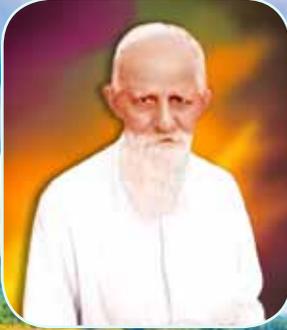


(For Private Circulation)



Fr. Louis Marie Léveil



Fr. Pedro Arrupe

# DECEMBER 2020

# MNL Madurai Jesuits' Newsletter

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

Given below is Fr. Provincial's Programme (November 2020 to January 2021) incorporating the changes that had to be made owing to the COVID-related developments.

<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>	
01-30	Province Office
06	SXC, Palayamkottai: Governing Body Meeting (Online)
07-08	GBM: Social Action (Online)
13-14	TNCRI Meeting (Online)
19	POSA Consult (Online)
21	Consult (Online)
24	GBM: TVET Commission (Online)
25	GBM: Youth Commission (Online)
26-27	GBM: Pastoral Commission (Online)
29	Joint CEN-MDU Extended Consult (Online)
<b>DECEMBER 2020</b>	
01-31	Province Office
04	Joint CEN-MDU Extended Consult (Online)
05	GBM: Spirituality & Dialogue Commission (Online)
06	GBM: Brothers Commission (Online)
07-12	Visitation: Beschi Illam, Dindigul
09 AM	JRS Ruby Jubilee (40 Years): Alverna Retreat Centre, Nochiodaipatti
09 PM	Joint CEN-MDU Extended Consult (Online)
13	GBM: Dalit Commission (Online)

14	GBM: Finance Commission (Online)
15-16	GBM: Formation Commission (Online)
17	AAC, Karumathur: Governing Body Meeting (Online)
18	Coordinators Meeting (Online)
19	LS/TL/Coord. Meeting (Online)
20	LS/TL Meeting (Online)
21	Consult (Online)
23	Joint CEN-MDU Extended Consult (Online)
<b>JANUARY 2021</b>	
01-02	Province Office
03-05	Visitation: St. Mary's, Dindigul
06-08	Province Office
09-14	Visitation: SJC, Tiruchi
15-16	Visitation: Clive House
17	Province Land & Building Committee and Finance Commission Meeting
18-19	Consult (Online)
20	Province Office
21-22	Visitation: DACA, Madurai
23-26	Visitation: St. Mary's, Madurai
28-31	Visitation: AAC, Karumathur

*Fr. Provincial and the Maduralaya community and co-workers wish all the MNL readers a blessed Christmas and a peace-filled 2021!*



# Announcements

**Pope Francis** has appointed **Fr. Bryan Lobo (BOM)** Consultor of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.

## Fr. General has appointed:

**Fr. Shajumon Chakkalakkal (DAR)** Socius, Admonitor and Consultor to the POSA.

**Fr. Roland Coelho (GOA)** JCSA/POSA Consultor and Chair of the West Zone.

**Fr. Provincial** has transferred **Fr. L. Alphonse William** from St. Xavier's, Palayamkottai, to Beschi Illam, Dindigul.

**S Ignatious Sebastian (CEN)**, a first year novice, left the novitiate on 30.11.2020.

## Ignatian Year (20 May 2021- 31 July 2022):

The POSA has appointed at the Conference level an Organizing Committee for the Ignatian Year. The members of this committee are: **Frs. Francis Pudhicherry (Coordinator), Dionysius Vaz, Ajit Xess, Siji Chacko and Sunny Kunnel.**

## Pune: JDV & DNC

**Fr. Edward Mudavassery**, Rector, DNC, writes on 30.11.2020: "Trusting in the Lord's goodness, we have decided to open the house for the scholastics to return to Pune after Christmas and if possible before 4th January 2021. The Second Semester classes will start then, of course, ONLINE. JDV has decided to continue online classes until the end of this academic year .... We are taking a moderate risk to give the scholastics a chance to do the online classes from the house, use the library and get some help from the staff who are at DNC or on campus."

**Pastoral Management Program (PMP)** at JDV offers the following courses for the academic year 2021-22. These programs aim at preparing a cadre of well-trained leaders and people managers. The focus is on leadership training with financial and managerial skills for clergy and religious. Using church-based best practices, the program prepares the students for administrative roles in their various congregations/ orders/dioceses/ and institutes. We offer the following programs:

- M. Th. in Pastoral Management – 2-year program

- Diploma in Pastoral Management (DPM) – 1-year program
- Modules for Guest students

For inquires, questions and clarifications email: [jdvipm@gmail.com](mailto:jdvipm@gmail.com)/[konrad.noronha@jdv.edu.in](mailto:konrad.noronha@jdv.edu.in)

## NEWS DIGEST

### Fr. S. Ignacimuthu ranked 872 in the world and tenth among Indian Scientists in Biology:

In an article, 'Updated Science-wide Author Databases of Standardized Citation Indicators' that appeared in *PLOS Biology*, a monthly peer-reviewed scientific journal, Fr. Ignacimuthu has been identified as one of the top 1% outstanding scientists in Biology in the world.

In his congratulatory letter dated 3 December 2020, Fr. General writes: "It is with great pride that I read the news about your being placed in one of the top one per cent scientists in the world in the field of Biology based on the citations of your research publications by other scientists. You bring honour to the Jesuit tradition of high-quality research and knowledge. It is no small matter that you are ranked 872 in the world and tenth among Indian Scientists.

Heartiest Congratulations and thank you for your dedicated and hard work over the last three decades and more.

You manifest one of the most important characteristics of the Jesuit Mission—Intellectual pursuit. In a world of superficiality, you live a life of intense search and scientific knowledge....

As I have always reminded our brothers, the intellectual apostolate 'is a part of our Jesuit DNA'. You are a living witness to that reminder."

### Webinar Links of Fr. P. Francis Xavier's Talks

Motivation and Goal Setting:

<https://youtu.be/N7IrVwSEbvU>

Decision Making and Discernment:

<https://youtu.be/dofa5eGXbOA>

Time Management Matrix and Multitasking:

<https://youtu.be/E4nUf7bbIYo>

**Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (PWPN)**  
**For a life of prayer**

In December 2020, we pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

## Beatification Process of the Servant of God Louis Marie Léveil Approval by Vatican for the Documents of the Diocesan Inquiry

The Diocesan Inquiry of the Beatification Process of the Servant of God Louis Marie Léveil was concluded with the closing session held on 30 June 2019 at Sarugani. The documents of the diocesan inquiry, submitted to the Apostolic Nuncio, New Delhi, on 09 July 2019 in two trunks, were shipped to the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Rome. The two trunks were opened at the Vatican Office on 11 November 2019, all the documents were checked, classified and sent for verification in January 2020.

Having verified all the submitted documents of the diocesan inquiry, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints issued the Validity Certificate (*Validitas*) to the Cause of Léveil on 30 October 2020. The Congregation declared, “The Diocesan Inquiry, which was conducted in the Ecclesiastical Curia of Sivagangai as the principal place and in the Ecclesiastical Curia of Rennes – France as Rogatory place on the life and virtues and also of the fame of sanctity and signs of the Servant of God Louis Marie Léveil, a professed priest of the Society of Jesus, is valid. And the witnesses were rightly and correctly examined and legitimately and properly recorded with regard to the matter concerned.”

The Congregation for the Causes of Saints has also given the direction to proceed with the preparation of the Positio – ‘a comprehensive and scientific report’ on the documents of the diocesan inquiry which were submitted to it.

On this occasion, I extend my sincere gratitude to all who have rendered their valuable cooperation and collaboration in preparing the documents successfully. In particular, I thank our Bishop Emeritus J. Susaimanickam, the College of Consultors, the members of the Historical Commission, Board of Inquiry and Theological Commission. I thank Rev. Fr. Danis Ponniah, Provincial – Jesuit Madurai Province, Rev. Fr. Jebamalai Raja, Provincial – Jesuit Chennai Province and all the Jesuit priests and brothers who have contributed to the process. I gratefully remember all the religious sisters and brothers and the lay faithful who were involved in the process of preparing the documents of the diocesan inquiry.

I request you all to continue to pray for the success of the Beatification Process of the Servant of God Louis Marie Léveil.

*Fr. S. James Anthuvan Dass  
Vice-Postulator, Cause of Léveil*

### Health Update

#### SXC, Palayamkottai

**Sch. Ragu Antony** and **Fr. S. Mariadoss** tested positive for COVID-19 and got admitted in Apollo Hospital, Madurai, on 12.11.20 and 13.11.20, respectively. Since their admission to COVID ward, their oxygen saturation level was normal and their condition was also very stable. Sch. Ragu Antony was given antiviral injection consecutively for five days and Fr. S. Mariadoss for seven days. They were discharged on November 21st. Both returned to SXC, Palayamkottai and resumed their normal activities after a 14-day quarantine.

**Fr. Henry Jerome, Fr. Elias, Fr. Loyola Savari** and **Br. Irudayam** were discharged from Apollo Hospital, Madurai, on November 13th and returned to Palayamkottai for a fortnight’s quarantine. All of them were keeping well and regularly taking medicines prescribed by the doctor. They reported back to Apollo Hospital for a post-quarantine check-up on November 28th and returned to Palayamkottai to resume their normal activities.

**Fr. K. Amal** tested positive for COVID-19 and got admitted in Apollo Hospital, Madurai, on 12.11.20.

He was given antiviral injection consecutively for eight days till November 22nd. Since he was experiencing difficulty in breathing, he was given 4 litres of oxygen support. His blood pressure and his fluctuating sodium level were brought under control with medication. His oxygen support was gradually reduced and from November 21st onwards his oxygen saturation level was normal. He underwent a walk test on 23rd and was discharged on November 24th. He went to Muhil, Thirumangalam, for a fortnight’s quarantine under the medical care of Dr. Rani.

**Fr. M. Arulanandam** was not feeling well and so he was taken to the hospital for a check-up on November 13th. As swab test and CT scan confirmed that he was COVID-19 positive, he was taken on the following day to Apollo Hospital, Madurai. He was given an antiviral injection to contain the virus as well as oxygen support to maintain his oxygen saturation level. His blood sugar level was fluctuating. From 22nd onwards his oxygen level was normal and he did not experience any breathing difficulty. Finally, on 24th afternoon he underwent walk test and was discharged on the same day and returned to SXC, Palayamkottai, for a fortnight’s quarantine at SXC itself till December 9th.

**Fr. Alphonse William**, after being discharged from Rhock Hospital, Palayamkottai, was back at SXC but was found to need nursing care. On November 17th, he was brought in an ambulance to Dindigul where a CT scan revealed that he was COVID positive. So he was taken to and admitted in the ICU of Apollo, Madurai. On 19th, he was shifted to the general ward but continued to receive 2 litres of oxygen support. His blood sugar was brought under control. He was also treated for his Parkinson and hematuria. As he tested negative for COVID-19, he was discharged on 25th afternoon and taken to St. Joseph Hospital, Dindigul, where he was till 28th before he moved to Beschi Infirmary. With him **Prince Wilfred (CEN)**, a second-year novice, also returned to Beschi. Prince who had been mildly COVID Positive was combining his own treatment with his hospital experiment of assisting since November 13th Br. Aloysius Arulraj and Fr. Alphonse William.

**Fr. G. Pushparaj** was diagnosed CO-RADS 5 as per a CT scan taken on November 19th. He was rushed to Annai Velanganni Hospital in Tirunelveli where, at the time of his admission, his oxygen saturation level was found to be 88%. So, he was immediately given high flow oxygen. The doctors also said that Fr. Pushparaj had got a very severe lung infection of 90%. With the support of 60% oxygen, he was able to maintain his oxygen saturation level 97%. On 23rd, he was shifted to the general ward and he was able to maintain his SpO2 without oxygen support. On November 30th, he was taken to Apollo Hospital, Madurai. After a thorough checkup and 4-day hospitalization, he returned on December 4th evening to SXC and is having his 14-day home quarantine.

### **Beschi, Dindigul**

**Br. A. Santiago**, Minister, and **Fr. Michael Doss**, Superior of Beschi Illam, Dindigul were quarantined in the CIS Building, Beschi. After their quarantine, they returned to the community on 17th November and have resumed their normal works observing the necessary protective measures.

**Br. S. Rayappan**, after being discharged from St. Joseph Hospital, was in quarantine in the CIS Building, Beschi. He joined the community and resumed his work on November 24th.

**Fr. Ignatius Puthiadam** was admitted in the COVID Ward of St. Joseph's Hospital, Dindigul, on November 9th with a 20% lung infection. He got discharged from hospital on 17.11.2020 and was back at Beschi for his home quarantine.

**Fr. Xavier Mampra** was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital on November 13th due to elevated blood D-dimer level. After assessment and a few investigations, he was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension. He got discharged on November 30th and has been asked to restrict his activities and take rest.

**Br. Aloysius** was diagnosed with COVID-19 with 40% lung involvement and was admitted in St. Joseph Hospital on 13 November 2020 and was discharged on November 27th.

**Fr. A. Soosai Raj (CEN)**, who was in Maduralaya, Dindigul and getting treated as an outpatient since 6 November 2020, is now back in Manalur to resume his mission.

## **Online General Body Meetings**

### **GBM: YOUTH COMMISSION**

Youth Commission GBM of the Jesuit Madurai Province was organized using the online Zoom platform on November 25th though many cities in Tamil Nadu were on red alert due to NIVAR cyclone. AICUF Unit advisers, Ex- AICUFers and AICUF students, youth from Mullaikudi and Lourdes Parish along with commission members participated in the Online GBM.



Fr. Paulraj, the Coordinator, welcomed the participants and briefed them about the dynamics of the GBM. Mr. Aloor Sha Navas, Secretary General of *Viduthalai Chiruthaigal party*, talked on “இன்றைய தமிழகச் சூழலில் இளையோர்”. He highlighted the disasters being created by the religious fundamentalist groups in Tamil Nadu State, which is known for its religious tolerance and self-respect. Youth are being targeted by these fascist groups through social media and cinema. He invited the GBM to impart historical consciousness and leadership to unorganized youth through workshops. He emphasized that to empower the youth, political awareness has to be instilled in young minds.

We had a panel session led by Mrs. Annie Rose and Mr. C. J. Rajan, Ex- AICUFers and social activists,

Prof. Alan and Prof. Aswini from the American College, Madurai, on “பதிலிறுப்பும் பங்களிப்பும்” from the feminist, social activist and educationalist points of view. All these panelists have been accompanying youth for many years. Their sharing invited us to renew our commitment to youth ministry and to deepen the PAP action plans.

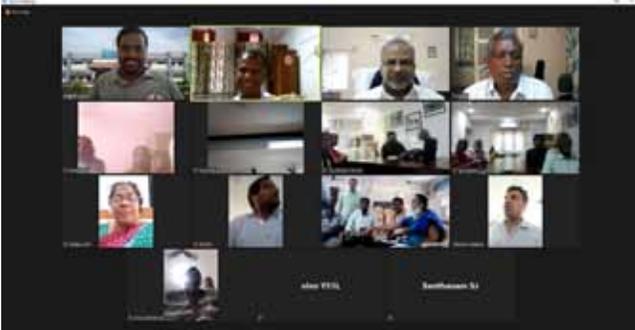
In the afternoon session, Fr. Thayriam, the new PDD, shared with the participants on the evolution of PAP and invited all of us to carry out the PAP Action plans with our fullest commitment. The action taken report was presented by Fr. Parthasarathi. Salesian Frs. Felix and Vincent shared their experiences of youth ministry and gave their suggestions to strengthen the ministry.

Fr. Provincial, in his final remarks, insisted on the need for networking and collaboration with other religious orders and lay collaborators. He suggested that the commission consolidates the action plans and to prepare the youngsters to the forthcoming State elections. The GBM came to an end with a YouTube hymn ASALAMALAIKKUM PRAISE THE LORD KOVINDA by Gana Vinoth, which summarized the GBM deliberations.

*J. John Wilson*

### **GBM: PASTORAL COMMISSION**

The Online GBM of the Pastoral Commission was held on 26 and 27 November 2020. A total of 36 participants attended the GBM. The agenda of the meet on the first day included the Parish Activities, the Pastoral Implications of and our Response to NEP and EIA and the Protocol to Protect Minors and Vulnerable Adults. The agenda for the second day included the Challenges of COVID-19 in the Parishes, Action Plans and Implementation of PAP, Unemployment, Financial Difficulties, BCC and our Parishioners' Faith and Understanding of the Liturgy. Fr. S. Amalraj, the Coordinator, welcomed the Jesuits, stakeholders and resource persons. Fr. Paul Mike addressed the participants on the NEP and presented



its pastoral implications. Fr. S.M. John Kennedy addressed the attendees on EIA 2020 notification and the draft's alarming ill effects that are foreseen. It weakens the already fragile ecosystem. It dilutes the already existing laws and curtails public consultation and freedom of speech. It negates the Right to Life. It caters to the needs of the capitalists and corporates. Both of them urged the Pastors to conscientize our parishioners about the dangers lurking in NEP and EIA. Fr. Philomin Raj was the resource person for the session on the implementation of Protocol to Protect Minors and Vulnerable Adults. He explained in detail our Province's policy to protect children and vulnerable adults and motivated the participants to reflect on the need for implementing the same by appointing Designated Lead Person, Internal Committee and Domestic Enquiry Committee in our institutions. All ours who are in the pastoral field greatly appreciated that food materials were supplied to poor families of our parishes during the Lockdown (Phase I and Phase II). At the same time, regret was expressed that during complete COVID-19 lockdown, we could not go out of the residence to administer the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and conduct the funeral services. Mr. Rajendra Sekar from St. Mary's Cathedral Parish, Madurai, shared about the importance of offering periodical training to nuns, sacristans, altar servers and the laity in Liturgy. Fr. Provincial appreciated Fr. S. Amal, the Coordinator, and all the Jesuits for their commendable work and motivated the Pastors to have a year plan of the parish events. Alarmed by the number of widows in the Parishes, he urged the Pastors to network with *Kalangarai*, Nagapattinam and replicate the work done there in all our parishes.

*Manuel Savariar*

### **GBM: TVET**

The first-ever online GBM of TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training) Commission was held on 24 November 2020. Mr. S. Ratnasabapathy, General Manager, REGA Auto Distributors shared his views on “The expectation of industrialists from our industrial institutions and students of ITIs”. In his sharing, he highlighted that ITIs offer livelihoods to youth. The syllabus narrows down the broad skill learning in the industrial schools. The students need to be given counselling before they choose a particular trade as their future profession. While sharing on smart work and hard work he emphasized the need



for students first to be smart workers and then hard workers. He underlined that smart work comes from the fundamental knowledge of the chosen trade.

In the second session, Mr. John Bosco, RJD, Tiruchi shared on “தொழிற் பயிற்சி நிலையங்களில் இன்றைய வளர்ச்சி”. He expressed his view that ITI training is not the end of learning, but it gives an opening to Polytechnic and Engineering courses. For a student from a rural and economically weak background, ITI training is very handy for family welfare. He further mentioned 643 Skill training programmes offered by the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC). They are all fully subsidized and job oriented certificate programmes given on an hourly basis. He invited us to reflect on how well we can make such opportunities available to our students. In the third session, before lunch, the heads of the institutions shared the impact of COVID-19 and our institutional response to it. In the afternoon, the institutions shared on the implementation of PAPs and the challenges faced during the process. Fr. Provincial and the members suggested that we study the possibilities of implementing skill development programmes in our Province, for which TVET should strengthen the nodal centre at LTI, Madurai.

*Francis Xavier Arockiadass*

## **SUPAM MEETING**

COVID-19 pandemic has changed the order of our life. SUPAM meeting is no exception. We had our first Theo-pastoral reflections online on 10 Nov, under the guidance of Fr. Baskar, Director of SUPAM, Fr. Robin, the PCF of Chennai, Fr. Stephen, the PCF of Madurai, and Frs. Raj Irudaya, Sahayaraj, Arokia Doss from Arul Kadal.

The newly ordained priests gave a short history of the parishes, shared their unique pastoral experiences along with the challenges faced and their plans for the months to come. Their sharing threw light on the greatness of the faith of simple people, but at the same time revealed how caste-driven their motives and orientations were, that sometimes coloured

even their Christian living. The formators present at the meeting encouraged the new priests and helped them re-look at the experiences with their theological and contextual insights. Their perspectives in the light of their varied experiences helped deepen our insights. Finally, there was a short evaluation of the Ordination celebration, guided by Fr. Stephen. The online meeting was well arranged and coordinated, thanks to Fr. Baskar and all those who were part of it.

*Franklin Rex*

## **Dindigul: Beschi Illam Novitiate**

On 8 November 2020, we commemorated the 340th birth anniversary of Fr. Joseph Constantine Beschi by garlanding his statue. Fr. Yagoo honoured it and Fr. Swaminathan spoke on his contribution to Tamil literature by singing a few verses from Thembavani. The first-year novices made their Spiritual Exercises under the direction of Fr. Antony Inigo and our five second-year novices had their Ashram Experiment in Wenisch Home, Beschi Campus. Fr. R. Dhanaraj was their Guru and Sr. Margaret Bastian FSJ was the special resource person to teach them bhajans. The experiment helped them understand how faith flourishes and blossoms in and through the culture of the people. In the end, they all appreciated the Indian way of celebrating the Holy Eucharist. The second-year novices also did their 8-day annual retreat under the direction of Fr. Bastian; additionally, they had two weeks of an intensive workshop on Knowledge Enhancement and Shape the Self for the Mission of God. All were taught how to read a book diligently so as to resonate with the spirit of the text. They did an excellent presentation after their reading. The recent encyclical of Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, on fraternity and social friendship, has very much inspired our novices. In order to imbibe the missionary spirit of the Society of Jesus, four sessions were organized with the help of our Jesuits in the campus; Fr. John Peter Bellarmine on People centred mission: Jesuits' charism, Fr. Harry Martis on Jesuit Formation: A joyful, self-shaping journey, Fr. Leo Pereira on JRS: Faith and Justice – Missionary understanding of Jesuit Vocation, and Sch. Edward Lenin on how to awake the writer in you for the mission.

On November 2nd, All Souls' Day, Fr. Harry Martis celebrated the Mass and preached a scintillating homily underlining the scriptural roots of the commemoration. Soon after the Mass, Fr. Yagoo

blessed the renovated crucifix in Beschi cemetery and Fr. Swaminathan blessed the graves of our departed Jesuits.

*Michael Panimaya Raj*

### **Juniorate: Beschi Illam**

On October 31st, the feast of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, the juniors participated in the Eucharistic



celebration and were captivated by Fr. Michael Panimaya Raj's homily on the servant fellowship of St. Alphonsus Rodriguez. On November 5th, the juniors participated in the requiem Mass of Br. Jeyaraj Annaviar, in which Fr. Yagoo shared his heart-warming memories with Br. Jeyaraj. Later that day, regular classes resumed in the Juniorate. On November 26th, St. John Berchmans feast day celebration was low-key yet meaningful as the day was set apart for creative writing. On November 28th, using the online Zoom platform, the juniors participated in the JCSA Digital Jesuits' "Cheers with Berchs" and experienced the universality of the Society.

*Milton Mervin Raj*

### **Devakottai: De Britto**

We were delighted to welcome Fr. Martin George as our new community member. On 16 November, with the help of our school staff members, we organized a silent protest inside the campus to support Fr. Stan and other human rights defenders. Many of our students were able to take part actively in the online examination conducted for them last month. All the staff members kept themselves busy preparing for classes, evaluating the exam papers and writing articles for the school's e-magazine. Br. Victor, along with our co-workers, cleaned the farm and started organic farming. We cultivated some vegetables also.

*Joe Praveen*

### **Karumathur: AAC**

The NAAC preparations are in full swing in the college, apart from the regular Board of Studies meetings revamping the whole curriculum in the Outcome Based Education (OBE) pattern. On

Deepavali day, the college engaged the students in throwing seed balls with the motto, வெடிக்குப் பதில் விதைப்பந்து. This initiative raised the awareness of the students and the general public to commit themselves to the conservation of the green earth. As the Advent season has started, the Campus Ministry has announced Christmas competitions around the theme Corona in Christmastide.

On November 23rd and 24th, webinar talks on Pope Francis' latest encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* and its contemporary application were given by Fr. Godwin Rufus to the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco. The Salesian communities in Tamil Nadu benefited by the talks. On November 21st, Fr. Vincent Sekhar took part in the International Webinar on Higher Education, Secularization, and Interreligious Dialogue, jointly organized by ESADE, Barcelona, Spain, and Santa Clara University, California, USA. The discussion focused on how to move forward in concretizing the action plans in the inclusive education of students and faculty. The Jesuit Conference of South Asia (JCSA) organized the final meeting of the outgoing Secretaries and the new Secretaries of Commissions on November 30th, in which Fr. Sekhar, longest-serving Secretary for Interreligious Dialogue, shared his sentiments of gratitude and satisfaction in the mission given him by the Society. Fr. Stany, the new POSA, expressed his hope in the new JCSA structure, encouraging collaboration and networking.

*Vincent Sekhar*

### **Madurai: DACA**

DACA tried SRI (System of Rice Intensification) in its Kuthirakuthi Farm, in which 4 kg of paddy seedlings were planted singly spaced in 2 acres of land. The growth looks remarkable. Thanks to the alumni of DACA Home for their support in this new initiative. DACA has resumed the work of Evening Study Centers (ESCs) taking the necessary precautions. Orientation was given to the animators at the zonal level to set a new tone. This year, we have once again stretched out the study centers up to Tirunelveli District and thus we have reached out to 100 remote villages in five zones – Madurai, Muthukulathur, Sattur, Kovilpatti and Tirunelveli through our ESCs. We have planned to focus mainly on the personality development of the students and the community development of the village as the schools remain closed owing to COVID-19. Noting the current situation, the Cultural Contest 2020 was organized online at the end of November. A total of 720 students enthusiastically



participated and came up with creative productions in all the five events namely, Speech, Storytelling, Drawing, Singing an Awareness song and Acting. It was a timely adaptation to get the students back into learning and honing their skills.

*P. Theophine*

### **Madurai: St. Mary's**

On 22 November 2020, during the Solemnity of Christ the King, 30 students received their First Holy Communion during the Holy Eucharist presided over by Fr. S. Marianathan, Rector and Parish Priest. Archbishop Antony Pappusamy celebrated the



Chrism Mass on November 24th, at 6.30 a.m. in St. Mary's Cathedral. Owing to COVID-19 pandemic only the Vicar General, the seven Vicars Forane and the priests from the Archdiocesan Curia and St. Mary's Community could concelebrate the Chrism Mass.

*Manuel Savariar*

### **Nagercoil: Carmel**

The New Headmaster Fr. Simonraj Antony assumed office on 19 November 2020 in the presence of Carmel Jesuit Community along with some staff after the prayer service conducted by the Superior and Correspondent Fr. Xavier Raj Antony. The traditional annual pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. Francis



Xavier took place on November 26th with a limited number of staff and Jesuits. Under the leadership of Fr. Jesu Nesam, NMMS & NTSE Coaching classes have been started in our school for the first time. Sixty students are participating regularly and attentively in the online classes. A special meeting was organized with the parents and students to discuss this new initiative. Since the parents preferred to continue the online classes, till the school reopens, coaching will be given only through online classes. Parents and students appreciated the management wholeheartedly for the good efforts taken for the well-being of the students.

*Maria Singarayar*

### **Palayamkottai: St. Xavier's**

At SXC, second CIA exams are over and semester exams have started in the first week of December. SXC has become a privileged member of the ICT Academy for five years which will help many academic and extracurricular programmes.

Entrepreneurship cell in XIBA organized ENTREPRENEURS MEET 2020: Rhetoric and Discussion on November 25th. Resource persons Mr. Mohamed Riaz, Founder, King's Group of Companies, Tirunelveli, and Dr. K. V. Rajendren, Founder, Protodyne Labs, Coimbatore, motivated the students, scholars and others on the importance of "Being and Becoming an Entrepreneur with Less Investment and Mega Profit". It was well appreciated. We are grieved to report the sad demise of Prof. Sangeetha (45), who had been teaching at XIBA right from its inception. After a prolonged period of hospitalization for COVID 19 treatment, she succumbed to it on 15 November.

St. Xavier's College of Education conducted the board of studies and academic council meetings online. All expressed satisfaction with the conduct of online statutory meetings. The subject clubs of English, History, Tamil, Bio-Science and Computer Science organized various online lectures for the benefit of the students.

- The faculty had their one-day faculty development programme, organized by IQAC on 'Outcome Based Education' on October 23rd in which Dr. A. Lourdusamy, IQAC Coordinator of SXC, presented it as an easy-to-experiment theory. The outcome-based objectives for the programme were enumerated by the group.

- The first-year students of B. Ed programme had their inauguration of the academic year online on October 28th. Fr. Henry Jerome, the Rector with his prayerful wishes invited them to cherish the campus training with an open mind, while Fr. Pushparaj, Secretary of SXCE, in his felicitation, underlined the need for hard work and sincerity in their learning. It was followed by the orientations of academic and library activities in the next two days.

- Mr. Anbuvaanan, an alumnus and the Best Teacher Awardee of Government of Tamil Nadu for 2019-20, was the special speaker for the innovative programme titled 'Teacher of the Month'. A spontaneous and thought-provoking speech by him enthralled the prospective teachers and ended with a lively Q & A session.

- The month of November had three major events, namely National Cancer Awareness Day on 07.11.20, National Educational Day on 11.11.20 and Deepavali on 13.11.20 which were observed with due importance in the college. Guest speakers effectively brought out the significance of each day.

- The first-year students have begun their classes online with proper preparation and second years are probing into the possibility of online internship during the next semester.

Condemning the 'unlawful arrest' of **Fr. Stan Swamy** and 16 human rights activists, and registration of false cases against Muslims who staged a protest against attacks on them in North Delhi, St. Xavier's institutions in collaboration with Peoples' Citizenship Movement (PCM), all major political parties, Islamic organizations, CRI, Palayamkottai Catholic Diocese and a few NGOs organised a demonstration on October 31st at Vannarapettai junction in Tirunelveli led by Most Rev. S. Antonysamy, Bishop of Palayamkottai, Alhaj P.A. Kaja Muhaideen, State President, Jamathul Ulma Society and Maha Sannidhanam Swami Bala Prajapathy of Ayya Vazhi, a Hindu sect, the protestors raised slogans condemning these illegal arrests. Participation of the district presidents of the various



major political parties, Provincials of three religious congregations, Islamic leaders and others made the protest collective and effective. Fr. S.M. John Kennedy, Convener of PCM, played a major role in organizing this protest.

On October 30th, SXC Community had a meaningful recollection on the recent encyclical of Pope Francis' *Fratelli Tutti* by Fr. Paul C. Not only did he give the whole picture of the encyclical but also gave critical comments by different theologians. Fr. S. M. John Kennedy published NEP 2020 & EIA 2020, his 24th book. Congratulations!

After Corona viral infection and hospitalization in Palayamkottai, Madurai and Dindigul, several members of the community are gradually getting healed and as a community we are limping back to our normal, routine life. Thanks to all Jesuit companions and others for their continued prayers for all of us.

*Y. Baskar*

### **Shembaganur: Sacred Heart College**

We renovated the *Sirumar Illam* building due to leakage on the roof and have converted it into office, library, box rooms, sick room and medicine room. Fr. Amaladoss, our Treasurer, blessed the building and Fr. Patrick, our Superior, opened the renovated building on 30 October 2020.

In preparation for the celebration of All Souls' Day, the Scholastics were engaged in cleaning and decorating the cemetery. The hope of resurrection shone all over. The community celebrated Deepavali, the festival of Lights, with a campfire supper. The SHC badminton court was renovated by the philosophers with rope-line marking.

On November 12th, the second-year philosophers had an online evaluation with the staff of DNC on philosophical formation and integral life of the scholastics. They have started the preparation for their research paper and dissertation. On November

23, the first-year philosophers had an online meeting with Fr. Kuruville Pandikattu, Dean of Philosophy, JDV, concerning their academic performance. The meeting has given a boost to the scholastics to study philosophy more seriously.

*Lazar John and Sujin Wilson*

### **Thoothukudi: Xaveriana**

Fr. Ignacy, our Superior, with the help of our coworkers planted more than 75 Palmyra tree seeds and 10 Neem tree saplings in Xaveriana premises and another 10 different tree saplings in the school just before the North East monsoon set in. There was a meeting arranged on November 5th by Fr. Bensigar, Superintendent of Schools, Thoothukudi Diocese, to create awareness about the discriminatory attitude of the Tamil Nadu Government towards government-aided schools regarding the 7.5% horizontal reservation in the medical college admissions to be given only to the government school students. Certainly, this special reservation to government school students only will adversely affect admissions in the government-aided schools and the future of the poor, marginalized and Dalit students, who are studying in government-aided schools. Fr. Ignacy attended the meeting with some of our school teachers. On November 20th, there was a protest organized by the Government Aided School Teachers' Association to press this demand to include the government aided school students also in the reservation, in which Fr. Sales took part. This protest was held in front of the CEO's office, Thoothukudi. We had community Eucharistic celebrations on November 16th and 17th to bid farewell to Fr. Simonraj and welcome Br. Arockiadoss, his successor as Headmaster of St. Francis Xavier's Hr. Sec. School. At our school, the alumni association office bearers and our school staff bid farewell to Fr. Simonraj expressing their gratitude for his noble service and welcomed Bro. Arockiadoss with good wishes and some expectations.



On November 19th, after a short prayer service, Br. Arockiadoss assumed his responsibilities as Headmaster by signing in the masters' attendance.

On November 15th, the 2014 batch of XII Standard alumni came to our school for a gathering. Fr. Ignacy, in his address, encouraged them to help one another and strengthen their relationship through such gatherings.

On November 24th, we began the novena in preparation for the feast of St. Francis Xavier in the community. This year, we shared our novena prayer service through social media with the help of our staff.

*Francis Sales*

### **Tiruchi: Clive House**

The feast of St. John Berchmans helped us to reenergize ourselves after our online end semester exams. "Cheers with Berchs" was the theme for the feast of our Patron Saint on November 27th. The simple but meaningful and creative feast day liturgy was an invitation for all of us to become saints when we are young. The celebration continued till the evening when we had a special basketball match.

Another welcome relief from our heavy and hectic schedule of classes was when Fr. M.A. Emma came to give us psycho-spiritual to get us out of the stresses in the form of monthly recollection on November 28th. The theme of the recollection was, "The Psychology of Loneliness into Love during COVID-19 for credibility in life and mission". We young formees really heaved a sigh of relief by having our personal chat with him. The recollection helped us to get rid of all the psychological stress at this time of the pandemic.

We are now busy with online semester examination which started on 1st December.

*Sagayam & Pradeep*

### **Tiruchi: St. Joseph's**

On 2 November 2020, the SJC Jesuits, led by Fr. Leonard Fernando, the Rector, paid floral and prayerful tributes at the graves of all the deceased Jesuits located both within the college campus and at St. Mary's Cathedral, Melapudur, Tiruchi. The 340th birth anniversary of Veeramamunivar (Fr. Constantine Joseph Beschi) was meaningfully celebrated by the Tamil Research Department of SJC. Fr. Rector and Fr. Principal offered floral tributes to the Portrait of Veeramamunivar and recalled his significant contributions to Tamil Literature. Mr. Beschi, HoD, Tamil Department, and his team

organized the event and Prof. Raasaathi from the same department spoke on the scholarly works of Veeramamunivar.

The students of the Department of Human Resource Management had a guest lecture on 'Motivational Needs, Processes and Applications' given by Mr. R. Anandakumar, Additional General Manager-HR, BHEL, Tiruchirappalli, on November 12th. The talk, organized by Fr. K. Arockiam, motivated the students to keep their spirits high in the midst of the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis and keep working to pursue their goals. Fr. Arockiam has been inducted as a member of the Editorial Team of 'AD-MINISTER'- an interdisciplinary, international and peer-reviewed academic journal. He has received a certificate of merit from the same journal for reviewing a research paper.

Fr. Arul Oli, Coordinator of Research Committee, organized a national webinar on "Research Grants and Funds" on November 23rd, in which 120 people actively participated. Fr. Arockiasamy Xavier, the Principal, felicitated the participants and emphasized the need to tap our resources in order to promote research activities in our departments.

Fr. S. Santiago has obtained a patent 'Intelligent Traffic Monitoring System using AI Techniques' based on one of his research contributions in the field of Computer Science and Electronics.

Fr. Emmanuel Arockiam conducted two sessions on 'Understanding Family through Systems Approach' in a two-day webinar organized as part of the annual Jesuit Psychologists and Counselors Forum on November 20th-21st. Initiated by Fr. Martin from ISI Bangalore, he also organized a five-day Webinar on Psycho-social Care of Migrants on November 23rd-27th (daily 1½ hours). This has helped to train the trainers in the migrant ministry.

Thanks to Br. John Britto, Deputy Director, the Sacred Hostel premises have been spruced up, after attending to minor repair works and a thorough cleaning. New tree saplings have been planted. The hostels are ready to welcome our students whenever they are allowed to come. Fr. S. M. Selvaraj has presented a series of spiritual talks over a YouTube Channel titled 'POWER OF GOD' which has over 1,600 viewers.

*Leolin Arockiadass*

### **Vilangudi: VMI**

In order to avoid the risk of contracting the virus, the pre-novices were not sent home for their first term holidays. Instead, they had a week off within the VMI campus. Before starting the second term,

they had a three-day course on "Study Skills and Methods" by Fr. Justin Emma. On October 18th, along with the parishioners of Thirumanur, they participated in the protest against the arrest of Fr. Stan Swamy and Bernald, one of our pre-novices delivered a speech at the protest rally condemning the unwarranted and unjust arrest. Newly ordained priest Fr. Raphael Alexander visited us on October 29th and celebrated Holy Eucharist. Fr. Francis Xavier Arockiadass, preached a meaningful recollection to the pre-novices on October 30th on the theme "Nurturing the Initial Fervor". He also preached an inspiring homily in which he shared his personal experience as a pre-novice. On November 28th, we started our Community Days. Various competitions were held to challenge the physical and intellectual capacities of the pre-novices. The Community Days not only brought out their hidden talents and creative skills but also gave them a firsthand experience of working together as a team. We had judges from our locality to assess the performances. All the judges appreciated our pre-novices and encouraged them to keep growing in their talents and skills. We concluded our Community Days on the feast of St. Francis Xavier (December 3rd) with a Cultural Night and a sumptuous meal. Now, our 17 pre-novices are preparing themselves for their Second Term exams.

*S. Joshua Kishanth*

### **Chennai: Arul Kadal**

We, the Arulkadalites, gathered in front of the memorial of Fr. Ignatius Hirudayam, the founder of Aikiya Alayam, for a moving Eucharistic celebration on November 2nd. On the following day, we laid garlands at the graves of two Jesuit brethren who had been laid to rest in the 'Quibble Island Cemetery.'

'Unlearn' was the theme of the online recollection talk by Fr. Robin Sahaya Seelan on November 6th. He singled out some of our preconceived and misconceived notions, governed by myths, conditioned by false assumptions (caste) and (mis) guided by wrong opinions for unlearning and urged us to be open to new learning. On the 340th birth anniversary of Veeramamunivar, a few Arulkadalites garlanded his statue on the Marina Beach. We had online lectures by two well-known Jesuits from Vidyajyoti, Frs. Manickam Irudayaraj and Valan C. Anthony, lectured on Pentateuch and Gospel of Matthew, respectively.

*Felix Sahayaraj*

## BERCHMANS ILLAM: DIAMOND JUBILEE

In 1960, Fr. George Thottungal and 21 scholastics from Sacred Heart College, Shembaganur, arrived in Chennai to start a new Jesuit collegians house, aptly christened Berchmans Hall, within the verdant Loyola College campus. Originally, it was a dependent community of Loyola Jesuit community and Loyola Rector was its Superior with Fr. Thottungal serving as Minister. The scholastics hailing from different Provinces, spotted easily in the campus as they were clad in their white cassocks, excelled in academics in their respective departments and had the lion's share of Gold Medals during the College Day celebrations. In 1998, the house was rechristened Berchmans Illam under the Superiorship of Fr. L. X. Jerome. The Golden Jubilee celebration was celebrated in 2010, under the leadership of Fr. John Kumar.

Fr. Danis Ponniah, Provincial of Madurai Province and a former Superior of Berchmans Illam, initiated the Diamond Jubilee year during his visitation of the community in 2019. The Jubilee celebration was formally inaugurated on 26 November 2019, the feast of our Patron St. John Berchmans, with a Mass concelebrated by our Rector Fr. Francis P. Xavier with Frs. Wenisch, a former Superior, and Alangaram, the present Superior. We had Community Days for a week to mark the Jubilee year with activities, fun games and outdoor games. We also had a quiz on St. John Berchmans and the Society of Jesus.

On 26 November 2020, we brought the Diamond Jubilee year of Berchmans Illam to a close with a dual celebration.

1. We had a thanksgiving Eucharist at 6:00 p.m. concelebrated by Fr. Jebamalai Raja, Provincial of Chennai Province, with Frs. Francis P. Xavier, Alangaram, James Rodrigues and Sahay Vijayan. We gratefully remembered all the 23 Superiors, 27 Ministers, 23 Sub-ministers and 15 Spiritual Guides. We also prayed for all the scholastics, brothers and priests who passed out of Berchmans Illam and are working in the Lord's vineyard and for all who have received their heavenly reward from the Lord.

2. After the Mass, there was a short felicitation programme of honouring the dignitaries including the two predecessors of Fr. Alangaram, Frs. John Kumar and Wenisch. The Diamond Jubilee souvenir was released by Fr. Jebamalai and Fr. Ilanko, his Socius, received the first copy. We gratefully acknowledge the hard work which the editorial team had put in. It was followed by a festive meal organized under the coordination of Br. S. Antony, Minister of Berchmans Illam.

On 27 November 2020, we organized an online Diamond Jubilee celebration for 90 minutes and it received an overwhelming response from the alumni of Berchmans Illam in different parts of India, Italy, Austria, France and the United States. The distribution of Jubilee T-Shirts and Cup for the Jesuits of Madurai and Chennai Provinces in Loyola, Dhyana Ashram, Satya Nilayam and Arul Kadal was done. We are also planning to plant 60 trees in Loyola Campus to mark the Diamond Jubilee year.

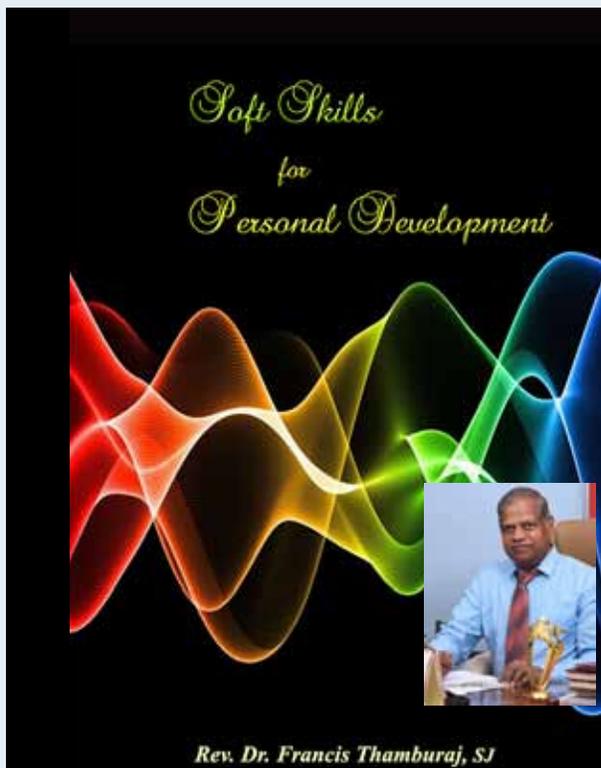
*David Jenith Xavier (KHM)*



## Soft Skills for Personal Development New Book by Fr. Francis Thamburaj

Soft skills for personal development are of prime importance and the axis around which all things revolve. Unfortunately, these skills are not given their due importance in the highly competitive world of today with its focus on earning money, success, name and fame. This book, covering multiple dimensions of self-management, is the powerpack that propels you to the higher rungs of life. It offers practical tips to refine and polish your personality and build a character bubbling with charisma to succeed in all your endeavours. Pages are pregnant with pearls of practical wisdom, motivational skills, perseverance and inspiration.

The first part, Self-Management Skills, helps you to manage, embellish, enhance and empower yourself. It talks about the benefits of self-awareness, ways to increase it and signs indicating a lack of self-awareness. The next chapter deals with self-care dimensions, benefits, strategies, and blind spots. The fourth chapter is on the



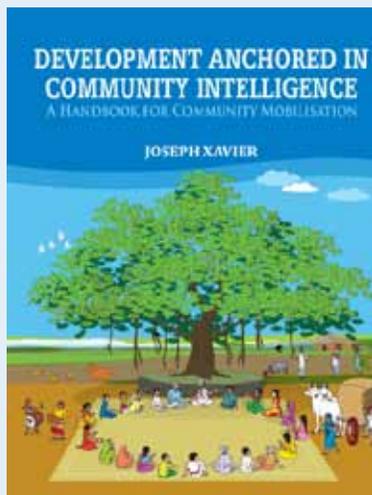
importance of self-confidence and tips to boost it. The fifth chapter elaborates on the meaning, characteristics, advantages of self-esteem, cost of low self-esteem, tips to build and measure self-esteem. The sixth chapter is about the cultivation and various stages of self-acceptance. The final chapter depicts the benefits and power of self-compassion and the scale to measure it.

The second part, Personality Development Skills, includes tools to develop personality, character formation, and construction of charisma. It explains personality types, personality-based traits, disorders, and tips to develop it. The Character Formation section deals with character building, the seven pillars of character and how to become a positive person. The next section shows the way to construct colourful charisma. It highlights the importance and various ingredients of charisma and indicates ways to nurture it and presents also the darker side of charisma.

The third part, Motivational Skills, is on motivation mantra, goal setting, perseverance and power of inspiration. It explains the types and theories of motivation, its importance, various motivational skills and ways to stay motivated. The next chapter shows the dimensions of goals, the SMARTER way of goal setting, and dwells on the significance of atomic habits. The following chapter emphasizes the importance of perseverance, qualities of most persevering people, growth mindset, and tips to develop strong perseverance. The final chapter shows the superiority of inspiration over motivation, stresses its importance and offers the secrets to stay inspired.

## Release of Two Books on Community Mobilization

When people lead the process of their own development, it only plays a perfect catalyst in the process of development, and this has been affirmed yet again in as many as three urban and two rural locations across five different States of India. Two very important publications in this

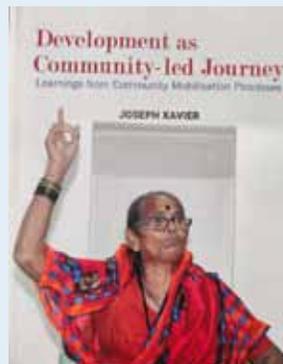


regard are, 'Development as a Community-led journey: Learnings from Community Mobilization Processes' and 'Development anchored in Community Intelligence: A Handbook for Community Mobilization' authored by Dr. Joseph Xavier S.J., which were released virtually by Archbishop Sebastian on 3 December 2020, in the presence of eminent panelists from across the country.

Mr. Peter Seidel, in-charge of Asia Desk of Caritas Germany, said that Caritas is committed not only to provide project support but also to engage in critical reflection processes based on experiences of the communities. He also said, "It is time that such efforts are linked to the academia in India and other parts of the world, as the handbook is developed in the Indian context".

The reflection shared by all the panelists was that due to a paucity of Indian publications on the subject of Community Mobilization, these books are going to play the role of a 'best friend' for all the people involved in any capacity, in any part of the country, with community mobilization process, given the easy and lucid language, content and colourful illustrations provided abundantly in both the books. All of them committed themselves to use the handbook in their colleges.

Also, academicians from across the country



expressed their satisfaction with the publications, by labelling them as "mandatory readings" and "highly relevant for Social Work students and practitioners."

Since the books cover their material from practical experiences of the communities and are excellently backed up with the needed theoretical background, these books can be used to re-ignite community mobilization from a 'rights-based approach', in both theory and practice.

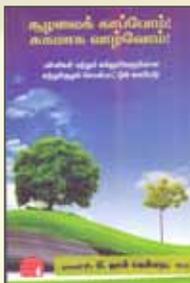
The handbook, which brings to the fore 12-step processes, which are non-prescriptive in nature, yet covers almost every inch of the same, is going to be translated into nine different languages. This fact was highly appreciated by all the panelists, as this enables regional-language literates to be engaged in the same capacity as the ones who use English version of the same.

These books are jointly published by Indian Social Institute, Bengaluru, and Caritas India.

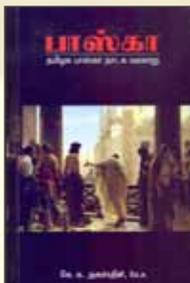
**Joseph Xavier, S.J.**  
Director  
ISI-Bengaluru

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[https://isibangalore.com/images/researchPdfs/Development\\_as\\_Community-led\\_Journey.pdf](https://isibangalore.com/images/researchPdfs/Development_as_Community-led_Journey.pdf)

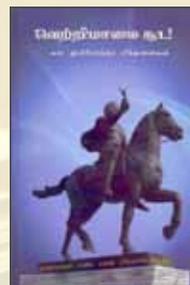
## New Books



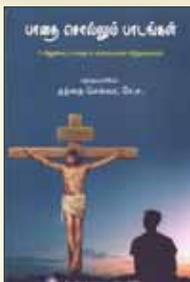
**S.M. John Kennedy, S.J.**  
*Soozhalai Kaappom*  
*Suhamaaha Vazhvom*  
 Vaigarai Publications  
 Dindigul 2020



**K.A. Augustine, S.J.**  
*Pasca Nadaham*  
 TLS Publications  
 Tiruchirappalli  
 2020



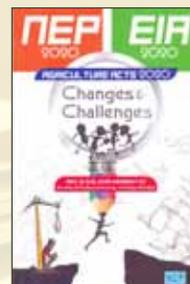
**S. Paul Pragash, S.J.**  
*Vetri Maalai Sooda*  
 TLS Publications  
 Tiruchirappalli  
 2020



**S. Selvaraj, S.J.**  
*Paathai Sollum Padangal*  
 Thiru Irudaya Maiyam  
 Beschi  
 Dindigul 2020



**S.M. John Kennedy, S.J.**  
*Our Lady of La Salette*  
*India and France*  
 Ananda Publications  
 Oriyur 2020



**S.M. John Kennedy, S.J.**  
*NEP 2020, EIA 2020,*  
*Agriculture Acts 2020*  
 New Leader Publications  
 Chennai 2020

## Abide with the Lord

Fr. Rudolph Fernandez (86/69 BOM), passed away on 16.11.2020 at Nashik.  
 Fr. Lourdu Susai Irudayaraj (74/53 DUM) passed away on 16.11.2020 at Dumka, Jharkhand.  
 Br. Lawrence Richard Saldanha (83/58 HAZ) passed away on 17.11.2020 at Sitagarha.  
 Fr. Cipriano Mendía Echániz (89 /71 GUJ->ESP) 17.11.2020 in Loyola, Spain.  
 Fr. S. Paul Lourdusamy (65/43 PAT) passed away on 22.11.2020 in Kolkata.  
 Fr. Augustine Lopes (75/49 BOM) passed away on 01.12.2020 in Mumbai.  
 Br. Desmond Dias (87/65 BOM) passed away on 02.12.2020 in Mumbai.  
 Fr. O.P. Mathew (75/54 KER) passed away on 03.12.2020 at Kozhikode.  
 Br. Epiphanio Dias (99/77 GOA) passed away 07.12.2020 at Mapusa, Goa.  
 Mr. S. Thomas (90), father of Fr. Patrick Ravichandran, passed away on 15.11.2020 at Tiruchi.  
 Mrs. Mariarockiam (95), mother of Fr. I. Arul, passed away on 09.12.2020 at Thiruvaramangam near Paramakudi.

# FR. A. ANTONY PAPPURAJ, S.J.

## (1946 – 2020)

In the sad demise of Fr. Antony Pappuraj we have lost a dynamic Jesuit, an excellent academician and a friend of the poor. He was born as the sixth and last child of Mr. A. Arockiam and Mrs. Mathalai Mary of Velampatti, a hamlet in Dindigul District on 6 September 1946. He joined the Society of Jesus on 10 June 1963 and was ordained a Priest on 16 April 1978. He pronounced his Final Vows on 15 August 1984.

After his Ordination, Fr. Pappuraj was appointed the first Director of *Maitri* (a Sanskrit word usually translated as “friendship,” “friendliness” or “benevolence”) in Shembaganur. As an acronym, MAITRI stood for Madras Association for Information, Training, Rehabilitation and Improvement, an organization which was functioning under the Commission for Justice and Labour of CBCI to provide relief and rehabilitation to Sri Lankan repatriates who were bonded labourers in Kodaikanal. Fr. Pappuraj worked hard and travelled through slopes and valleys in Kodai Hills with dogged determination and accompanied the repatriates in their struggle for liberation. Then, for four decades since 1980, he guided thousands of students especially first-generation learners as a teacher and mentor and rendered remarkable service in the field of Higher Education in four of our colleges (St. Xavier’s, Palayamkottai, Loyola, Chennai, St. Joseph’s, Tiruchi and Arul Anandar, Karumathur) in various capacities (as Hostel Director, Vice Principal, Controller of Examinations, Management Institute Director, Principal, Secretary, Correspondent, and Rector).

As Principal of St. Xavier’s, he used to visit the villages of STAND outreach programme on a motorbike as pillion rider to encourage the students and to support the people. He also had a long-time involvement with AICUF and he has been a founder member of the Rural Uplift Centre based in Nanguneri, Tirunelveli Dt., formed in the year 1981. He served as the treasurer (from 1981 to 2012) and executive committee member (from 2012 to 2020) of this NGO that has been

providing training and legal aid to thousands of poor unorganized women *beedi* rollers, innocent victims of domestic violence, dowry victims and poor dalits so that they would be emboldened to assert their rights, demand justice and get due compensation.

After serving the LTI Jesuit community in Madurai as House Minister for one year, Fr. Pappuraj lived his last few months back at St. Xavier’s, Palayamkottai, teaching in Xavier Institute of Business Administration. On November 3rd, as he complained of severe chest cold and cough, he was taken to a nearby hospital and after a few tests, it was found that he was COVID Positive, his blood sugar level was alarmingly high and his kidneys were partly affected. The next morning, he was taken to Apollo Hospital, Madurai, by ambulance and was admitted there. On 7th November, his condition became unstable. He was shifted to the High Dependency Unit and given Oxygen support. On 9th November he was given Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV) and his oxygen



saturation level was fluctuating. As he was experiencing breathlessness and his condition was deteriorating, he was shifted to the ICU on 10th November. There, as his condition was becoming critical, the doctors put him on Ventilator on 12th night. On 13th November his health condition became very critical. On the same day at 11.10 a.m., he was declared dead.

Fr. Marianathan, Rector, St. Mary’s, Madurai, and Fr. Stephen Lourdu Pragasam coordinated the funeral arrangements following the guidelines of government health officials. Frs. Thomas Alex and Dominic Royce brought the body of Fr. Pappuraj from the hospital to the cemetery at 5.40 p.m. in an ambulance with the help of two hospital workers dressed in PPEs. At 6.15 p.m., Fr. John Bosco said the prayers and blessed the body; Fr. Marianathan paid homage and blessed the grave and Fr. Pappuraj was laid to rest surrounded by his Jesuit companions and a few of his relatives. RIP.

“Death will never have the last word in the Creator’s will.”(Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.)

*Britto Vincent*