YOUTH COMMISSION

In honour of the feast of St. Ignatius, a state level triple competition (Quiz, Tamil Poem, and Poster design) called '*Loyola Fest 2020*', was organized by the Youth Commission in collaboration with Loyola College, Chennai. There were 457 young participants, hailing from different parishes and colleges in Tamil Nadu. The prize winners were announced by Fr Francis P. Xavier, during the Feast day Eucharistic Celebration at Loyola College on 31 July and the prize amount was transferred to the winners' accounts. Thanks to Fr Velankanni and Sch Jayanth Frankly, members of Youth Commission, for their systematic planning and to all the administrators of Loyola College for their timely accompaniment and great generosity. We hope to organize many such events in future.

Sarathi



Fr Jerry did his best and planned it meticulously and of course, in his own creative way. In addition, with a good number of books and other necessary materials for perusal during the programme, a provisional POP library was set up in a short while with the help of Fr I Raj, Superior of Arul Kadal. The POP'20 was held from 1-31 July, with an eight-day retreat at the end.

The POP was segmented into four weeks with different themes:

First Week (5 days) - Inspiration Week

Second Week (7 days) - Invitation Week

Third Week (9 days) - Ignatian Week

Fourth Week (10 days) - Integration Week

The Inaugural Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Fr Antony Robinson, on 1 July. In his homily he referred to the basic Jesuit inspiration that transmuted and culminated in the footprints of our Jesuit forefathers particularly in this land. In his inaugural address he elucidated the expectations of the POP which set us on the right track.

On 2 and 3 July, Fr Jerry enthused us with his input and sharing on the theme "*Arrupe's call for POP and analysis of Priests today.*" It was an exhilarating experience for us to listen to him and derive tremendous inspiration for our priestly ministry.

On 4 July, Fr Joe Arun guided us into another phenomenal concept: *Dispositions*. He expounded to us the multifarious aspects of dispositions

POP 2020

Pre-Ordination Programme (POP) 2020 for Scholastics of the Southern Provinces was, in fact, supposed to be held in Kuttikanam, Kerala as per the yearly plan between 12 April and 12 May. Due to the corona pandemic, the programme was delayed and eventually dropped. Moreover, it was a big task to both the PCFs, Fr Stephen L Pragasam (MDU) and Fr Antony Robinson (CEN) to find out possible venues. With the complete lockdown in force, they were at a loss to arrive at a decision. However, they hit upon a superb decision at the right time to organize it in Dhyana Ashram, Chennai. It was, indeed, a historic POP to be held only for the mother and the child, Madurai and Chennai provinces for the first time in history.

Fr Jerry Rosario was appointed as the facilitator of POP'20. Though he had very short time to plan,

drawing the foundational sparks from the Spiritual Exercises, the First Fathers and the Jesuit Saints.

On 5 July, Fr Darwin, Superior of Dhyana Ashram celebrated a grand Sunday Mass and shared his reflections on the theme, *'Jesuits, inspired by Mother Mary'*, praying for the grace 'to be placed with her Son.'

From 6 to 8 July, Fr Raymond of Archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore, conducted a course on Psycho-Sexual-Spiritual Integration as a Priest. His personal sharing about the hardships and ordeals that he faced as a pastor here in Tamil Nadu and abroad and the efforts he made to cope with them, helped us know the reality of priesthood at the ground level.

On 9 July, Fr Francis P Xavier, Rector of Loyola College, conducted a resourceful session on the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) at webinar. Fr Francis began his presentation with the historical background of the preferences and explained to us in an elaborated way the current scenario of the same.

10 July was like a day of repatriation for us to be at Arul Kadal for Schola Brevis. Rev Devasagayam, the former CSI Bishop of Madras, delivered the keynote address on *Covid-19 pandemic and Christian Response*.

On 11 July, Fr Valerian SJ (JAM), a teaching faculty at Satya Nilayam, Chennai, had a session with us on *Jesuit Cosmic Vision of Life*. We liked the way he combined philosophy and theology and presented to us in a creative way *the Jesuit Connectedness and Jesuit Cosmic Vision of Life* following in the footprints of Teilhard de Chardin.

On 12 July, Fr Xavier Alphonse gave us an experiential session on *Jesuit Administration and Animation*. He invited us to become collaborative administrators rather than mere authoritative executives.

From 13 to 16, Fr Michael Alosanaya enlightened us on the theme *Ignatian Roots for Priestly Life*

and Union of Minds and Hearts. The four days were like a pilgrimage for us from the birth place of Ignatius to Rome until his death, highlighting his mind and spirit.

On 17, Fr I Raj, Superior of Arul Kadal, exposed to us another remarkable theme, *the Jesuit Priest-a Discerning Leader*. With a brief introduction to different kinds of leaderships, he delineated the fundamentals of Ignatian leadership which helped us imbibe his discerning spirit.

On 18, Fr Michael Amaladoss, our great theologian, presented to us decree six of GC 34, on *Ministerial Priesthood*. As he himself was a member in the drafting committee of the same decree, he explained the topic extremely well.

On 20 July, Fr Anand Amaladass discussed *Major Spiritualities* apart from Ignatian Spirituality. Inception and historical development of each spirituality was dealt with in detail with precision. On 21, Fr Leo Anand exposed to us *the Seven Pillars of Priesthood* by Pope Francis.

Every evening saw a synthesising Eucharist during which experiential sharing was done by people from varied backgrounds such as Sr Nesam FBS; Mr Naveen, a CSI lay leader; Fr Joe Andrew, Director of Chennai Pastoral Centre; Fr Sathyabalan and Fr Basil.

On 22 July, Fr Jerry synthesised the whole POP. It was a day of fasting and we prepared ourselves for the eight-day retreat.

From 23 to 30, we had the retreat guided by Fr Louis Adaikala Raj. With his twenty years of profound experience in the field of preaching retreat across the globe and as a spiritual father in various seminaries, he moulded us with spiritual sustenance and transformative experiences. It is, indeed, his first retreat for the Jesuits. We were privileged.

The momentous POP'20 came to an end with the Eucharistic celebration, concelebrated by



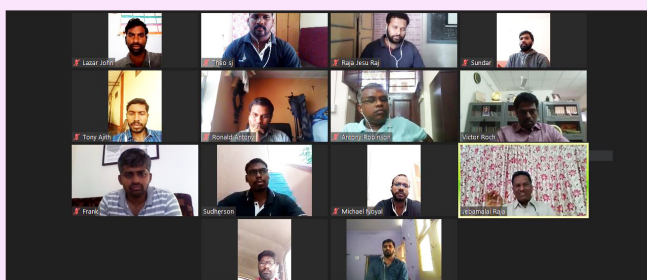
Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, Fr Darwin and Fr Ilanko Xavier, in honour of our founder Saint Ignatius on 31 July, during which we offered the individually signed *'the fruits and graces of POP'* and renewed our vows. The presence of the whole Chennai Province Curia and Fr Robinson added lustre to the auspicious event.

At last, we thank Frs Stephen and Robinson, the PCFs of Madurai and Chennai, for their systematic arrangements. We are indebted to Fr Jerry for his able and innovative coordination. We extend our sincere thanks to Dhyana Ashram community for their awesome hospitality and sumptuous meals provided with care and love during our stay.

Arul G

FIRST REGENTS' MEET

The first ever Regents' Meet of the Chennai Province was held online through Zoom on 6 July. Fr Provincial, Fr PCF and Fr Roch, the Regents' Director encouraged the Regents to be open to learn from others and stretch out to work for the betterment of the people always.



On 24 July, the Monthly Recollection for Regents was held, with points given by Fr Yesumarian on Google Meet. His ideas were thought-provoking and invited them to integrate work, prayer and talents. A sharing among them on the same topic followed later in the day.

David Francis

CHENNAI, AICUF



'Calls to be Consistent'

To keep the youngsters active and alive during the Corona virus pandemic lockdown, we, at AICUF, arranged virtual discussions on the current burning issues like EIA, NEP and the violation of human rights at Sathakulam. We brought awareness to the AICUF youth and the youth animators through two webinars organised specifically for them. On 9 July, Mr CJ Rajan, an advocate and Ex-AICUFer shared his thoughts and legalities on custodial deaths in the background of what happened to Mr Jeyaraj and Mr Fenix at Sathankulam. The AICUFers strongly condemned such inhuman acts. On 30 July, Mr Sundarajan, founder of Poovulagin Nanbargal, analysed the pros and cons of EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment Act 2020) and invited responses from the youth of today. Thanks to the student leaders of the State Executive Committee for organising these webinars on relevant themes.

Sarathi

CHENNAI: ARUL KADAL

Arul Kadal has become more vibrant with the arrival of eight scholastics for the first year of theology. Amidst all uncertainties, all of them

safely reached Arul Kadal by 8 July. Fr Xavier Rajan joined the community on 13 July as a spiritual guide to the Scholastics.



The inauguration of the academic year was held on 10 July. Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial of CEN, presided over the function and during the Schola Brevis, he highlighted the objectives of Arul Kadal and its role in the formation of theology to bring about a societal transformation. Fr Antony Robinson, the PCF of CEN, encouraged the scholastics re-emphasizing the words from the Jesuit documents meant for the formees in theology. Fr Jerry Rosario too underscored the aims of Arul Kadal and motivated all of us to row deep into the ocean of theology.

This function became a very significant event because Arul Kadal launched a user-friendly web application for the library (inigolibrary.idntica.com) which was created by Sch Joseph. Arul Kadal also ventured into the digital evangelization through its first e-magazine, namely ARULSAARAL and a new YouTube channel, namely ARULTHIRAI. Most Rev V Devasahayam, former CSI Archbishop of Chennai diocese, gave the keynote address on 'COVID-19: Challenges to Christian Faith and Theology', and emphasized that theologization with the suffering humanity was a very contextual and meaningful one. A few Jesuits from Satya Nilayam, Dhyana Ashram and Loyola College participated in these programmes.

We had a two-day orientation programme from 11 to 12 July. Fr Raj Irudaya set the right rhythm for our community this year. It helped us know one another better and travel together as one family in theologizing and rendering service. To instil the social thrust into our first year students of theology, a 3-day Social Analysis course was given to them by Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, from 20 to 23 July.

In order to spread the legacy of St Ignatius, to the Catholic community in Tamil Nadu, we shared the prepared novena prayers and sermons on various themes in Tamil in the form of PPTs and Video formats through Arulthirai and WhatsApp groups. On 29 July, we served a noon meal and provided masks to the two hundred abandoned, elderly and sick living on platforms in Santhome, Triplicane and Adyar areas. It was a moving and learning experience for us all.

Anto Arputha Raja

CHENNAI: LOYOLA

Fr Maria Arul Raja, the Coordinator of the Spirituality and Dialogue Commission, in collaboration with the Jesuits of Loyola Community made a remarkable contribution throughout the month of July in producing and uploading videos, first in English and later in Tamil, on various Ignatian themes, through YouTube. The involvement of the entire community was praiseworthy.

Loyola College of Arts and Science, along with the Youth commission of the Province, conducted state level online competitions in view of the feast of St. Ignatius.

On 15 July, the Holy Spirit Mass for the new academic year was held in the community chapel. Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj, the Provincial, was the Main Celebrant and he drove home a powerful message to remain courageous and hopeful in the face of Corona pandemic, by the strength of the Spirit. Fr Francis P Xavier, the Rector, was the Main Celebrant for the Feast Mass on 31 July. Both these Masses were live-streamed and therefore, we were able to connect to our staff and students on these two important occasions.

As part of the Jesuit webinar series by Loyola Jesuit community, Frs Francis P Xavier, Joe Arun and M Amaladoss delivered talks on 'Stress Management', 'Designing a Learning System for Education in the Post-COVID World' and 'Living in Harmony' respectively.

Xavier Samuel

HARUR: ARULAGAM

As 2019-20 was the birth year of our mission in Harur, it was proposed last year to wait for a few more months to study the needs of the mission for preparing CAP. Hence, on 01 and 02 July'20, the Jesuits of Arulagam engaged in a two-day planning on Community Apostolic Priorities (CAP), and prioritised the needs of the mission.

On 06 July, we celebrated a farewell Mass for Sch Anto who is leaving for his higher studies at St Joseph's College, Trichy and thanked him for his services here last year.

Our farm at Allalapatti yields vegetables and sugarcane in good amount, thanks to many showers that we had this year. To strengthen our ecological ambience, we planted about 25 saplings such as lemons, guavas and hibiscuses, including flowering plants in the campus.



Our school staff participated in an Ignatian Webinar conducted by JCERT and St Xavier Institutions, Palayamkottai. The Headmaster also conducted a Zoom meeting for our management staff to equip themselves in virtual teaching and other areas. We celebrated the feast of St Ignatius with our staff in the school, on 27 July, in a simple manner deeply adhering to the instructions of the Government.

Well prepared Novena to St Ignatius was conducted, inviting people 'pray from home', through the public address system, which was welcomed by our parishioners.

Fr Gladwin, the Vocation Promoter of our Province organized a Zoom meeting for the vocation facilitators of all the communities on 20 July.

Tony Ajith

KASTHAMBADI, JPLI, PRE-NOVITIATE

This new month was a great blessing to all of us at the Pre-Novitiate for we have got one more pre-novice. There are 19 pre-novices at the moment. Our special thanks to the vocation promotion team. On 13 July, Fr Viji Bose conducted the much appreciated quiz competition for the pre-novices on the Luke's Gospel and the Basic Catechism. The excellent participation of the pre-novices made it memorable.

The pre-novices had a week-long Tamil crash course by the professors of Loyola College, Vettavalam. We thank the Jesuit management and the professors. The pre-novices started their classes on grammar, vocabulary and table reading in the middle of June.

We are very grateful to Fr Selvaraj, the Superior and the community of LCV for their loving farewell on 16 July and their marvellous hospitality throughout our stay over there. The following day, pre-novitiate was shifted to Kasthambadi as the living room and the bath rooms were ready by then. We wholeheartedly thank Fr Prabu, the Administrator and Fr Velankanni for their hard work and loving efforts. The remaining work of building a class room and a kitchen with scullery is nearing its completion. The pre-novices had a momentous celebration of the feast of our Holy Father through talks on Ignatian themes by Fr Selukas, a recollection by Fr Britto Vincent, novena to St Ignatius and the feast day Mass by Fr Raj Michael, SDB, our VF. In the evening, we put up a short play on Rutilio Grande, a Jesuit

martyr from El Salvador, to a small gathering of 15 priests and religious. Thanks to Fr Philip, the playwright.

Hansel

KILPENNATHUR, AHAL CENTRE

On 13 July, we had our community orientation together as AHAL and JESIM teams, at Boodamangalam, adapting spiritual conversation method. The grace filled sessions helped to strengthen our community spirit and equipped us with a drive to work for the wellbeing of our target people. Fr Ray left for Sitagarah on 25 July for his tertianship.



On the second death anniversary of Fr Arockiaraj, the 15 July, we inaugurated 'Fr Arockiaraj Memorial Library' at Community Hall in Kilpennathur with the intention of creating a healthy community. Frs Selvaraj Arulnathan and Justine Emmanuel from Loyola College, Vettavalam were the Chief Guests. The main purpose of the new library is to prepare and qualify the youngsters to face UPSC and TNPSC group exams. Continuous coaching and guidance will also be given to them by experts.

On 5 July, Fr Marianathan initiated a young women's movement called "வீரமங்கை இளம் பெண்கள் இயக்கம்" (Veeramangai Ilam Pengal Iyakkam) in order to kindle social concerns in the minds of young women and to make them agents of social change. The very next day, they went

together to the town panchayat office and gave a petition to keep dustbins in the corners of streets so that the town would wear a tidy look. As a result of this, the municipal workers regularly collect the garbage now.

On 19 July, "அருந்ததியர் மக்கள் நலஉரிமைச் சங்கம்" had a meeting to discuss the building of a new office cum library. They will soon make an active plan for it. The AHAL team released "எளியோர் எழுச்சி - volume 2" and the Sparkles which present the annual report of the AHAL centre.

Raja Jesu Raj

JESIM, TINDIVANAM

On 6 July, Sch Edward Lenin gave a motivational session to our staff and encouraged them to move forward in our ministry with an awareness of their strengths and weaknesses. On 16 July, the JESIM team had an inspirational talk by Mr Pugazhendhi, the founder of AHAOLI foundation, on how he managed to help people through his foundation which is run only by volunteers. As part of the Ignatian month, our JESIM team went to ten new villages in Chengalpattu district and distributed relief materials to the people. The JESIM team had a two-day orientation programme at Paramankeni on 27 and 28 July. Fr Philip Kumar led the sessions and energized the team to plan effectively and work with commitment for the people in this academic year.



Michael Sudherson

KUPPAYANALLUR, LOYOLA H.S. SCHOOL



Fr Eugene preached a five day retreat to the Priests of Palliagaram vicariate, based on the book *'LIFE after the Pandemic'* by Pope Francis. Most Rev Dr Neethinathan DD, Bishop of Chengalpattu, came to meet the retreatants on 14 July. After lunch he met the community, he wished us well for our mission. The Claver Illam Jesuit Community welcomed Fr Devasagayam happily and he took charge as Superior on 15 July. We wholeheartedly thank Fr Massilamani for his various contributions to the community as its leader during the last three years. Fr Yesumarian conducted our community orientation on 25 July. His sharing on the history and vision of the Kuppayanallur institutions helped us reorient our lives here for the welfare of the people in and around Kuppayanallur.

Our school teachers are reaching out to the neighbouring villages and encouraging parents to enrol their children in our school. The admission campaign is also going on through phone. The school has secured 97% results in 12th public exams and Chandru stood first in the school securing 506. Fr Jerome, the Headmaster, has motivated the teachers to engage the students of classes 9, 10 and 12 through WhatsApp. We began online classes for 12th and 10th std. children in the first and third week of July respectively. Our teachers are making online classes interesting with their innovative ideas and techniques. Parents are very happy about these classes and support the management and the students too are cooperative.

Fr Eugene has identified two youth from the parish who are interested in rearing country chicken. The parish has acquired its first chicken egg incubator as part of the Entrepreneurial development initiative in the parish. With all precautions, JMAADD have been reaching out to the recovering alcoholics and their families in the neighbouring villages. Fr Minister is taking extra care to protect the community. He, with the able assistance of the co-workers, is supplying varieties of kashayams (*herbal decoction*), juices and soups to boost our immunity level.

Mr Gabriel (53) who had been working with very many Jesuit parish priests at Ongur and Kuppayanallur parishes as a catechist, reached his heavenly abode on 26 July at Chengalpattu hospital. He was survived by his wife Mrs Maggie who has been a teacher at Loyola HSS, Kuppayanallur.

Michael Lourdhu Noyal

METTALA, LOYOLA COLLEGE

Loyola College, Mettala had made arrangements well in advance for the twelfth class students to register online in Google Form for admission. After the publication of results on 16 July, the registered students started paying their admission fee. Comparing with the previous years, the admission is slow this year, but it's steadily increasing. The trend indicates that there is more demand for B.Com and B.Sc. (Computer Science) this year. Staff members are actively involved in persuading the students who had already registered online to pay the fees for admission. They also continue to attend online courses and prepare notes for online teaching. Through Google Meet, weekly evaluation is conducted and further direction is given by the Administration. The Non-Teaching staff come every alternate week to the College and help in the admission work and to maintain cleanliness in the campus.

Kudos to Fr Rajarathinam for he has composed

many Christian devotional songs during the lockdown. Recently he also composed a moving song on the brutal killings of Mr Jeyaraj and Mr Benix, at Sathankulam. All his songs are available on the YouTube. After clearing thorny bushes in a little more than one acre of land, we have cultivated groundnuts for the first time. Fr Jeyaraj, the Team Leader and Farm in-charge, deserves all appreciation for his care for the crops. We hope to get a good harvest after three months.



Maria Joseph Mahalingam

RANIPET, LOYOLA INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL

We are immensely happy to have Fr Gunasekaran Rajaiah, as our new Team Leader. As a community, we had our first Eucharistic celebration on 12 July. We shared our responsibilities and have begun our journey as a new family with great zeal and vigour. Fr Richard handed over LIFE Engineering Works (*our welding company*) to Fr Guna, on 15 July. The phase-I construction of the campus compound wall is underway. Though the lockdown immobilises



our routine activities, we strive hard to do our best in the mission.

Prithivi Kumar

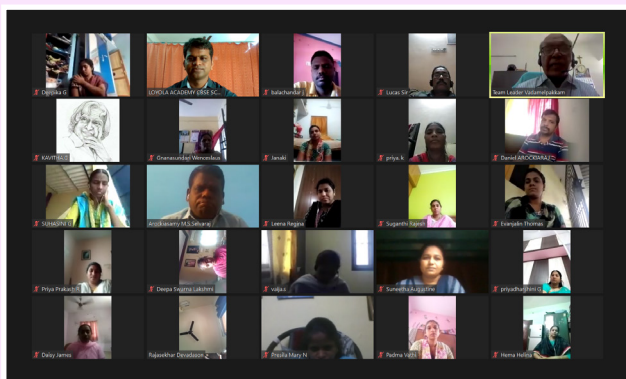
VADAMELPAKKAM, LOYOLA ACADEMY

The 100% success of our school in the 10th CBSE board exams for the fifth consecutive year was received by one and all with great jubilation. The credit for this goes to Fr Amaladoss, the former Principal and the X Std staff, who with their systematic hard work, coached, followed and motivated our students. We also congratulate the students for their more than average performance and the 12 students who have secured above 70 percent and the 4 who have crossed 400 marks. The admission for Class 11 started immediately after the board results and the good news is that the number of admissions is more than last year.

The online staff meeting held on 24 July was for the introduction of Fr M S Arokiasamy SJ (CCU), our new Principal. He addressed the staff after Fr Tagore, the Correspondent, introduced him. In his speech, he underscored the spirituality of St Ignatius and emphasised the common mission of education we are engaged in as one family. The Management and the Think-Tank Committee of the school, had several online meetings to plan out the ways and means of collecting fees by a genuinely personal approach to the parents. Indeed, the class teachers rendered generous service to the school by contacting the parents and appealing to them to come forward to help the Management. The fees collection and distribution of textbooks and notebooks were meticulously planned by Fr Deva A Stephen, Campus Treasurer. We truly experience the grace of generosity in the Ignatian month when we take pains to pay the salaries to the staff members and offer reduction in school fees to the students.

The Management and the technical committee of the school had come up with a cartload of online

competitions for the celebration of St Ignatius' Feast, *IGNIS 2020*. Each class was given two competitions right from kindergarten to class 12. A special online quiz on the life of St Ignatius and the Society of Jesus was conducted for the students of higher classes. All of this was meticulously planned and executed by Fr Stephen and Sch Frankly with the co-operation of the staff. The Virtual celebration of the Feast on 30 July with the prize-distribution ceremony and the display of the best performances of the students was a real hit with all our staff participating in a Zoom meet, and the parents and students watching the entire two-hour show on YouTube, that recorded nearly 1360 footfalls! It was indeed a new digital height for Loyola Academy.

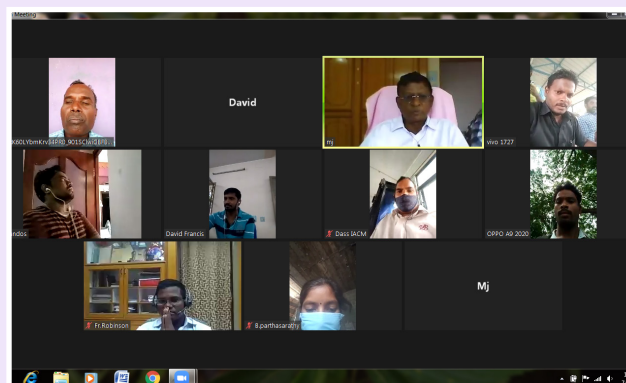


Sch Frankly coordinated the state level quiz on St Ignatius organized by the Youth Commission of the Jesuit Chennai Province. The three days' Novena to St Ignatius on 28-30 July, with our staff members joining us through Zoom platform was also a novel feature this year that added spiritual flavour to the festivities.

Frankly

VALLAM: PAATHAI CENTRE

Paathai evening study centres organized their Animators' meeting in Zoom on 17 July. They have expressed their difficulties in bringing the students to the centres and suggested creative ways to engage the students.



Sch David taught 'Basic Computer Skills' like preparing power point presentations and Excel sheet to our DHRC staff for a week. This workshop helped them present their views creatively online.

Fr Yesumarian preached a recollection for the Regents of Chennai Province through Google Meet on 24 July.

David Francis

VETTAVALAM: LOYOLA COLLEGE

With the blessings of the Lord, Vettavalam and its surroundings are unusually receiving good rains at this time of the year. The community orientation was held on 4 July, under the guidance of Fr Selva, the Superior, to discern new ways of proceeding in the wake of Covid-19. Deliberations on PAP and CAP were carried out at length in order to take them forward and to integrate them in the process of propelling the institution to newer heights.

Fr Albert William and Fr Britto Vincent are fully engaged, with the help of the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, in increasing the number of admissions for 2020-21. The entire college administration is plunged into a concerted admission drive by visiting nearby parishes, schools, erecting banners, distributing pamphlets and personally motivating the students to join the college. As a result, we have had more than 300 online applications so far.

The 18 Pre-Novices bid adieu to the Jesuit community on 20 July after staying over here, for a little more than a month. They were excited to relate with the Jesuits of LCV. The Jesuits too found their joy by taking some classes for them. This bunch of pre-novices, filled with a lot of creative skills and very friendly, certainly enlivened the Jesuit community during their stay at a time when the community was left to itself during the pandemic. Certainly, this batch is a great sign of hope for the future.

On 28 July, the Jesuit community, along with all our staff and co-workers, hosted a special lunch in the Vallalar Tharmasala for the poor, as a meaningful preparation for the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola.

During this Covid-19 lockdown, the Business Administration Department of LCV, took the initiative to identify 65 deserving students of BBA and other departments and distributed 25 kg rice bags to each family on 17 and 18 July. Fr Antony Markus and Prof Stanley Vincent, the HOD, expressed their solidarity in praying for the wellbeing of the families while distributing the dry ration. We thank Prof Stanley Vincent and all the Alumni of BBA department for raising the needed funds to purchase the rice bags.

Fr Justine Emma, organized an Online International Conference on *Data Science* for four days from 15 to 18 June. Dr Vijayakumar, CRM/Program Management Lead, Cognizant, Bangalore; Dr Juliet Rajan, Lead, Infosys Ltd., Chennai; Dr J Betina Antony, Panimalar Institute of Technology, Chennai and Dr Paul Manuel, Kuwait University, were the resource persons. We appreciate and offer our felicitations to Fr Albert William, the Secretary and Fr Britto Vincent, the Principal for their meticulous planning and accompanying the staff towards the successful conduct of the conference.

Justine Emma

JUNIORATE, BESCHI ILLAM

After a month-long stay and study in Madurai, thanks to St Mary's Jesuit Community, the Juniors moved back to Beschi Illam in three groups on 22, 23 and 24 July. On 27 July, we had the inauguration of the CEN-MDU common Juniorate for the academic year 2020-21 in CIS, Beschi Illam. Fr Danis Ponniah, Provincial (MDU), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest in the presence of many Fathers, including Frs Stephen L Pragasam (MDU), the PCF, Michael Doss, the Superior. In his address, Fr Provincial invited the Juniors to become men of credible leadership like St Ignatius of Loyola. The inauguration programme lasted an hour with a variety of cultural items by the Juniors. Sch Milton performed a stand-up comedy in English and Sch Infant Valan delivered his maiden anthology of Robert Frost's "*The Road Not Taken*" using the visual-mnemonic technique.

Following this, Fr Swaminathan addressed the gathering, highlighting that the common Juniorate, the first-born of the CEN-MDU Provinces and the road not taken, calls us to make a difference. All the juniors took an active part in the whole conduct of the event. Schs Rejoy, Kuzhandhai and Franklin acted in the one-act play, *The Beggar and the King*. After the programme, Fr Danis blessed the new computer room for Juniors. Earlier, in their messages, Fr Michael Doss emphasized that the Juniorate was the school of knowledge, while Fr Stephen focused on the importance of pre-planning and having multiple workable options.



Milton

FROM MISSIONS

Greetings from Robin Seelan. I came here to Doha (capital city of Qatar, in the Middle East) in January 2020 as an International Jesuit Fellow of Georgetown University (USA) that has a campus here. This Jesuit University is based in Washington D.C, and they have initiated a new program of inviting South Asian Jesuits to be in their Doha campus for one semester or so. I was invited here for one semester and was expected to return to Satya Nilayam in May, but due to lack of commercial international flights, am still here till July.

The country is quite small but quite efficient, especially handling this Covid-19 pandemic. As of the third week of July, around 1,05,898 have been tested positive, but only 153 deaths have been reported. Life is returning slowly to a normal pace and the number of positive cases is becoming less.

So far, I am safe and sound, and I have kept my exposure to the outside world to the minimum, amidst high restrictions by the government. It has been a great learning experience, being the lone Jesuit here, and this period of solitude (ever since I had to conduct classes from home) has been a great blessing to my body, mind, and spirit. It gives a real feeling of being a ‘missionary’! However, I am not all alone- my books and computer keep me occupied, as well as my regular contacts with my doctoral scholars!

I commend myself to your prayers, as I look to the skies waiting for the flights to resume, hopefully in the month of August! Wish you all a happy feast of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Robin Seelan

GUIDE FOR REMODELLING PARISH LIFE (VATICAN, 20-7-2020)

The Vatican has issued a new document calling for a renewal of parish life, placing a heavy emphasis on the centrality of evangelization. “The pastoral conversion of the parish community in the service of the evangelizing mission of the Church” is a 24-page document, released on 20 July by the Congregation for Clergy. The central message of the document is to encourage an evangelical zeal “capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.”

“The celebration of the Eucharistic mystery is “the source and summit of the whole Christian life,” and accordingly, the essential moment for building up the parish community,” the Vatican proclaims. As “increased mobility and the digital culture have expanded the confines of existence,” the document observed, “the territorial affiliation is increasingly less evident.”

The Vatican insists that the missionary work of the Church is not exclusively the duty of the clergy, and lay people should be actively involved in evangelization. The goal of restructuring and enlisting the services of lay people within the parish communities is to “foster a greater co-responsibility and collaboration among all the baptized” in the cause of spreading the Gospel.

The document stipulates that, without compromising the roles of clergy and lay, bishops may, in particular times of need, authorize lay people to conduct liturgical services such as funerals, weddings, and baptisms. But lay people are never allowed to deliver homilies at Mass.

Xavier Rajan

THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE IGNATIAN YEAR 2021-2022

Excerpts from Father General's message for the Feast of St Ignatius of Loyola 2020

Remembering St Ignatius of Loyola and celebrating his feast gives us a chance to share some reflections on the Ignatian year that begins next May. The Ignatian year, which runs from May 2021 to the end of July 2022, offers us a great opportunity that, hopefully, we will take full advantage of. We should not let it pass in vain. It is a call to allow the Lord to work on our conversion. We ask for the grace to be renewed by the Lord. We wish to discover a new apostolic enthusiasm inside ourselves, a new life, new ways to follow the Lord. That is why we have chosen as our theme for the year: **to see all things new in Christ**.

The whole year will be guided by the Universal Apostolic Preferences which, as you know, were announced in 2019 and continue until 2029. We know that assimilating them means conversion for each one of us, for our communities, our institutions and our apostolic works. We ask for the grace of a real change in our day to day life-mission.

To young people I say: "We want to learn to accompany you. We want to learn from you. Each one of you is unique, born with a special purpose. I express our desire to accompany you through what we do and most especially through who we are – people willing to share our time, our dreams and our hopes."

To my Jesuit brothers of all generations scattered throughout the whole world I say that the Ignatian year is a new call to draw inspiration from Ignatius, the Pilgrim. His inner struggle and conversion led him to a very close familiarity with God.

For Ignatius, a life of poverty was an expression of intimacy with Jesus, the Lord. How can we, the present members of the Society of Jesus, receive and live this grace of evangelical poverty?

First of all, by approaching the way of life of Jesus as Ignatius and the first companions did. For the first companions, the life of poverty of each one and of the community was always linked to the care of the poor. That is a substantive part of the charism we have inherited.

Guided by the discernment of the Universal Apostolic Preferences we have accepted the challenge to listen to the cry of the poor, the excluded, those whose dignity has been violated. We have accepted to walk with them and to promote together the transformation of the unjust structures that have become so evident in the current world crisis. And let me be clear: this crisis is not only health and economic but, above all, social and political. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown the serious deficiencies in social relations at all levels, the international disorder and the causes of ecological imbalance. Only the love of Jesus brings definitive healing. We can only be witnesses of that love if we are closely united to Him, among ourselves and with those thrown aside by the world and considered least.

This leads us, in turn, to Ignatian indifference and makes us available for "**what is best**" or as we say in Spanish "**lo que más conviene**" (SE, n98).

As Jesuits, we must ask ourselves what it means in this day and age to introduce changes in our life of religious poverty in order to make it more strict. The examination of our life in poverty can become the concrete way to inspire conversion for a re-charismatization of our life-mission.

Dear Jesuit brothers, dear companions in mission: we are entering into what can be a transformative moment for the Society of Jesus. It can be a moment that releases new energy, new freedom, new initiatives, new love for others and for our most afflicted brothers and sisters. In remembering St Ignatius of Loyola and his conversion, we find encouragement. We realise that "Yes, change is possible. Yes, our hearts can be softened. Yes, our world can find new ways forward". We place our

hands in the hands of Jesus, our brother and friend, and we go forth into an uncertain but hopeful future, confident that He is with us and that His spirit is guiding us.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola, pray for us. May the Lord bless us as we follow Him along the way, poor and humble, this minima compañía colaboradora.

Tagore Leo Antony

ABIDE WITH THE LORD

Fr George Gispert-Sauch (BOM, 90/73), passed away on 29 July 2020 at Andheri, Mumbai.

Fr Isidore Pinto SJ (PAT, 78/57), passed away on 07 August 2020 in Patna, Bihar.

Mr M Yagoo (78), father of Fr Alex Yagoo (MDU), passed away on 21 June 2020 at Keelauchani, Sivagangai.

Mr William (66), brother-in-law of Fr Joe Antony (MDU), passed away on 08 July 2020 in Chennai.

Mr D Irudayanathan (85), paternal uncle of Fr Andrew Francis, died on 18 July 2020 at Neyveli.

Mrs Tarisana Mary (65), aunt of Fr Henry Albert (JAM), passed away on 23 July 2020 at Azhagappa Samuthiram, Panruti.

Mrs Kulandai Pragasi (65), second elder sister of Fr Stephen L Pragasam (MDU), passed away on 08 August 2020 at Y. Ottakadai.

PUBLICATIONS/WEBINARS

- **Fr Ignacy Arockiasamy**, “New Media and Environmentally Responsible Behaviour – An Application of the Principles of Participatory Action Research”, is selected by Oxford University Press, England, to be published in The Journal of Communication.
- Designing a Learning System for Education in the Post-COVID World | **Fr Joe Arun SJ**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XtUsRUYe6kM>
- UAP. Jesuit Universal Apostolic Preferences (2019-2029) | **Fr Francis P Xavier SJ**
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_zlVrSlxts
- Living in Harmony | **Fr Amaladoss Michael SJ**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3y3sTiM-XI>
- Befriending Stress: Stress Management in the context of Covid-19. | **Fr Francis P Xavier SJ**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeK2OdshM84>
- **Fr Jebamalai Irudayaraj**, the Provincial, gave (Online) the Schola Brevis at Satya Nilayam on “Our Philosophical Response to the Subaltern Empowerment in Today’s Context” on 3 Aug 2020.

